

Pak scientist spills the beans on Osama's nuclear motives

Islamabad, December 30

A LEADING Pakistani nuclear scientist, barred by his Government from talking to reporters, has made it known through his son that Osama bin Laden approached him before the September 11 attacks for help in making nuclear weapons.

The al-Qaida leader was rebuffed, the scientist's son, Azim Mahmood, said in a recent interview. "Basically Osama asked my father, 'How can a nuclear bomb be made and can you help us make one?'"

"My father said, 'No, and secondly you must understand it is not child's play for you to build a nuclear bomb.'"

The scientist, Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood, is under a gag order from Pakistani Intelligence officials, but his conversations with bin Laden in meetings in 2000 and as late as July 2001 were reconstructed for the Associated Press by his son.

The conversations as described by Azim Mahmood clearly show bin Laden was interested in developing nuclear weapons. They don't, however, shed any light on whether the terrorist mastermind had taken even the first steps on that complex technological challenge.

The US Embassy declined to discuss Mahmood's story. American officials in Washington also would not comment.

There has been previous evi-



A man peers through a hood of a rickshaw with Osama bin Laden's picture in Dhaka on Monday. AFP

dence of al-Qaida's interest in nuclear weapons.

Computers found by journalists and US troops at a variety of facilities in Afghanistan indicated al-Qaida had sought to obtain and develop nuclear and other potent weapons. An reporter saw anthrax and other chemical concoctions at an al-Qaida laboratory outside Kabul.

During a New York trial two years ago stemming from bombings at two US embassies in Africa, a former bin Laden aide testified he was ordered in 1993

to try to buy uranium on the black market for an effort to develop a nuclear weapon. Jamal Ahmed Al-Fadl said al-Qaida was prepared to spend \$1.5 million, but he didn't know if a purchase was ever made.

In addition, US officials have said captured al-Qaida lieutenant Abu Zubaydah told US interrogators the terrorist network was working on a "dirty bomb", a conventional radio bomb that would scatter radioactive material.

AP

'AVOID GENERAL AMNESTY TO MILITANTS IN J&K'

Epicentre of terrorism has shifted to Pakistan: Advani

By Devesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI, DEC. 28. The Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, today said that the international community would have to pay a heavy price if it failed to realise that the epicentre of terrorism had shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

Speaking at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raising day celebrations here, Mr. Advani said terrorist organisations "banned" by Pakistan following pressure from different quarters were now operating under new names to avoid detection.

"Training camps running in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which were earlier shut down or pushed back, have been reactivated." India had been fighting the menace of terrorism for the past 22 years but it was only after the September 11 attack last year that the world came to



know how real and menacing the problem was. "Terrorist strikes at Bali, in Indonesia, and Moscow are just reminders of that."

Emphasising that the Jammu and Kashmir Government should refrain from giving a

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terrorism
general amnesty to those arrested for militant activities, the Deputy Prime Minister advised it to consult the Centre before taking any decision pertaining to internal security. "Each and every case will have to be studied before coming to any conclusion."

"During my meeting with the Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, on Friday, he pointed out three issues over which the people had given the mandate to his party — peace, good governance and economic and social justice. The second and third issues are to be handled by the State Government. However, on the issue of security and peace, it should seek the opinion of the Central Government."

Mr. Advani welcomed the formation of a committee headed by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary to review cases pertaining to the release of

those arrested for their involvement in militant activities.

The notification, which was issued on Thursday, named the head of the Intelligence Bureau in the State as the Centre's representative in the committee.

On the State Government's demand that the paramilitary forces deployed during the Assembly elections remain there, he said such a move could pose problems as the Centre had promised the forces that they would be withdrawn after the polls.

Commending the CRPF's contribution in containing terrorist and extremist activities, Mr. Advani said the force had ensured free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir and in Gujarat.

Paying homage to those who had laid down their lives in anti-insurgency operations, he announced a grant of Rs. 2 crores to the CRPF's Welfare Fund.

29 DEC 2002

Suicide bombers kill 40 in Chechen capital

Moscow, December 27

SUSPECTED CHECHEN rebel suicide bombers have killed at least 40 people after ramming vehicles packed with a tonne of explosives into the local Government headquarters in Grozny, gutting the building.

Two huge explosions went off within a minute of each other on Friday, devastating the four-storey Government building, gutting rows of official vehicles and spewing debris over a wide area.

Television pictures showed bodies scattered on the frozen ground as small groups of dazed staff and security personnel, blood pouring from head wounds, staggered towards medical crews.

Chechnya's acting prosecutor Vladimir Kravchenko said that the death toll had risen from 32 to "about 40", while news agen-

cies said around 60 people had been injured.

"The power of the explosion was about one tonne, the explosion crater is about six metres," Kravchenko said by telephone from Grozny.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the bombing but it bore all the hallmarks of an attack by guerrillas fighting for the withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya.

The raid, just two months after a mass hostage-taking by Chechen rebels in Moscow, aimed to shatter Russian claims that life in the province is returning to normal. President Vladimir Putin plans a March referendum on a political settlement that would keep Chechnya within Russia.

After the blasts, smoke rose from the shattered building, one of few to have been rebuilt after Russian troops seized the capi-

tal from rebels in 2000, while sobbing staff staggered to safety.

"There are a lot of casualties, they're endless," Raisa, a journalist with Grozny television said over the telephone.

"There are very many wounded, hundreds I think, they are still trying to extract them (from debris), people are under slabs."

Sergei Zaitsev, a spokesman for Russia's main Khankala military base just outside Grozny, said there were normally 150-200 people in the building at any one time. For miles round the building, houses shook and windows were blown out by the blast, she said.

The head of the pro-Russian administration in Chechnya, Akhmad Kadyrov, was in Moscow at the time of the attack, which Russian news agencies said had been carried out by suicide bombers. More than 30 people died in the last such at-

tack in July 2000, when a Russian police building was targeted.

The attack happened around 11.15 am British time when two vehicles packed with explosives — a truck and an off-road vehicle — rammed protective barriers around the building, Kravchenko said.

Footage broadcast by Russian television showed the building, one of the city's most heavily guarded, completely gutted.

A sombre Stanislav Ilyasov, the Russian Government Minister with responsibility for Chechnya, arrived on the scene shortly after the blasts. "The main thing now is that rescue work is being carried out, debris is being cleared up," he said.

"Today we need to do more urgent things, save those who still alive, to take wounded to hospitals," he added.

Reuters



AP A TV grab shows a wounded man being helped after explosions at the Chechen Government compound in Grozny on Friday.

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15

No let-up in Rajouri violence

Militants slit throats of two persons, engineer blast

Jammu: In another round of violence in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, militants slit the throats of two persons in the Darhal area and exploded a bomb in Rajouri town on Tuesday. They also renewed their threats to take action against those who did not follow their diktats on a Taliban-like code of behaviour.

Official sources said a group of foreign militants belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba slaughtered the two persons in the Darhal area to terrorise the minority population living in the mountainous terrain. The sources said five militants entered a house in Khawas village in Bhudal tehsil at about 2 a.m. on Tuesday and asked for Pawan Kumar. On learning that Pawan was not in, they slit the throats of his brother and father in front of other family members.

In another incident, militants burnt down the houses belonging to Tulsu Ram and Hans Raj in the mountainous village of Sunibar (Ramban) on Monday night.

These incidents have stoked fear in Rajouri and adjoining areas, resulting in the migration of three families from the Khawas and Sumber areas, sources said. "There are apprehensions that the minorities will migrate in large numbers if such incidents are not stopped," the sources said.

Meanwhile, 15 civilians were injured when militants triggered a bomb blast inside a bar in the main market of Rajouri town on Tuesday. The bomb went off at about 3.45 p.m., injuring those present inside the bar.

The strike on the bar came close on the heels of the beheading of two women and the shooting of two others for allegedly not wearing burqas as dictated by the militants.

On Tuesday, police sources said a militant outfit had circulated posters directing Muslims to follow a set of guidelines similar to the ones issued by the Taliban in Afghanistan. The group had also issued similar directions earlier, but had failed to evoke much response.

Undersigned by an outfit called the Lashkar-e-Jabbar, the posters had appeared in a college in Rajouri town directing women to wear burqas and men to wear caps and grow beards in keeping with Islamic traditions. Muslim women were asked to desist from going to school and college, to have a male escort when leaving their homes and to sit apart from the men in buses. The outfit asked men to wear caps and sport beards and warned people against defying its diktat.

Meanwhile, another radical group, Hai-e-Allal Fallah, on Tuesday issued warnings against the use of addictive substances like alcohol and cigarettes. This comes a day after a Srinagar shopkeeper was set on fire for "selling cigarettes laced with drugs".

"All addictive substances which affect the health of people are banned and anybody found violating the ban will be punished more seriously than the shopkeeper, Mohammad Shafi Teli," the outfit said. PTI

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2002

9-10 24/10 **UGLY TERROR** Jammu 10/10

THE BRUTAL TERRORIST attacks over the past few days in Jammu and Kashmir wherein innocent school girls and children were done to death marked a despicable low in the savagery and cowardliness of the subversive elements operating in the State. In fact, the militants have been on a killing spree in recent days directed at soft targets in a renewed escalation of their activity since the advent of the new coalition government headed by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and this is apart from the other targets they picked in pursuit of their diabolical designs. The gunning down of three children of a family last Saturday night in a Poonch village is the third major attack in as many days. On December 19, elsewhere in Rajouri district, three teenage girls were brutally killed and this act of terror is widely believed to be linked to the militants' campaign for the use of 'burqa' by school girls and the threat they had held out for non-compliance, although the police have discounted any nexus between the two. The hand of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Taiba — the two assailants killed in an encounter after the incident having been identified as belonging to that outfit — is suspected in the Poonch episode, while the dress code threat is attributed to a lesser known group called 'Lashkar Jabbar'. In a situation where changing of labels has become a matter of expediency for the jihadi groups operating with inspiration and support from across the border, the precise nomenclature of the group involved in a particular incident can only be of limited relevance or significance.

What the spurt in militant activity, as indicated by these more recent killings as also the qualitatively different fidayeen attack on the famed Raghunath temple last month, highlights is the imperative of tightening the vigil and finetuning the security system, both its operational and intelligence gathering components. If all these are a part of the militants' well-known destabilisation strategy, the murder of an MLA of the Chief Minister's own People's Democratic Party is a more direct political challenge to the new Government

and its determination to work for a negotiated settlement of the vexed Kashmir problem. Given the very nature of the goal the Mufti Mohammed Sayeed regime has set to achieve and the road it has taken, there are bound to be such challenges from forces that have a vested interest in keeping Jammu and Kashmir perpetually on the boil and, so, would spare no effort to frustrate or sabotage any genuine initiative towards restoring peace and normality. Attempts on political leaders or people's representatives should certainly be taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly so that the culprits are brought to justice and the right lessons drawn for upgrading the security apparatus. More important, such assaults must reinforce, not weaken, the Government's will to push ahead with its peace initiatives. Indeed the response of the Chief Minister — as also of the PDP's vice-president, Mehbooba Mufti — to the MLA's murder does signal a steeled resolve to carry forward the process of 'healing touch' that has been initiated by the new regime.

On a more general level, it needs to be said that for all the rhetoric — not unoften with jingoistic overtones — one heard day in and day out about the phenomenon of 'cross-border terrorism', there has been no earnest or sustained effort to put in place a clearly defined counter-strategy based on a political consensus. In fact, one wonders if the recommendations made by the special task forces set up in the wake of the Kargil conflict on crucial areas pertaining, for instance, to intelligence mechanism, internal security arrangement and border management have been acted upon in all their core aspects. The Centre's responses to major terrorist attacks have almost invariably been of a knee-jerk and bureaucratic nature by way of, say, holding strategic sessions, formulating new 'action plans' and promises of coordinated functioning, with none of them making any real impact on the ground situation. The Centre must work closely with the State Government to develop a credible and long-term approach to the problem of terrorism.

24 DEC 2002

Dec 13 terror trio gets death penalty

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

New Delhi: In the first-ever conviction under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Pota), a special court here on Wednesday sentenced to death Jaish-e-Mohammad militants Mohammad Afzal and Shaukat Hussain Guru, and suspended Delhi University lecturer S.A.R. Geelani for the attack on parliament on December 13 last year.

However, special judge S.N. Dhingra imposed a milder sentence of five years' imprisonment on Shaukat's wife Navjot Sandhu alias Afsan Guru.

The death sentences passed on Wednesday will be subject to confirmation by the Delhi high court. Under Pota as well as the IPC, the convicts can appeal against the sentence in one month's time from the date of pronouncement—in the high court and then the supreme court.

The judge said all the sentences would run concurrently. This will mean that if the death sentence on one count is set aside, the accused will continue to face death on the second count. The same will apply to the seven concurrent life sentences.

Counsel for the four said they would go in appeal to the high court.

The three men sentenced to death claimed they were "innocent" and termed the trial a "farce". "It is all farce. By convicting innocent persons, you cannot suppress emotions. You cannot stop the freedom movement in Kashmir. I am giving my life for it," Geelani said.

"If fighting for the liberation of Kashmir is terrorism, I am a terrorist," he said, even as he was dragged out of the court by securitymen.

At the start of the proceedings, Geelani had requested the court to give him five minutes to speak to the press after pronouncement of the sentence. However, the judge's reply was lost in the din that followed, with some lawyers exchanging angry words with the convicts. Later, Afzal requested journalists to write about their "case", saying "You are journalists of an independent country. You should write independently."

The three men were awarded death sentence on two counts—under Section 302 of the IPC (for murdering nine security personnel) and under Pota (for committing a terrorist attack on parliament). On seven separate counts, each of them was awarded a life sentence, with the exception of Geelani, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on six counts.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 DEC 2002

Don't hide behind Palestinian cause, Arafat tells Bin Laden

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

London: The embattled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has accused Osama bin Laden and Al Qaida of exploiting the Palestinian struggle to win worldwide Muslim sympathy.

Mr Arafat's powerful and frank attack on Al Qaida is seen as a desperate attempt to publicly distance the struggle for Palestinian statehood from the wider US-led war against Bin Laden.

Mr Arafat said he was the first Arab leader to stand up to Bin Laden. "I am telling him directly not to hide behind the Palestinian cause," he said in a front-page interview to *The Sunday Times*.

His words come less than three weeks after Al Qaida justified the bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya as part of the Palestinian struggle.

Commentators said Mr Arafat's public rejection of Bin Laden's opportunism may have some impact. The Palestinian struggle is the single hot-button issue that exercises Muslims' right across the world.

According to a leading Islamist radical website, said to be set up and operated by Al Qaida supporters from London, other so-



Yasser Arafat



Bin Laden

called "Jihad lands" include Chechnya and Kashmir.

But Mr Arafat insists, "(Bin Laden) has never helped us, why is (he) talking about Palestine now?"

Late last month, Bin Laden's spokesman Sulaiman abu Ghaith said, "Liberation of our holy places, led by Palestine, is our central issue."

In the past, Abu Ghaith had mentioned Kashmir as a concern as well.

But Abu Ghaith's statement came as Al Qaida claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Israeli hotel and a simultaneous SAM missile attack on an Israeli plane.

Now, commentators say Mr Arafat's declaration on Sunday reflected a wider anxiety that governments around the world would lose little time to align their own war against separatism with the wider battle against Al Qaida.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has already alleged that Al Qaida is active in the Palestinian territory of Gaza. But Mr Arafat said this was a lie. He admitted, however, that there was some sympathy for Bin Laden among young people in Gaza and the West Bank. But he dismissed it as insignificant ignorance. "These kids don't really know who Bin Laden is," he told the newspaper.

17 DEC 2002

Azhar to face fresh Pak charges

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 16. — Pakistani government has decided to register fresh cases against Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, main accused in the attack on Indian Parliament and recently released by a Pakistani court, in order to keep him under detention, media reports indicated today.

With a view to discourage extremism and militancy in the country, the government plan-

ned to arrest Azhar by registering new cases against him, several Urdu newspapers including *Jung* said.

There was no official confirmation of the report.

Azhar had been ordered to be released from house arrest by the review board of the Lahore High court two days on the ground that he was kept under preventive detention for over a year.

The Pakistan government, while opposing his release, said his detention could spell trouble

for the country.

Masood, along with founder leader of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Hafeez Saeed, were taken into preventive detention after India named them as suspect in last year's attack on Parliament.

Saeed too was release recently from preventive detention by the same court on the same grounds.

Facing strong Indian criticism, Pakistan's information minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed yesterday said the government had nothing to do with the release of Azhar.



Masood Azhar

4 convicted in Dec 13 attack

HTC and Agencies
New Delhi, December 16

TWO DAYS after a Pakistani judge freed Masood Azhar, the mastermind of the Parliament attack, a Delhi court convicted four of his aides.

Mohammed Afzal, Shaukat Hussain Guru and SAR Geelani were found guilty of waging war against India in conspiracy with Pakistani militants and attempting to assassinate the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and other VIPs. They were also found guilty of murder under the IPC. Shaukat's wife Navjot Sandhu alias Afsana Guru was convicted of "concealing the plot from the police



(From left) Geelani, Afzal, Shaukat Hussain Guru and Afsana Guru arrive for court hearing in New Delhi on Monday.

though she was not party to the criminal conspiracy".

The arguments on the point of sentence will be heard on Tuesday.

Special Judge SN Dhingra declared Azhar, Ghazi Baba alias Baba alias Abu Jehadi (the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief in J&K) and Tariq as proclaimed offenders.

At the end of the day's trial, at least two of the accused appeared unrepentant. "I am a Muslim, a Kashmiri and I won," Shaukat said as the police escorted him out. "I feel worried for Indian democracy," Geelani said.

On December 11, the court had deferred the judgment in the case.

AD-14 16/12

TERRORISM / LETHAL-LIST PREPARED

Kill if need be, Bush tells CIA

NEW YORK, DEC. 15. The U.S. administration has prepared a list of terrorist leaders the Central Intelligence Agency is authorised to kill, if capture is impractical and civilian casualties can be minimised, senior military and intelligence officials were today quoted as saying.

The previously undisclosed CIA list includes key Al-Qaeda leaders like Osama bin Laden and his chief deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, as well as other principal figures from the Al-Qaeda and affiliated terrorist groups, says the *New York Times*.

The U.S. President, George W Bush, has provided written legal authority to the CIA to hunt down and kill the terrorists without seeking further approval each time the agency is about to stage an operation.

The names of about two dozen terrorist leaders have recently been on the lethal-force list, officials said. "It's the worst of the worst."

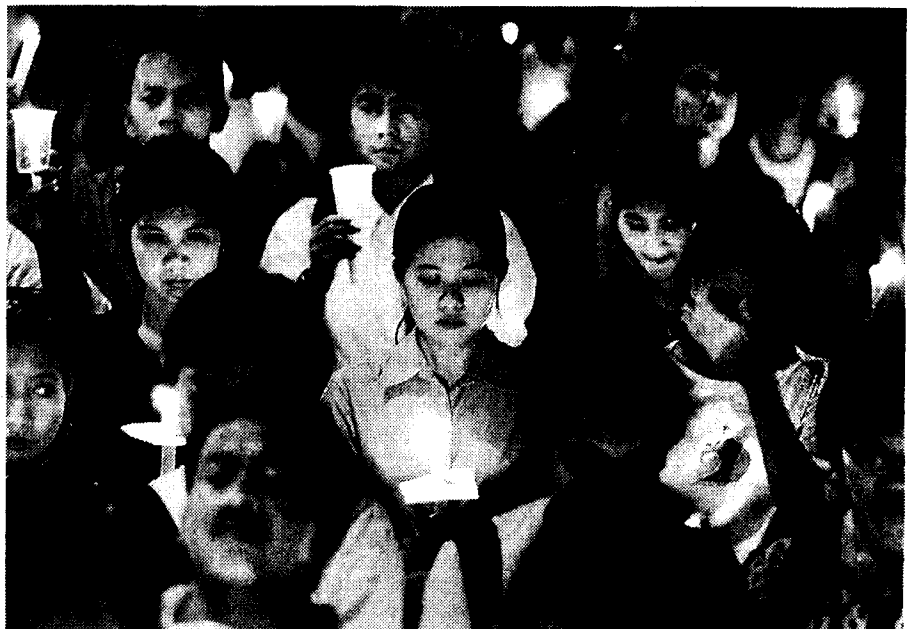
Some officials said the terrorist list was known as the "high-value target list."

However, spokespersons for the White House and the CIA declined to discuss the list or issues involving the use of lethal force against terrorists, the paper said.

Despite the authority given to the agency, Mr. Bush has not waived the executive order banning assassinations, officials were quoted as saying. The presidential authority to kill terrorists defines operatives of the Al-Qaeda as enemy combatants and thus legitimate targets for lethal force.

Mr. Bush, the paper said, issued a presidential finding last year, after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, providing the basic executive and legal authority for the CIA to either kill or capture terrorist leaders.

Initially, the agency used that authority to hunt for the Al-Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan, which also forms the basis for the CIA's attempts to find and kill or capture Osama and other Al-Qaeda leaders during



Indonesians pay their respects to the victims of the 12 October car bombing in Bali during a gathering in downtown Jakarta, in this 17 October, 2002, file photo.

the war in Afghanistan.

The creation of the secret list, the *Times* said, is part of the expanded CIA effort to hunt and kill or capture the Al-Qaeda operatives far from traditional battlefields, in countries like Yemen.

Mr. Bush is not legally required to approve each name added to the list, nor is the CIA required to obtain presidential approval for specific attacks, though officials said Mr. Bush had been kept well informed about the agency's operations.

In November, the CIA killed an Al-Qaeda leader in a remote region of Yemen. A pilotless Predator aircraft operated by the agency fired a Hellfire antitank missile at a car in

which the Al-Qaeda leader, Salim Sinan al-Harethi, also known as Abu Ali, was riding. Harethi and five other people, including one suspected Al-Qaeda operative with U. S. citizenship, were killed in the attack.

Intelligence officials told the *Times* that the presidential finding authorising the agency to kill terrorists was not limited to those on the list. Mr. Bush has given broad authority to the CIA to kill or capture operatives of the Al-Qaeda around the world. But officials said the group's most senior leaders on the list were the agency's primary focus.

The list is updated periodically as the intelligence agency. — PTI

THE HINDU

1 6 DEC 2002

Two LeT terrorists killed in Delhi encounter

By Prashant Pandey

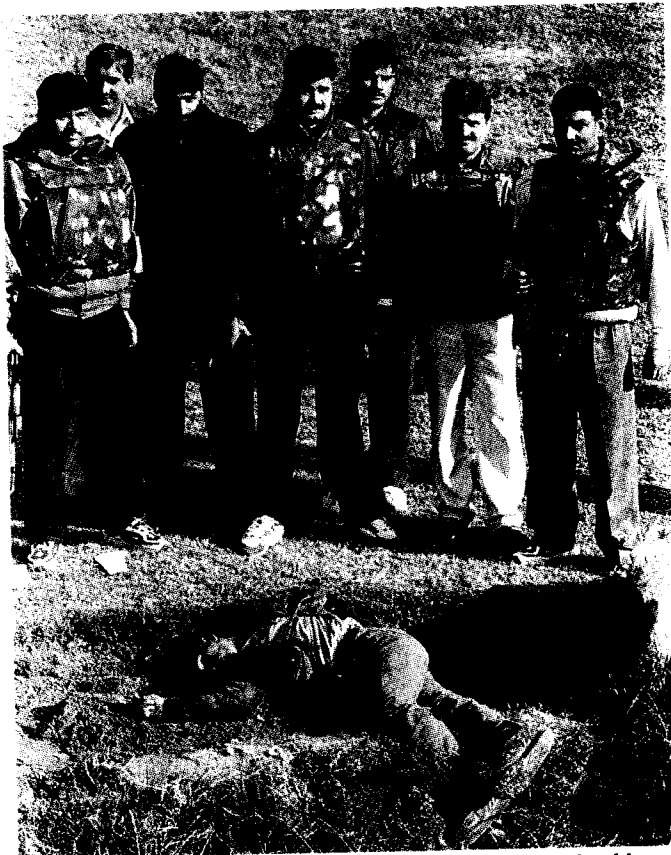
NEW DELHI, DEC. 14. Two heavily-armed terrorists, suspected to be Pakistan nationals belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, were gunned down after an exchange of fire with the Special Cell of the Delhi police near Tughlakabad Fort here on Saturday. Five grenades, two AK-56 assault rifles and several rounds of live ammunition were recovered from them after a 40-minute gun battle.

Central intelligence agencies had on Friday tipped off police about militants trying to cross over to Delhi from Faridabad in Haryana. Following this, the Special Cell deployed two teams at the Karni Singh Shooting Range T-point, which connects Faridabad to Mehrauli-Badarpur (MB) Road.

Around 6 a.m. today, a white Maruti Zen (DL-7C-5921) was coming from Surajkund in Faridabad. When police teams tried to stop it, the car drove past the picket. Immediately the second police team, deployed on MB Road, was alerted.

On seeing the police team, the driver tried a sharp right run and hit a culvert. Two persons came out firing at the police. The terrorists lobbed two grenades. One exploded near them, while the other missed the target. The two grenades recovered from the spot later bore the legend "Arges" — the same found on the grenades used in the December 13 Parliament attack here last year. A third did not have any marking.

Even as police engaged the two terrorists who had taken



Personnel of the Special Cell of the Delhi police beside the body of one of the two terrorists killed in an encounter near Tughlakabad Fort in New Delhi on Saturday. — Photo: S. Subramaniam

positions under the dry culvert, the car driver escaped. Police and the terrorists exchanged about 100 rounds at the end of which the two terrorists were found dead within 10 feet of each other. Three handgrenades, two AK-56 rifles, 85 live rounds of ammunition and a two-page note in Hindi espous-

ing the cause of "jihad" under the aegis of the Tehreek-e-Gajnavi, a pseudonym for Lashkar, were recovered. "It has been a practice of the Lashkar militants to use different names while carrying out terrorist operations," said the Joint Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), Neeraj Kumar.

15 DEC 2002

From
AD-1

Masood Azhar released

15/12

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 14. Pakistan today released Masood Azhar, chief of the banned militant outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammad, after a court turned down Islamabad's request to extend his remand for three months. The Lahore High Court said the authorities failed to produce sufficient evidence to hold him for a longer period in custody without a charge.

The court's decision did not come as a surprise. But the development is bound to trigger questions about the sincerity of the civilian set-up led by the Prime Minister, Mir Zafullah Khan Jamali, to fulfil the commitments made by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to crack down on terrorism.

Maulana Azhar was one of



Maulana Masood Azhar
(File picture)

the three militants released by New Delhi in December 1999 in exchange for the freedom of the passengers aboard the Indian Airlines plane hijacked to Kandahar.

After the January 12 address of Gen. Musharraf to the people

of Pakistan last year, in which he announced the banning of five militant and sectarian outfits, the Government arrested about 2,000 activists.

But it failed to produce concrete evidence against them in the courts. As a result, an estimated 1,300 of them have been let off.

Among the high-profile prisoners released by the Pakistan regime was the former chief of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hafeez Mohammad Saeed, who was set free last month.

On the eve of Id on December 6, the newly-installed provincial governments in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan announced the release of several activists of banned outfits on the ground that there were no charges against them.

Azhar and Saeed were de-

tained by Islamabad in the aftermath of the December 13 attack on Indian Parliament under the Maintenance of Public Order Act, which empowers the Pakistani authorities to detain a person for three months without specific charge.

The Government insisted though that their detention had nothing to do with the Indian allegations that the attack was a joint operation by the Lashkar and the Jaish.

The Musharraf regime faced the problem of keeping hundreds of arrested activists in custody without charges.

There were instances when the courts ordered the release of individuals after reprimanding the Government for its failure to level specific charges or provide evidence that they posed a threat to law and order.

Charges not pursued seriously: India

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, DEC. 14. India said today the release of Masood Azhar, founder of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, by a Pakistani court, made it "quite clear" that the charges against him had not been pursued with "any seriousness" by Islamabad.

Using strong language, the Foreign Office spokesman said the Pakistani policy of supporting terrorism remained unchanged — whether under a military dictatorship or a regime with a civilian veneer. He said that Azhar had been allowed to keep in touch with Jaish cadres after his arrest and, later, placed under "home detention" with a stipend being paid by the Pakistani Government.

"This is not surprising since it is well known that it is the Pakistani state and its agencies which have been involved in the building up of the terrorist structures such as the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Taiba," he said, pointing out that the Lashkar chief, Hafiz Saeed, was released recently.

In what could amount to implicit criticism of the U.S. policy towards Pakistan, the spokesman said: "Any strategy which seeks to ignore Pakistan's own involvement

with and sponsorship of terrorism and focusses, even for the short term, only on the unwilling and limited support provided in search of a few of the hardcore Al-Qaeda, will never see long-term victory against the hydra-headed monster of terrorism..."

Asked if his remarks amounted to criticism of U.S. policy, the spokesman replied that this was not the case. He, however, stressed there were no good terrorists and bad terrorists and that there should be no double standards in the war against terrorism.

The spokesman said that while well-established democratic leaders were not allowed to contest the recently-manipulated elections in Pakistan, many who were linked even to banned terrorist organisations were permitted to enter the fray after charges against them were withdrawn at the last moment. "It is against this background that one has also seen reports of Anees Ibrahim, having been spirited away to Pakistan, the well-established safe haven for terrorists. Ibrahim, who had been recently detained in Dubai, had arrived there from Pakistan.

He was in the list of 20 whose handing over had been sought by India since December last year. Pakistan had falsely claimed that none of the persons in the list

were in that country. "Subsequently, (Pakistani) President (Pervez) Musharraf had, in his January 12 speech, disingenuously suggested that no Pakistani national would be handed over, but Indian nationals had not been given asylum. Hence, the recourse to the ploy to give Pakistani nationality to such persons sought to be sheltered. The seeking and grant of such nationality also points unambiguously to the complicity of Pakistani authorities with these terrorists," he said.

The spokesman also claimed that a Sikh jatha, which had recently visited Pakistan, noticed the presence of three leading terrorists (Lakhbir Singh, Wadhawa Singh and Gajinder Singh), whose handing over India had demanded. "It is quite clear that Pakistan is continuing with the policy of terrorism as an instrument of its state policy, in violation of international law, and its own publicly declared commitments.

"Whether Pakistan has an unvarnished military dictatorship or an electoral varnish is put on it, their mindset and policies, as evidenced by the putting back in circulation of Masood Azhar, remain unchanged. We will, of course, continue to take necessary steps to safeguard our national security," he added.

1 5 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

Bush threatens nuke use on Iraq

Baghdad, December 11

UN EXPERTS scoured a suspected arms site near Baghdad on Wednesday after the US threatened possible nuclear retaliation against Iraq if its forces or allies were attacked with doomsday weapons.

Teams of inspectors, accompanied by Iraqi officials, drove from their headquarters on the outskirts of the capital to several locations as their hunt for Iraq's alleged banned arsenal picked up pace in its third week.

One team arrived at Karamah site in Taji, 10 km north of Baghdad.

The United States raised the temperature in its confrontation with Iraq over weapons of mass destruction, saying it would go nuclear if such weapons were used against its forces or its allies.

"The US will continue to make clear that it reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force — including through resort to all our options — to the use of WMD (weapons of mass destruction) against the US our forces abroad, and friends and allies," a US strategy report said.

US officials said the passage on nuclear deterrence was not a change in policy but had been added to the document, the first update since 1993, to put more emphasis on the role of deterrence against a weapons of mass destruction attack.

Iraq accused the US of looking for an excuse for war by seizing control from the United Nations of distribution of the 12,000-page declaration of Iraq's weapons programs.

The White House said the accusation was "laughable", but

Security Council members such as Norway and Syria — who will be given only an edited copy of the document — said they were being treated as second-class powers.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday that Security Council members had criticised the United States for breaking ranks and grabbing Iraq's report on its weapons programs, intended only for weapons inspectors.

But he rejected charges that by allowing the move the UN had proved it was Washington's puppet. Diplomats and US officials said on Monday that after an intense lobbying campaign, the US received an early and uncut copy of Iraq's 11,807-page weapons declaration and whisked it to Washington for analysis. "It was unfortunate and I hope it is not going to be repeated," Annan said of the way the US had circumvented the UN's decision.

Landmines to be used

The Pentagon is preparing to use anti-personnel land mines in a war with Iraq, despite US policy that calls for the military to stop using the mines everywhere in the world except Korea by 2003.

To prepare for a possible war with Baghdad, the Pentagon has stockpiled landmines at US bases in countries ringing Iraq, according to Pentagon records. The decision to make the mines available comes despite a recent report by the General Accounting Office concluding that their use in the 1991 Gulf War impeded US forces while doing nothing to impair Iraqi forces.

Agencies

Dawood brother in Dubai net

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 9: India's most wanted fugitive Dawood Ibrahim's brother Anees Ibrahim has been held in Dubai after he reached the Emirate from Pakistan, holding out before the government a tantalising opportunity to claim the biggest breakthrough yet in the Bombay blasts case.

Anees, charged with a key role in the chain blasts of 1993 (see chart) and whose name figures on the list of 20 India gave Pakistan for handover, was arrested by Dubai officials last week.

Informed of the arrest, the CBI has sent deputy inspector general (Interpol) A.K. Gupta to Dubai. He is carrying with him documents on the alleged involvement of Anees in the Bombay blasts. Anees was detained several days after he arrived from Pakistan and is believed to have been carrying a Pakistani passport in a fictitious name.

Officials in Delhi claimed that he was held on the basis of an Interpol red-corner notice (lookout alert). The notice (No. A-349/8/98) was released in August 1993. Four months after a Mumbai court issued arrest warrants against Anees in the explosions case.

The CBI is expected to focus initially on getting Anees deported, though India has an extradition agreement with the United Arab Emirates, of which Dubai is a part.

Deportation can be carried out through an executive order, unlike extradition which involves a judicial process. The judicial modalities are often time-consuming and courts usually go through with a fine toothcomb the evidence submitted against the person sought to be extradited.

Deportation can be put on the fast track if the decision-making authority is prima facie convinced that a case can be made out against the accused. The UAE's recent handovers of fugitives — including Aftab Ansari, the alleged mastermind of the attack outside the American Center in Calcutta this January — have been through deportations.

If the BJP-led government succeeds in getting its hands on Anees — he had been arrested twice earlier in the Gulf but was released — it will be a trophy that would earn rich political dividends. But it remains to be seen whether Anees can be brought back before the Gujarat elections, three days away.

Campaigning in Gujarat, deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani today expressed hope that the CBI and the Indian consulate in Dubai would be able to bring Anees back. He appreciated the help extended by the Dubai authorities in deporting Ansari.

If the deportation bid runs into hurdles, the CBI will activate the extradition option. The CBI claimed that it had intelligence inputs about Anees' arrest before they received informal confirmation on December 6.

A day later, the Indian consulate in Dubai

QUOTE

I hope that the UAE government is going to extend all cooperation in extraditing Anees Ibrahim

L.K. ADVANI

WHO IS ANEES?



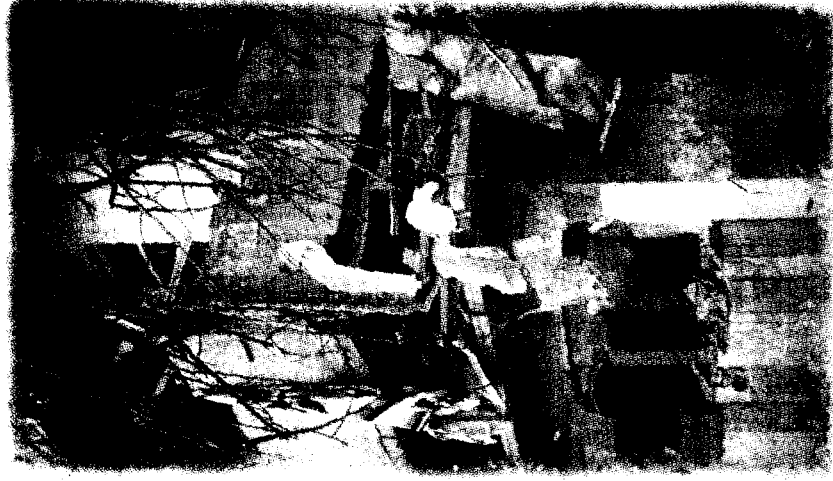
Brother of Dawood Ibrahim, Anees is one of the prime accused in the Bombay blasts case. The brothers, whose father was a police constable, hail from the Konkan coast of Maharashtra

Anees carries a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head for his alleged role in the blasts. He was detained by Dubai police twice but was released due to lack of evidence

wrote to the bureau, putting on record that the big fish was in the net.

A senior CBI officer said the bureau's emissary, Gupta, has already had two rounds of meetings with the authorities in Dubai and that he was confident of Anees' deportation.

India's relations with the UAE have been cordial since this



THE BOMBAY BLASTS

As many as 257 people were killed and 700 injured when explosion after explosion ripped through the Bombay Stock Exchange, the Air-India building, Hotel Sea Rock, two Centaur hotels, Zaveri Bazar, Century Bazar, Kathia Bazar, Shiv Sena Bhavan and Plaza Theatre in Mumbai, then Bombay, in 1993. The value of property damaged was put at Rs 30 crore

The CBI has charged Anees with organising the safe landing and disbursement of arms and ammunition, including RDX, for the blasts

The CBI has claimed that Anees had instructed the late film producer Hanif Kadawala to take arms and ammunition to the Baroda house of actor Sunjay Dutt. Hanif had then gone to Sunjay's house and delivered an AK-56, according to the CBI, which based its charges on alleged confessions that were later retracted in court

Police had also quoted Sunjay as saying that he had spoken to Anees in Dubai over phone. The police also claimed to have telephone documents showing that a call was made to Anees' number from Sunjay's house

However, Sunjay denied in court that he spoke to Anees. The actor said several victims of the post-Ayodhya communal riots had visited the house to meet his father Sunil Dutt, an MP, and anyone could have made the call to Dubai

Anees is wanted for nearly 70 operations of the Dawood gang. Always later, look at the headlines of D Company and struck up a friendship with many of its film stars

"It will be a tough job because we should realise that Dawood will leave no stone unturned to stop the handing over of his brother," an official said.

A CBI officer said that in 1996, Anees was detained by Bahrain police. But before India could move, Dawood reportedly got a false case registered against his brother in Dubai to

ensure that Anees was deported to the UAE, he added.

Officially, the CBI is keeping its cards close to the chest, chased by its experience after Abu Salem, another blasts accused, was caught in Portugal in September. Despite the CBI's claims then, it has not been able to get Salem deported.

See Page 8

The invisible American hand

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Dubai, Dec. 9: Neither side will want to acknowledge the fact, but without the active participation of Americans India might not have been able to get Anees Ibrahim detained in Dubai.

When Anees arrived in Dubai on November 29, the team of American officials sifting at the airport and monitoring arrivals and departures knew that he was carrying a fake Pakistani passport.

The Americans told the Dubai authorities that Anees' passport was forged because he was not a Pakistani national. Sources say it would not be far-fetched to conclude that the Americans consulted the Indians who wanted Anees, charged with having a hand in the Bombay blasts, detained.

Anees was visiting Dubai to be with his wife and children during Id. Although he arrived on November 29, he was detained only on December 5, almost a full week later.

Given Dubai's close relations with Islamabad, it is no surprise that the Emirate authorities took a long time to decide on the detention of someone who had been issued a passport by Pakistan, though the information contained in it — that Anees is a Pakistani national — was false.

It is not only embarrassing for Pakistan but also a corroboration of the Indian charge that it harbours criminals and terrorists.

Officials in Delhi claimed the arrest was a result of a red-corner notice issued by Interpol because Anees was wanted in the Bombay blasts case, but sources here said if that be so, he could have been arrested earlier.

Apparently, Indians are only being asked to prove Anees' identity and if they are able to show he is an Indian national, the chances are deportation will go through because the UAE has already set a precedent by handing over Aftab Ansari — also arrested for carrying a fake passport — who was wanted in connection with the attack on the American Center in Calcutta in January.

New Delhi should be able to prove his identity since his Indian passport, now standing revoked, was issued in Dubai.

But A.K. Gupta, the CBI official India has sent, is believed to be carrying papers in connection with charges of Anees' involvement in the blasts, which may not work.

K.C. Singh, the ambassador to the UAE, was in New Delhi last week possibly to discuss the development, and has gone back since to pursue the case.

Mombasa attack reveals possible links between Al-Qaeda and Hizbollah

LONDON, DEC. 8. Disturbing new evidence that Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda organisation has formed an alliance with the Iranian-backed Hizbollah militia has emerged in the wake of the Mombasa terrorist attacks.

Investigators looking into the bombing of the Paradise Hotel, which killed 16 people and injured 80, and the failed attempt to shoot down an Israeli charter jet, have uncovered a number of clues that suggest the Al-Qaeda is working with the Lebanon-based Hizbollah militia to attack American and Israeli targets throughout the world.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Hizbollah, which is trained and funded by Teheran, was responsible for a number of devastating terrorist attacks including the 1983 suicide bombing of the American marine barracks in

Beirut, killing nearly 300 people.

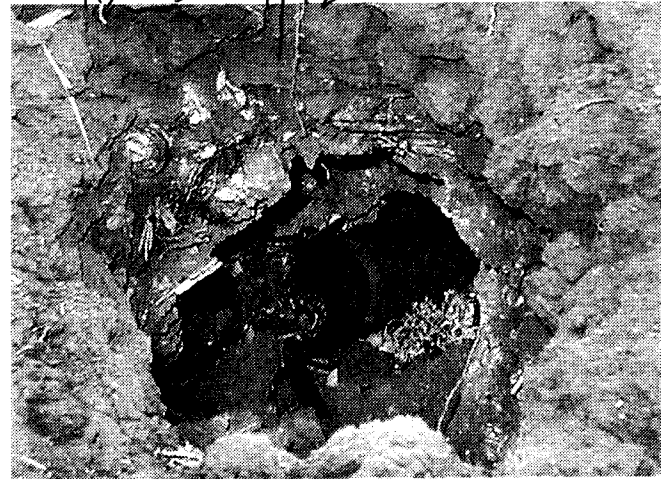
It has now emerged that the terrorists responsible for last month's suicide bombing of the Paradise Hotel, who are now believed to be members of Osama's Al-Qaeda group, used the same techniques developed by Hizbollah in Lebanon in the 1980s. Investigators working in Kenya have also discovered that the two SAM-7 missiles fired at the Israeli charter jet are of the same type used by Hizbollah fighters in southern Lebanon to attack Israeli targets. They believe it was not just co-incidence that the only claim for responsibility for the Mombasa attacks was made on a Hizbollah radio station.

"A clear pattern is emerging that suggests Hizbollah is actively co-operating with Al-Qaeda," said a Western

official closely involved with the Mombasa investigation. "Hizbollah is very active in this part of Africa and shares similar objectives to Al-Qaeda."

Investigators are particularly interested in the personal ties between Osama and Imad Mugniyeh, the infamous Hizbollah terrorist who is in the top 10 of the FBI's list of most-wanted international criminals for his role in orchestrating numerous terrorist attacks against U.S. targets in Lebanon.

Until recently, international terrorism experts have been sceptical about the possibility of Hizbollah co-operating with the Al-Qaeda because of their different Islamic traditions: Al-Qaeda draws its support from mainstream Sunni Muslims, while Hizbollah is a Shia Muslim organisation. The



An unexploded missile, which was fired at an Israeli aircraft last week as it took off from Mombasa airport, seen partially buried in the ground on Saturday near Kaloleni village about 10 km north of Mombasa, Kenya. — AP

evidence now emerging in the aftermath of the Mombasa attacks, however, suggests

that there are clear links between the two organisations. Western

intelligence officials are re-examining the level of co-operation that exists between Mugniyeh and Osama, which is believed to date back to the mid-1990s when Osama and Al-Qaeda were located at a number of training camps in Sudan. Mugniyeh made a number of visits to Khartoum in 1995, 1996 and 1997, and met Osama several times.

The meetings were arranged at the request of Osama, who had been impressed by the devastating attacks carried out by Hizbollah against the U.S. in Lebanon, particularly the effectiveness of the suicide truck bomb attacks against the U.S. embassy and marine barracks in Beirut in the early 1980s. The same tactic has since been used by Al-Qaeda in a number of attacks against U.S. targets, starting with the 1996 suicide bomb attack

against the U.S. military compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and including the simultaneous 1998 attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. More recent evidence linking Hizbollah and Al-Qaeda has been picked up by Western intelligence since Osama was forced to flee from Afghanistan at the end of last year. Between 80 to 100 Al-Qaeda fighters who fled into Iran were provided with false passports by Hizbollah before being relocated to Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

At least 10 senior Al-Qaeda commanders are believed to have been sent to Lebanon, to enable them to liaise more closely with Hizbollah commanders in the Bekaa valley. The American magazine *Vanity Fair* recently revealed that Al-Qaeda had established a base on the

Argentine border close to the point where Hizbollah terrorists planned the 1993 attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires. While Al-Qaeda's presence in the Far East was confirmed by the bombing of a discotheque in Bali in October, Hizbollah is also known to have set up cells in the Far East, particularly in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

Investigators in Kenya are now trying to establish whether there is any connection between those responsible for the Mombasa attacks and the arrest of a number of suspected Hizbollah agents in Uganda in September. A number of Ugandan students had travelled to Iran for training in various terrorist techniques. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

Iraq has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction. Then why is the US unleashing a war?

H.T. & W
7/12

Bush the bully

BY PREM SHANKAR JHA

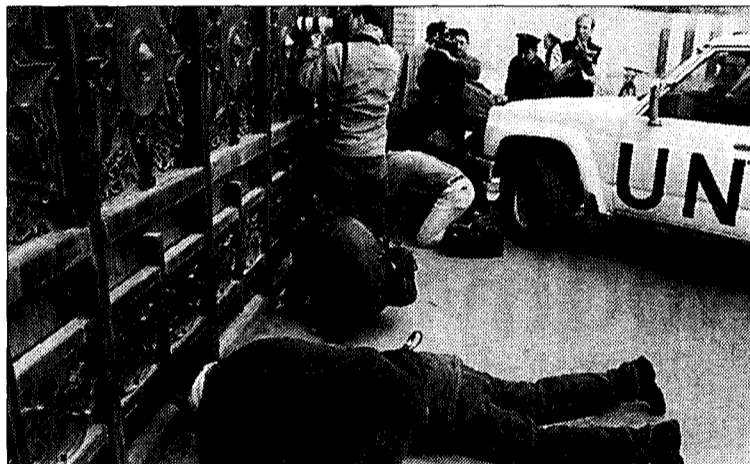
DESPITE THE promising start to the renewed weapons inspection of Iraq last week, the US continues to gird itself up to unleash war on the country. According to a report in the *New York Times*, it has established a new command centre in Qatar to serve as the main headquarters for the war on Iraq. It is also transferring missiles, tanks and other war materials from bases and depots all over the Middle East to Kuwait, which will almost certainly be the launch pad of the new invasion.

All this is accompanied by war-like rhetoric that makes an onslaught on Iraq sound inevitable. What is the US up to? Is it doing all this to reinforce the UN's threat that Iraq will face the "severest consequences" if it does not cooperate fully with the weapons inspectors?

Alternatively, does the preparation reflect the Bush administration's certainty that Iraq will not cooperate with UNMOVIC and will therefore be found to be in material breach of UN resolution 1441? Or could it be that the US intends to wage war on Iraq regardless of whether it complies fully with the UN resolution or not? In a sane world one would have had no difficulty in ruling out the third possibility. But as paranoia grips the western world ever harder after each succeeding terrorist attack, the third option becomes more difficult to rule out.

Should the US decide to wage war regardless of the outcome of the inspections, it will claim that Iraq did not cooperate with UNMOVIC to its satisfaction. It will also claim, as it did in March 1998, that a resolution warning Iraq of 'the severest consequences' provides sufficient cover for a member of the UN to launch a military assault on Iraq on its own. These assertions will be accompanied by a disinformation blitzkrieg in the American media designed to prove the case against Iraq and justify its action.

Such a blitzkrieg has been on ever since the summer when the US first leaked its plans to invade Iraq and replace Saddam Hussein with a 'friendly regime'. To pursue it, the Bush administration's spin doctors have relied upon the shortness of public memory, widespread ignorance of the technologies that go into the production of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and the sheer complexity of the weapons inspection process, to build a case against Iraq that is based on half-



HIDE-AND-SEEK: Mediapersons outside the al-Sejoud Palace, Baghdad

truths and innuendo. So overwhelming has the assault been that by the time the UN Security Council met to discuss the resumption of inspections, the world was well on the way to being convinced that Iraq had indeed used the past four years to re-establish its WMD-making capacity, and to restock itself with chemical and biological weapons.

The truth is different. At the end of 1998, when UNSCOM finally withdrew its inspectors on the eve of the American air attack on Iraq, Saddam Hussein had virtually no WMD left and, more important, no factories for fabricating them. What is equally certain is that Iraq has not been able to make any new chemical and biological weapons since then. Telling evidence in support of it has been presented in a recent book by the one man most qualified to speak on the inspection system, who has had the courage to speak out. This is the ex-US marine intelligence officer who led the nuclear inspection team on UNSCOM from 1991 to 1998, Scott Ritter.

Ritter's career in UNSCOM testifies to the zeal with which he carried out his task. In late 1997 the Iraqi government demanded his removal from UNSCOM because it believed that Ritter was a CIA spy. When UNSCOM refused to comply with its demand, Iraq denied access to any sites to all Americans on UNSCOM.

Ritter was from marine intelligence, but Iraq's ire had been aroused by his close links with, and heavy reliance upon, Israeli intelligence. The UN condemned the Iraqi action and the US threatened to bomb Iraq if it did not resume full

cooperation. But only months later, in August 1998, Ritter accused the US and Britain of hamstringing the inspectors and dragging their feet on inspection and resigned from UNSCOM. He was again right but did not then realise that the US' purpose was to delay the conclusion of weapons inspection in order to *prevent* the lifting of economic sanctions upon Baghdad. His realisation of how cynically UNSCOM had been misused turned him into the world's foremost 'dove' on Iraq.

In a recent book, *War on Iraq*, Ritter has given details of how the inspectors worked in Iraq and the obstacles the Iraqis placed in UNSCOM's way. By 1998, UNSCOM had destroyed 100 per cent of Iraq's nuclear material, plant and equipment. He admits that since the Iraqis destroyed most of their chemical and biological weapons themselves instead of handing them over to UNSCOM to destroy, and probably intentionally kept poor records of what had been destroyed, there is no way of being absolutely sure that every last weapon and stock of toxins had been destroyed by 1998. But he was sure (and the latest British and US intelligence assessments concede as much) that 95 per cent of the weapons and material had been destroyed.

In the four years that have elapsed since then, it is certain that the rest of the material — Tabun and Sarin nerve gases, Botulinum, Anthrax and other toxins — had been reduced to a harmless sludge. This was because these had a maximum shelf life of three to four years. VX gas had a longer shelf life, but the Iraqis had not

been able to set up a plant for its manufacture. UNSCOM found and destroyed 200 crates of glass lined production equipment which was destined for this plant. With that the threat from VX came to an end.

Thus, to acquire a renewed WMD capability after UNSCOM left, Iraq would have had to manufacture new stocks and warheads. This, Ritter points out, is impossible, because even if UNSCOM did not destroy all of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons, it did destroy all of Iraq's weapons factories. Re-establishing these would cost tens of billions of dollars, which Iraq did not have, and could not do with the world watching its every move.

Ritter discounts any possibility of Iraq resuming these programmes on technical grounds. He details numerous lacunae in the technical capabilities of Iraq's nuclear and missile scientists and the unsuccessful attempts it made to acquire the technology from abroad. He points out that while the chemical weapons programme managed to produce some stabilised VX gas, it was unlikely that Iraq had been able to 'productionise' the technology.

Ritter debunks the current Anglo-American attempt to convince the world that Iraq has become a threat to its neighbours and even to the rest of the western world by pointing out that it is impossible to keep a nuclear enrichment or chemical weapons programme secret. The former produces specific gases that modern laser-based gas analysers can pick up even when these are present in minute quantities at a considerable distance. Also, nuclear enrichment releases gamma rays and other particles that are easy to detect.

Ritter's disclosures explain the chasm that is opening between the US and UK, and the UN Secretary General and other permanent members of the Security Council. While the former see inspection as a prelude to the invasion of Iraq and want it to fail, the latter see it as a way of eliminating any remaining threat that Iraq might pose to its neighbours, as a prelude to lifting economic sanctions and bringing Iraq back into the international community.

The gap is seemingly unbridgeable. The UN may not in the end be able to prevent a US-UK invasion of Iraq, but it must ensure that they are given no opportunity to claim the mantle of international legitimacy.

Al Qaeda vows harder, faster strikes

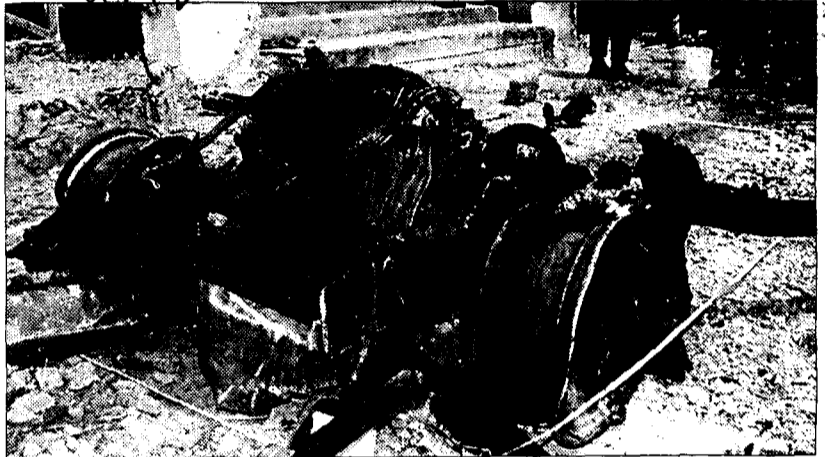
AGENCIES

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, DECEMBER 8

AL QAEDA has threatened faster, harder strikes against the United States and Israel "on land, air and sea" in a new statement attributed to the main September 11 suspect that was posted on a militant website today. "The Jewish crusader coalition will not be safe anywhere from the fighters' attacks," the statement said, using a term common among Islamic militants for what they see as a US-Israeli alliance. "We will hit the most vital centers and we will strike against its strategic operations with all possible means."

The statement was attributed to Al Qaeda spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith. The web site, which has posted previous statements attributed to the terror network, included what appeared to be an old newspaper photograph of Abu Ghaith with the statement posted today. The whereabouts of Abu Ghaith, along with Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, have been a mystery since the network was chased out of its Afghan haven by US bombing following the September 11 attacks.

"We will chase the enemy with terrifying weapons," today's statement said. "We have to widen our fighting fronts and conduct more concentrated and faster operations ... So (the enemy) feels unsafe and un-



The hotel in Kenya where Israeli tourists were attacked. Reuters file

stable on land, air and sea." The statement attributed to Abu Ghaith also said a purported Al Qaeda claim of responsibility for the November 28 attacks on Israelis in Kenya was genuine. That claim was posted on several other Islamic sites last week.

Today's statement noted that Al Qaeda does not usually claim responsibility for attacks, but would do so "according to the relevant circumstances."

Meanwhile, Israel has received intelligence information warning of plans by Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network to attack Jews and Israelis in Prague, an Israeli security source said on Sunday.

Israel named Al Qaeda as the prime suspect in a suicide bombing at a hotel in Kenya on November 28 that killed 13 Kenyans and three Israelis and a failed attempt to shoot down with missiles an Israeli airliner taking off nearby. "A specific warning was received recently about plans to attack Jews and Israelis in Prague," the security source said, without giving details.

The capital of the Czech Republic is a popular travel destination for Israelis. The source said Israel has received information from several foreign intelligence agencies warning of Al Qaeda plans to target Israelis overseas.

Al Qaeda website says new goal is destruction of Israel

JOHN MINTZ
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 6

AN INTERNET site claiming to represent Al-Qaeda says the network has decided to launch suicide attacks against a new target, Israel, and says its goal is the destruction of the Jewish state. US government officials said they believe the Web site, www.mojahedoon.net, indeed speaks for Al-Qaeda. News of Al-Qaeda's new anti-Israel focus comes a week after two terrorist attacks against Israeli interests in Kenya believed to be carried out by Al-Qaeda. Terrorism experts say Al-Qaeda's announced entry into the already incendiary struggle between Palestinians and Israelis is

a disturbing development likely to set off new violence. "The idea that Al-Qaeda is establishing a special cell to focus on Israelis is horrifying news," said Rachel Bronson, director of West Asia Studies for the private Council on Foreign Relations. Al-Qaeda's role could be extremely destabilizing, she added, because "it will be weighing in on the side of Hamas," the Palestinian Islamic group deemed a terrorist organization by the US government.

Hamas staunchly opposes peace with Israel and declares its entire territory Muslim land. The terror group's announcement came shortly before President Bush, meeting at the White House with leaders of Kenya and Ethiopia, said that progress was

being made against Al-Qaeda. "Slowly but surely we're dismantling an Al-Qaeda network, and that inures to the benefit of all the countries of the world," Bush said.

Earlier this week, the Palestinian Authority denied accusations by a top Israeli military official that Al-Qaeda already is operating in the West Bank and Gaza. "These are cheap and untrue allegations," the Palestinian Authority said in a statement released after a Cabinet meeting in Ramallah. The website announced formation of a new branch of Osama bin Laden's terror network, the Islamic Al-Qaeda Organization in Palestine, and said it will work to undermine any negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

'Al Qaeda hand in Pak attack'

KARACHI: Macedonia said on Thursday Al Qaeda group may have bombed its consulate in Karachi, where three people were found dead. "According to information, an organizer of the attack could be a Pakistani cell of the Al Qaeda network," the Macedonian Foreign Ministry said. No group has claimed responsibility for Thursday's blast.

Macedonian Foreign Ministry official Santa Argirova said the information came from its consul who said a message left on the building walls said: "We are from Al Qaeda-Pakistan. We will treat the unbelievers the way they treat us. This is a warning." —Reuters

The talks, now suspended, have been aimed at arranging an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in exchange for an end to Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel. The Al-Qaeda site said it rejects this course. "Islamic Al-Qaeda in Palestine joins its voice with the voices of the mujahideen in Palestine in its resistance to the partial and submissive solutions (land for peace), and will accept nothing but the full liberation of the Palestinian land," said the site, which was originally brought to light publicly and translated from the Arabic. The new Palestinian arm of Al-Qaeda "will defeat the Zionist Jewish invaders (and) return them to the place ... whence they came," the website said. —LATWP

Al-Qaida scent in Karachi blast

Karachi, December 5

THREE BODIES, their feet and hands bound and their throats cut, were recovered today from the rubble of the Karachi offices of the honorary consul of Macedonia, which was destroyed in an overnight explosion. Slogans on the walls indicated al-Qaida might have been involved.

The victims, two men and one woman, were all believed to be Pakistanis.

Police are investigating the possibility that the execution-style killings and subsequent explosion at the Macedonian consul office may have been in retaliation for the killing of seven Pakistanis in Macedonia in March.

Doctors at Karachi's Jinnah Medical Center who performed autopsies on the victims said their hands and legs were tied, their mouths gagged and their throats slit. The weapon used was still in the body of one of the victims, the doctors said.

One of the dead was the watchman, a Christian, police said. The identities of the other two victims, including one woman, were not immediately known.

Police found slogans on a wall inside the building referring to the al-Qaida terrorist organisation and warning against "infidels". Karachi police said no one had taken responsibility for the killings. Scribbled on a wall in blue ink were the words "al-Qaida Pakistan, result of adultery" and an Urdu couplet titled *Message for Infidels* that said:

*Loyalty will be returned in loyalty.
Oppression in oppression.*

We are men like you.

We will do what you will do.

The building, located in a Karachi suburb, should have been empty but for the night watchman, Bilal Quereshi, the honorary consul general for

Big Mac explosion in Indonesia kills 2

AN EXPLOSION has ripped through a McDonald's restaurant in the eastern Indonesian city of Makassar, killing two people, police say. "There were two blasts, the first at a McDonald's counter in Ratu Indah mall. Two people died," a police officer said.

Two people were seriously wounded and several were slightly hurt, he said.

A second explosion, which caused no casualties, occurred an hour later in a car showroom about 4 km away. Police were investigating whether the explosions were caused by bombs.

Reuters, Jakarta

Macedonia, said.

In March, police opened fire on a van that tried to drive through a roadblock in Macedonia. They killed seven Pakistanis and said they found seven AK-47 assault rifles, several hand grenades and ammunition in the van.

Macedonian officials said they were planning attacks on Western embassies. One of the suspects was identified as Ahmet Ikaz, 24, a Pakistani listed as a known criminal by Interpol.

Thursday's explosion woke up sleeping residents, shattered windows and sent frightened neighbours running into the street. "I was sleeping. It was a huge explosion. I jumped the fence to escape. I didn't know what had happened," said Alladida, a household worker in a neighbouring home.

AP

Tactical cooperation against terror



AFF

Russian President Vladimir Putin with wife Lyudmila at Rajghat in New Delhi on Wednesday.

India, Russia pact unprecedented

Saurabh Shukla
New Delhi, December 4

RUSSIA AND India today agreed to begin "tactical" cooperation against terrorism on an unprecedented scale, involving cooperation at operational and diplomatic levels. An MoU signed by the two countries envisages a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, headed by the two foreign secretaries, to provide a mechanism for such cooperation.

At the operational level, sharing of intelligence will be institutionalised with regular contacts between the officers of the two countries. They will share intelligence assessments on groups operating in Pakistan, PoK and Afghanistan, and keep a close watch on narco-terrorism in the region.

The two countries will step up cooperation between security agencies to identify and suppress the source of funding of these terrorist groups. The group will facilitate inter-agency cooperation between the security

JOINT EFFORTS

- At the operational level, sharing of intelligence will be institutionalised with regular contacts between officers in India & Russia
- There'll be joint training and exercises for elite commando units
- At the diplomatic level, Russia and India will present coordinated responses at multilateral forums such as the UN

and Intelligence agencies of the two countries. The group will meet for the first time in Moscow in February 2003.

There will be joint training and exercises too, for elite commando units such as the National Security Guards and Alpha Unit of the Russian armed forces. Both countries will be alert about the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. And they will supply to each other equipment used in anti-terrorist operations.

At the diplomatic level, Russia and India will present coordinated responses at multilateral forums such as the UN and regional groupings. The two countries will cooperate against countries like Pakistan that shelter and help terrorists, and then mount diplomatic pressure. They have also agreed to intensify efforts for a comprehensive international convention on terrorism at the UN and press for joint action against terrorism without any double standards.

Though the two sides shied away from agreeing on any joint operations at this stage during the discussions, they renewed their pledge to help each other in crises. Officials say this can be in the shape of operational and logistical support. The two sides had converging views on Afghan and PoK-trained terrorists active in Kashmir and Chechnya and agreed to share information.

Behind closed doors, Putin renewed Russia's offer of complete logistical and defence support in case of a conflict.

LeT declares Id ceasefire

By Shujaat Bukhari

SRINAGAR, DEC. 4. The militant outfit, Lashkar-e-Taiba, today announced a four-day unilateral ceasefire as a "goodwill gesture" to the people of Kashmir to celebrate Id-ul-Fitr. In a statement to the local news agency CNS, the LeT spokesman, Abu Huzaifa, said the ceasefire would start a day before Id.

Id marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and will be celebrated on Friday or Saturday, based on the appearance of the moon.

This is for the first time that a militant organisation has announced a ceasefire on the eve of Id.

Mr. Huzaifa said that LeT members would not carry out attacks on the security forces during the four days and that suitable directions had been given to the "field commanders." "This ceasefire also covers politicians and surrendered militants

who are on our hit-list." The decision had been taken at the highest level.

Saif-ul-Islam, "chief commander" of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, meanwhile, sent his greetings to the people of Kashmir on the eve of Id.

'A positive step'

PTI reports:

"This is a welcome and positive step as it will help save many lives. It would have been welcomed more heartily if it had been for the entire holy month of Ramadan," the Deputy Chief Minister, Mangat Ram Sharma said.

State's Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Muzaffar Hussain Beig, while hoping that the announcement had actually been made by LeT, told PTI in Delhi that "although the ceasefire may be symbolic, it is a step in the right direction. We would have liked it more if it was turned into a forever affair."

5 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

Mr.
Mr.

Putin's warning on Pak. n-weapons serious: PM

SHIMLA, DEC. 2. Endorsing the Russian President, Vladimir Putin's fears on Pakistan's nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists, the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, today asked the international community, especially Islamabad's allies, to take note of the "serious threat". Mr. Vajpayee was responding to questions from newsmen about Mr. Putin's remarks that the weapons of mass destruction in Pakistan could fall into terrorists' hands.

"If there is a threat that Pakistan's weapons of mass destruction will land up in the hands of extremists there is a serious threat. We should take note of it." On Indo-Pak. relations, Mr. Vajpayee regretted the delay in Islamabad's failure to reciprocate India's gesture in according the Most Favoured Nation status to that country. "We must delink bilateral issues from steps to strengthen trade and economic cooperation in the region," he added.

A 'trusted friend'

In New Delhi, Mr. Vajpayee said in an interview to the Rus-

sian news channel Itar-Tass that Mr. Putin was a 'trusted friend'.

"We have stood by each other through thick and thin and we understand each other well. No attempt to create misunderstandings between us has suc-

ceeded." Observing that he has a "deep personal relationship" with Mr. Putin, he said "we keep meeting regularly. If need be, we talk on the phone. Discussions are always very frank. There is no hesitation in our hearts when we talk." — PTI

Pak. must honour obligations: Russia

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, DEC. 2. A day before the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, begins an official visit to India, Russia's Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, reiterated Moscow's support for Delhi on the issue of cross-border terrorism, even as a Russian-Pakistani joint working group on terrorism met here.

Russia "shares the view that Pakistan must honour its obligations to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure on the territory under its control," Mr. Ivanov said in the Government-owned daily *Rossiiskaya Gazeta*, stressing that close cooperation of neighbouring countries was essential for resolving the problem of cross-border terrorism.

Stating that Russia also faced the threat of cross-border terrorism from Chechen terrorists based in the Pankisi Gorge in neighbouring Georgia, Mr. Ivanov expressed "understanding for India's concerns over the infiltration of groups of militants across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir."

3 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

Mombasa
KENYA / 'BACK-UP TEAM AIDED SUICIDE ATTACKS' *117-19*

Probe trail leads to Al-Qaeda *8/12*

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), DEC. 2. Investigators of the bombing of an Israeli hotel in Mombasa are narrowing down their suspicions on two suspects who may have masterminded the attack that killed 13 people including three Israelis.

According to security analysts, the investigation trail is leading to Fazul, the leader of Al-Qaeda's East African cells since the mid-nineties and Abdullah Ahmad Abdullah.

Both are suspected to have masterminded the hotel attack as well as the attempt to shoot down a chartered Israeli passenger plane that had 260 people on board. Both suspects are believed to be members of the Jihad Islami, the operational arm of the Al-Qaeda.

Fazul's name had cropped up during investigations of the November 1996 hijack of an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Nairobi in which seven Israelis including five key officials of the Israeli Aircraft Industries were killed.

The probe so far indicates that around 25 Al-Qaeda activists were directly or indirectly involved in the hotel attack along with scores of others who played a supportive role, making it one of the largest operations which the group has



Kenyan soldiers looking for clues amidst a heap of fire extinguishers at the scene of the suicide bomb attack at the Paradise hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, on Monday. — AP

mounted. It is now becoming increasingly evident that the Al-Qaeda had positioned back-up teams both near the hotel as well at the airport.

This was felt necessary in case the lead group failed to accomplish its mission.

The probe so far has indicated that two missile teams were kept at the airport.

The first was located at one end of the runway, while the second was estimated to be around 5 km from the airstrip's other end.

Apparently, the second group was positioned to shoot

down the plane in case the first team missed its target due to plane drifting during take-off on account of shifts in the wind direction.

The missiles, it is concluded, missed their target because the plane was armed with infrared flares that were released and "fooled" these weapons.

The identity of the missiles used in the attack is yet to be established.

They could either be the Russian-built Strella missiles, the SA-7 Grail, or the U.S.-made Stingers that the Al-Qaeda might have acquired in Afghan-

istan and subsequently modified.

The missile groups immediately left the airport once the plane escaped the attack. Investigators are working on the theory that the back-up teams flew out of Mombasa to a destination in Somalia.

This hypothesis has gained some credence as the Mombasa international airport radars have recorded that a plane had landed at a point in south of Mombasa town and three planes took off from the same place, a short while later.

Al-Qaeda activists are apparently heavily concentrated in the Somali fishing villages along the eastern coast between Kismoayo port and Ras Kaambooni, not far from the Kenyan border.

It is suspected that several hundred extremists who fought in Afghanistan in the winter of 2001 and early 2002 are now in this area.

The attack targeting Israelis in Mombasa is seen by analysts as an expression of the Al-Qaeda's new terror offensive that began on Oct. 6 with the suicide attack on the French oil tanker Limburg in the Gulf of Aden. This was followed by the Oct. 18 bombings in Bali, the Moscow theatre siege on Oct. 23 and the killing of a U.S. official, Laurence Foley, in Amman on Oct. 28.

3 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

More temple attacks likely: PM

Solan\New Delhi: Accusing Pakistan of trying to destabilise India's economy through terrorism, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Sunday said the government had information that terrorists might target more temples in the country.

"Our neighbour is perturbed with our progress and economic development. Terrorism is being used to destabilise our economy," he said. "But we will not be frightened and will fight terrorism and win the war against it," he said addressing a function in Solan.

Referring to the recent terrorist attack on the Raghunath temple in Jammu, he said, "More temples can be targeted. We have information in this regard. Terrorists are targeting religious places with an aim to incite communal riots in the country."

Mr Vajpayee said previous governments at the Centre had "neglected" defence because of world pressure. The international community had tried to put pressure also on his government in 1998 when preparations were being made for the Pokhran nuclear tests, he said.

"They said there is no need for our nuclear tests as they were there for

Advani's statement unfortunate: Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan on Sunday warned India against war-mongering after deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani challenged Pakistan to drop its support to terrorists in Kashmir or fight another war.

"No one in India should live under the illusion that a self-respecting nation like Pakistan can be cowed down by any amount of intimidation and coercion," information minister Sheikh Rasheed said. "It is unfortunate that Mr Advani has again started beating the war drums. He should be aware that although Pakistan does not want any conflict, it is fully prepared to give a crushing reply to any misadventure by India," he said. AFP

our protection," he said. But the government went ahead with its plan.

Meanwhile, a day after daring Pakistan to a fourth war, deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani on Sun-

day stepped up his offensive against Islamabad and asked the international community to "ostracise terror states".

Without directly referring to Pakistan, he said, "Terrorist organisations are dangerous but terror states are far more dangerous. The international community should ostracise such terror states in the interest of democracy, civilisation and humanity."

Addressing the 37th Raising Day parade of the Border Security Force on the outskirts of New Delhi, Mr Advani said although the neighbouring country had banned some terrorist outfits "under international pressure", it continued to provide protection and refuge to such elements.

Pakistan, having been defeated thrice in war and having realised it can never win a direct confrontation with India, had resorted to terrorism, he said. "Innocent civilians, women and children are being made targets. This poses a grave threat not only to the common man but also to democracy, civilisation and humanity. The earlier the world realises it, the better it would be for humanity," he said. PTI

Howard for pre-emptive attack on terrorists

SYDNEY, DEC. 1. The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, said today he was prepared to act against terrorists in neighbouring Asian countries and that international law and the U.N. Charter should be changed to empower nations to strike pre-emptively against terrorists, who plan to attack them.

"It stands to reason that if you believe somebody was going to launch an attack on your country, either of a conventional kind or a terrorist kind, and you had a capacity to stop it and there was no alternative other than to use that capacity, then of course, you would have to use it," he told Australian TV 'Channel Nine'.

Asked if that meant taking pre-emptive action against terrorists in a neighbouring country, Mr. Howard said: "Oh yes. I think any Australian Prime Min-

ister would." He declined to give details when asked if Australian commandos could be used. Mr. Howard's comments

come as his nation nervously watches how Southeast Asian countries to its north deal with the Islamic militants in the

wake of the October 12 bombings on Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Outrage in Asia

Asian countries reacted with outrage and described as arrogant Mr. Howard's comments.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Marti Natalegawa, said Australia had no right to take military action in other countries. "Fortunately, States cannot willy-nilly flout international law and norms. We have to work within the system," he said.

A Thailand Government spokesman said any Australian request to conduct operations on Thai soil would require "highly cautious consideration."

"Nobody does anything like this," he said. —AP



FACING THREATS?: A Western tourist couple walk through a crowded Central Market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently.

2 DEC 2002

THE HINDOO

Kenya
+19-12

KENYA / PAKISTANIS, SOMALIS BEING QUESTIONED

Israelis take over investigation

MOMBASSA (KENYA), NOV. 30. The investigation into a pair of simultaneous attacks on Israeli tourists along Kenya's lush coast inched forward on Saturday, with security officials questioning 10 foreigners and trying to trace the vehicle used in a missile attack.

Police released two foreigners, Alicia Kalthammer, an American, and Jose Tena, her Spanish husband, who had been detained since shortly after the attacks Thursday.

Police were still questioning six Pakistani men and four Somali men.

Kenyan and Israeli authorities sealed off the blackened shell of the Paradise Hotel, hit by a suicide car bomb that killed 10 Kenyans, three Israelis and the three bombers.

Israeli investigators, assisted by Kenyan police, appeared to be doing most of the evidence-gathering, both at the site near Mombasa airport from which two missiles were fired at an Israeli passenger jet on Thursday and at the hotel 20 km to the north, where the car bomb exploded five minutes later. U.S. security officials are also involved in the investigation.

"I'm happy with the way the investigation is going," the Internal Security and Defence Minister, Julius Sunkuli told The Associated Press. "We are really trying to work hard to get more clues about the other car (that carried the missiles) because we don't think it has left Kenya."

Police have found the registration plate for the vehicle used in the suicide attack, but it's not clear who the owners are. There has been no progress tracing the vehicle used in the missile attack.

The two missiles streaked past a Boeing 757 Israeli charter aircraft owned by Arkia Airlines as it left the Mombasa airport bound for Tel Aviv.

Officials close to the investigation said it was likely that the rockets were Russian-made Strelas, a shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile. Mr. Sunkuli said the discarded mis-

sile launchers, which he said were originally olive green but had been painted blue by the terrorists, were "most likely" Russian, but could be German or American.

But the *Financial Times*, whose reporter saw the launchers when police were showing them to the Kenyan President, Daniel arap Moi, on Friday, said on Saturday the serial number on one of them indicated they were manufactured by Zid or the V.A. Degtyarev weapons plant northeast of Moscow in March 1974. An official contradicted earlier police statements by saying the Pakistanis and Somalis had been detained

immediately after the Thursday morning attacks. Police had said they were picked up on Friday. The Somalis and Pakistanis arrived at Mombasa port in a leaking boat on Monday, he said. As far as the police know, they did not leave the dhow, a traditional wooden ship with a triangular sail, he said. It was not clear where the men came from. The police had earlier said the Pakistanis and Somalis had suspicious documents, but Mr. Sunkuli said not all of them were travelling on false passports. — AP



CLOSE BRUSH: Tourists sit outside the hotel in Kikambala, Kenya, in this amateur video image showing the aftermath of Thursday's bomb attack, made available on Friday. — AP

THE HINDU

1 DEC 2002

TERRORISM IN THE TEMPLE

Q. S. B. Not the time to go "soft" 11/12

THERE are no easy answers in Kashmir and those who think they have found one are soon disappointed. But three sharp reminders in three days do not seem to have dulled Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's enthusiasm to appeal to the better side of Kashmiri militants. The Jammu temple attacks, which followed a highway blast targeting army men and a raid on a security camp, should force a rethink. The point here is not that Mufti's release of militants and separatists, although amateurish and ad hoc, are supplying the men and materiel for the recent attacks. Quite the contrary: Kashmir violence has for sometime lost local flavour. But terrorism planners see an opportunity in Mufti's new policy — to drive home the message that violence is easy and to tell locals and semi-political entities who want to negotiate that they should not expect any gains. If the state government keeps releasing jailed militants and if their Pakistani-sponsored cousins keep up the new violent tempo, the "soft" policy will become a political and tactical burden for Indian authorities. The authority of the state, a hugely important factor in the tactics against terror, can end up getting enormously eroded. The serious danger here is that in an effort to save face, the PDP-led government may persist with its policy and thereby create a situation that would be farcical were the stakes and body count not so high. Congress has a crucial role to play in persuading the PDP that a quick reassessment is better than a long drawn out mess. Ghulam Nabi Azad had indicated yesterday that a rethink may be necessary.

Of immediate concern is the transparent attempt by Islamic *jihadis* to turn terrorism into a communal violence-booster. So far, the attacks on temples — security analysts expect more in the coming days — haven't led to Hindu-Muslim clashes, because administrators have been firm and the goons who profess to be hard line Hindus got the message. But Jammu's temple attacks led to frayed tempers. Vigilance and quick, and if necessary, ruthless putting down of "answering" arsonists will be required in the state and elsewhere. Authorities should assume the worst — that one day terrorists may create enough mayhem in a high profile temple for passions to rise — and prepare themselves. The first signs of communal tension should be met by an overwhelming show of state force. Thugs must be arrested, and their leaders, too, if they show their hand. As India's long and weary battle with *jihad* continues, the worst response we can provide is to do what they want us to.

THE STATESMAN

1 DEC 2002

12 held for Kenya attacks

Agence France Presse



JAWS OF DEATH: An Israeli investigator at the attack site in Paradise Hotel near Mombasa on Friday. — AFP

MOMBASA, Nov. 29. — A total of 12 people including six Pakistanis have been detained in the Kenyan investigation of attacks on a hotel and an Israeli plane in Mombasa, the Kenyan police commissioner said today.

Israel today airlifted some 250 tourists and the bodies of three victims of the suicide attack as medical teams and investigators poured into the east African country, an Israeli official said.

"Ten more people were detained today for questioning," Kenyan police commissioner Mr Philemon Abonjo said. "We are not saying they are suspects yet."

Two others, a couple, were detained yesterday morning shortly after the twin attacks. They were arrested in a hotel neighbouring the Mombasa Paradise Hotel.

The 10 include a person, who police said, they had detained overnight in the centre of Mombasa. Mr Abonjo said all 10 were from the Mombasa area but did not say if they held foreign passports.

An Israeli spokesman said: "During the last hours we flew

four Hercules planes to Mombasa. They arrived with doctors, psychologists and police investigators. We brought a lot of blood. We flew back 15 injured people, three bodies and 235 non-injured, among them 140 survivors plus others staying in hotels in Mombasa. We also flew one Kenyan woman, badly injured, who wanted to be treated in Israel."

Early on Friday, a score of Israeli investigators arrived at the wrecked hotel complex, alongside three US officials who photographed the cordoned-off compound and a Kenyan team which pored over the debris. Rabbis carefully collected and bagged any human remains they could find, in keeping with Jewish religious practise.

Another Israeli woman gathered small samples of the remains, presumably as forensic evidence. All but the Kenyan officials left the scene shortly after 9 a.m.

US condemnation: Mr Colin Powell has condemned the attacks against Israeli targets in Kenya and urged Palestinians to take "immediate and sustained steps to eradicate the infrastructure of terrorism and violence", adds AFP from Washington.

THE STATESMAN

3 0 NOV 2002

MOMBASSA ATTACKS / 'AIRCRAFT DROPPED BOMBS ON HOTEL'

'Al-Qaeda' opens another front

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), NOV. 29. After an all-night operation, two Israeli transport planes on Friday evacuated and brought home Israelis who were victims of a suspected Al-Qaeda bombing of a hotel in Mombassa, Kenya.

The planes returned with three bodies, of two girls aged 12 and 13 and a 60-year-old man who were killed after an explosive-laden jeep rammed into the lobby of the Israeli-owned Paradise Hotel in Mombassa. According to reports, there is suspicion that a light aircraft dropped explosives on the hotel building at the time of the suicide attack, in order to cause maximum damage.

Twenty-one injured victims aboard the flights, including the seriously wounded mother of the two slain girls and two Kenyan women, were taken straight to Israeli hospitals. The Israeli planes also disembarked in Mombassa, a team of Israeli intelligence officials from Mossad. Analysts see in the attack a declaration by the Al-Qaeda network that it has, after the United States, opened the second front of its global terror campaign against Israel.



LETHAL WARNING: Two missile launchers, which were used to fire projectiles at an Israeli plane, on display in Mombassa on Friday. — AFP

The bombing in Mombassa will have wide implications on Israel's domestic politics, the region and is likely to intensify an internal debate in the U.S. on the merits of pursuing a possible two-front war against Iraq and the Al-Qaeda simultaneously. While the Al-Qaeda has not formally claimed responsibility for the attack, analysts point out that the operation in Mombassa has the stamp of the

The Al-Qaeda has penetrated

Kenya, mainly from the neighbouring Somalia. The loosely governed Somalia, in turn, became an Al-Qaeda stronghold after members of this group were squeezed out of Sudan on account of a Governmental crackdown there. The Al-Qaeda influence in Kenya became visible when pro-Osama bin Laden graffiti appeared on the walls in Mombassa soon after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The meticulous planning of the Paradise Hotel attack is also marked by a sophistication that is typical of the Al-Qaeda. The bombing is expected to benefit the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, in the upcoming elections as growing insecurity, fuelled by terror attacks, is driving most Israelis to the political right wing.

Sensing the fear on the streets, Mr. Sharon, who was chosen by the Likud Party as its Prime Ministerial candidate on Thursday, has declared that he would root out terror.

In pledging retaliation against the perpetrators of the Mombassa attack, he referred to the precedent of the 1972 Munich Olympics when Israel aggressively avenged the killing of its 11 athletes.

U.S. committed to fight terror: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 29. The President, George W. Bush, has condemned the terrorist attacks in Kenya and at the Likud Party headquarters in Israel even while his administration has been reluctant to assign blame for the incidents in Kenya.

Extending condolences to the peoples of Israel and Kenya, Mr. Bush issued a statement from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, where his extended family was gathered for Thanksgiving. "Today's attacks underscore the continuing willingness of those opposed to peace to commit horrible crimes", the President said. "Those who seek peace must do everything in their power to dismantle the infrastructure of terror that makes such actions possible. The United States remains firmly committed with its partners around the world, to fight against terror and those who commit these heinous acts", Mr. Bush said.

The State Department issued an advisory warning Americans in Kenya to exercise "extra caution" at hotels, tourist locations and urban areas, especially in the coastal regions. But the Bush administration, while saying that its officials will be meeting with counterparts in Kenya and Israeli officials there, is not quite ready to assign blame for what took place in two separate incidents in Kenya — the suicide bombing of a hotel complex and the attempt to bring down an Israeli passenger jet while taking off.

"You can always find 10 analysts who say it was Al-Qaeda and you can find 10 analysts who say it was one of those standard groups that attack Israel", an unnamed administration official has been quoted in *The New York Times* as saying. But the general belief is that the terrorist attacks targeted Israel and were not some random act of violence. If the Al-Qaeda is indeed responsible for the terror hits, then it will be the first time that the outfit of Osama bin Laden has targeted the Jewish state, analysts say. But officials in Israel have not ruled out other terror groups such as the Hezbollah being behind the attacks.

Privately, fears are being expressed on the implications of the attacks on the state of Israel and what this could mean to the Bush administration's "war on terror". For instance, one argument in the media here is that Israel would now insist on getting more actively involved in the war against terror.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2002

10-10
32/11
TERROR SEEKING A CAUSE *Amman*

THREE ATTACKS TARGETING Israelis on Thursday cannot be described as anything other than barbaric acts of terrorism. However, while Israelis were among the victims of these attacks and while anger at Israel's treatment of the Palestinians supposedly constituted the motive of the perpetrators, a distinction must be drawn between the attack inside Israel and the two-pronged effort in Kenya. The shooting down of six people in the northern Israeli town of Beit She'an bore the hallmarks of an action by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade which has also claimed responsibility for it. As such, it was yet one more in the series of assaults undertaken by Palestinian groups in furtherance of their *intifada*. While the killing of these innocent civilians can in no manner be justified, it at least fits into a context in which the Palestinians claim that they are retaliating in equal measure to indiscriminate and excessive action by the Israeli military. On the other hand, the coordinated twin attacks in Mombasa — only one of which was successful — appeared to be the handiwork of Al-Qaeda. Three Israelis were among those killed in the suicide car bomb attack on the beach resort in Kenya (the rest being Kenyan nationals) and passengers on an Israeli charter flight were fortunate to escape the two shoulder-fired rockets that barely missed their target. A hitherto unknown group calling itself "Army of Palestine" has claimed responsibility, but several factors indicate that the Kenya attacks were more probably carried out by the Al-Qaeda network rather than any accredited Palestinian group. Although there might be some connections between Al-Qaeda and the Palestinian radical groups, there is scant evidence thus far that they have ever acted in concert.

An important factor that diminishes the probability that Hamas, Islamic Jihad or any other of the known Palestinian militant groups had a hand in the attacks in Kenya is that they have not till now demonstrated the capability to strike so

far from their home bases. These groups have always struck within Israel or the occupied territories since the *intifada* began and the creation of an immediate sense of identity between the Palestinian people and the "martyrs" (i.e. those who carry out suicide attacks) has been a necessary part of the mobilisational and motivational techniques used by these groups. East Africa, as was demonstrated by the attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam four years ago, was a major area of operations for Osama bin Laden before he took refuge in Afghanistan. After the dismantling of its Afghan bases, it is believed that many Al-Qaeda members have re-grouped in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa, especially chaotic Somalia. As it resurrects itself, Al-Qaeda and its affiliates have been striking at tourist spots — from Tunisia to Bali — because they make for soft targets and because attacks on holiday-makers increase the sense of vulnerability all around. Osama, perhaps in the search for more legitimacy than his nebulous xenophobia can provide, has been rhetorically targeting Israel after September 2001— and the series of violent attacks could show that he is now backing his words with action. Lastly, of course, Al-Qaeda has proven that it has the sophistication and organisational muscle to mount a complex set of attacks at any spot in the world.

Since the three actions on Thursday were all acts of terrorism, should it matter that one could be attributed to a Palestinian group and the other two to Al-Qaeda? A short answer is that while the Palestinian groups target Israelis, and hence do not threaten the rest of humankind, an Al-Qaeda that does not so discriminate is most certainly the greater menace. Another reason for drawing the distinction is to ensure that the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people, sullied though it is by the methods employed by their terrorist groups, is not reduced to the status of a cheap cosmetic for an Al-Qaeda that exists solely to terrorise.

ONE HINDU

30 NOV 2002

Kenya detains 12 for bomb attacks

Mombasa(Kenya): Kenyan police said they were holding a dozen people on Friday for the attacks on Israelis which killed 15 people, after Israel vowed to hunt down all those behind the Mombasa bloodbath.

A man and a woman detained in connection with Thursday's bomb and missile attacks had US passports and said they were from Florida, the manager of a hotel where they stayed told Reuters. He said the man and the woman, who appeared in their 20s, checked into his hotel on November 26 and had tried to check out on Thursday morning, about two hours after the suicide bombing. The police said they were hunting others of Arab appearance.

Suicide bombers drove a jeep into the lobby of the Israeli-owned Mombasa Paradise hotel and blew it up, killing 15 people, minutes after missiles were fired at a plane full of Israeli tourists taking off nearby early on Thursday.

By Friday, 12 people had been detained. A police spokesman said

Sharon wins Likud leadership poll

Jerusalem: Israeli foreign minister Benjamin Netanyahu conceded defeat to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Thursday in the race for the Likud party leadership after exit polls projected a sweeping victory for the incumbent.

Mr Netanyahu, a hawkish former prime minister, congratulated Mr Sharon in a phone call, a spokesman for Mr Netanyahu said.



Ariel Sharon

A Channel One exit poll gave Mr Sharon 61 per cent of the votes compared to 37 per cent for Mr Netanyahu among the 305,000 members of the right-wing Likud. A Channel Two poll put the figures at 58 per cent for Mr Sharon and 40.5 per cent for Mr Netanyahu.

Victory would be Mr Sharon's first step on the road to retaining the prime minister's post which he has held for almost two years because Likud is widely expected to defeat the centre-left Labour Party in a general election on January 28. Reuters

the first three seized were all foreigners. "Immediately after the incident we detained two for interrogation and I feel they could give us useful information," police commissioner Philemon Abong'o told a news conference.

"By this morning we had also detained a further 10 people who are under our custody because we feel that some of them have information which could be useful to us." He declined to give the nationalities of those held.

Israel flew home wounded survivors and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed a swift response. Israeli security experts rushed to Mombasa to examine the charred wreckage of the Paradise hotel.

"Our long arm will catch the attackers and those who despatch them," Mr Sharon said on Thursday after his Likud party re-elected him as its leader ahead of Israel's January 28 general election.

Israeli and Kenyan officials have been quick to blame Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network for the attack on the Paradise, which killed three Israelis, nine Kenyans and the three bombers. More than a dozen Israelis and more than 60 others were injured.

But the White House said it was too soon to blame the group it accuses of masterminding the September 11 attacks on the United States last year.

In a fax sent to Reuters, the previously unheard of "Army of Palestine" claimed responsibility. There was no confirmation. Reuters

Attica
Person

Suicide attack on Kenya hotel, missiles fired at Israeli plane

40-1
29/11

MOMBASA (KENYA), NOV. 28. Suicide bombers blew up a hotel full of Israelis in Kenya today, killing 14 persons minutes after missiles narrowly missed an Israeli airliner taking off nearby, in an apparently synchronised attack.

Israeli and Kenyan officials swiftly blamed the Al-Qaeda network, while the previously unheard-of "Army of Palestine" sent a claim of responsibility to Reuters. Police said they were questioning two persons near the scene of the hotel bomb.

Witnesses spoke of Israeli tourists and other survivors, streaked with blood and dust, staggering to the beach from the shattered Mombasa Paradise resort hotel and screaming for water after the attackers rammed a car bomb into the lobby. There were discrepancies in the casualty figures. "There should be initial indications that 14 persons have died," Kenya's Interior Minister, Julius Sunkuli, said.

Wreckage of the bombers' car was left 15 metres from the smouldering rubble of the

entrance to the hotel, reported to be Israeli-owned, where most guests were Israeli. "Around 7:30, we heard a massive explosion. The entire building shook," Kelly Hartog, a witness, wrote on the website of Israel's *Jerusalem Post*. "I saw people covered with blood, including children. Everyone seemed to be screaming."

Minutes before the hotel blast, missiles were fired at an Israeli Arkia airliner, carrying 261 passengers as it took off from Mombasa's airport. "About two km from the airport, two missiles were fired at the aircraft from a white Pajero (jeep) by some people who are suspected to be of Arab origin. Both missiles missed the aircraft," the police spokesman, Kimgori Mwangi, said.

"We spotted two white smoke trails passing us on the left side, from the rear to the front, and disappearing after a few seconds," the pilot, Rafi Marik, said.

A Kenyan security source said it was believed the attackers used shoulder-borne missile launchers. The hotel attackers were

also described as bearing Arab features and driving a four-wheeled-drive Pajero they had turned into a suicide bomb.

Israeli and Kenyan officials were quick to accuse the Al-Qaeda network. If true, these would be the first direct attacks on Israelis by the Saudi fugitive, Osama bin Laden's group. A statement faxed to Reuters in Beirut, however, said the attacks were carried out by the "Army of Palestine" to mark the anniversary of the 1947 U.N. resolution partitioning Palestine between the Arabs and the Jews. There was no confirmation of the claim.

AP reports from Jerusalem:

Israel said that it would track down those responsible for the twin attacks, which Israeli officials said bore the hallmarks of the Al-Qaeda network. The Mossad spy agency, which has a long record of hunting terror suspects, will lead the investigation, officials said. "Our hand will reach them," Israel's Defence Minister, Shaul Mofaz.

U.S. awaiting clues: Page 14

29 NOV 2002

THE HINDO

TERROR ATTACKS FEARED; GUARDS POSTED AT SYDNEY OPERA

Australia, Canada close missions in Manila

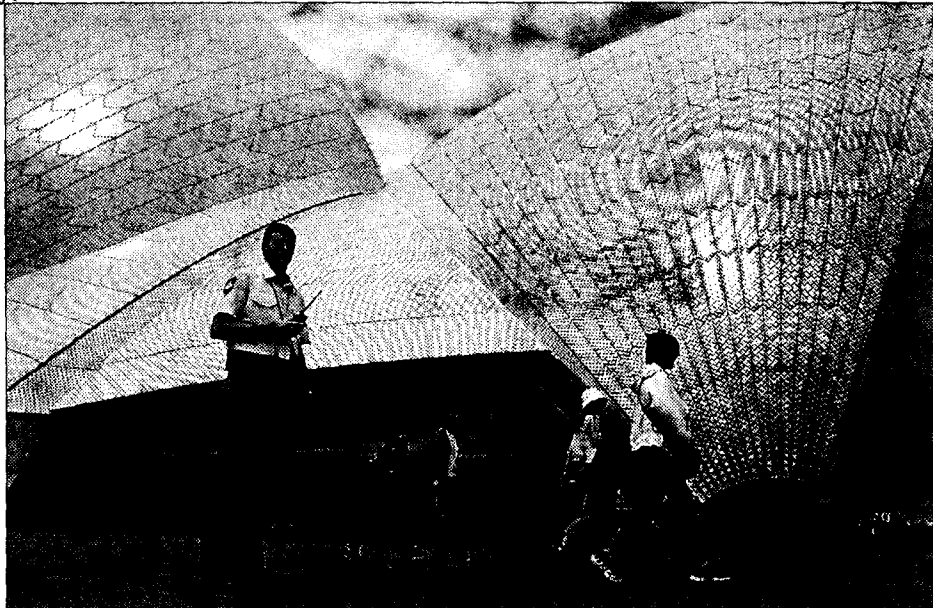
Associated Press

SYDNEY, Nov. 28. — Security was beefed up at Sydney's Opera House and Harbour Bridge, while Australia and Canada shut down their embassies in Manila, citing specific threats of Muslim attacks, possibly within days. Both governments warned their citizens to stay away from the Philippines, long wracked by violence by terror gangs linked to Al Qaida.

The European Union's representative office also shut down, according to a building administrator, although the office itself did not give a reason for its closure. It is in the same building as the Australian embassy.

In Manila, armed police closed streets, set up barricades and encircled the Australian Embassy.

Australian foreign minister Mr Alexander Downer said Canberra had received a "very specific" intelligence report last night that



HIGH ALERT: A policeman patrols the Sydney Opera House on Thursday. — AFP

warned of a possible militant attack. It is not only location specific, targeting the Australian Embassy itself, but also it's time specific in the sense that we are talking over the next few days," Mr Downer said.

He said threats had also

been made against targets linked to other nations, which he declined to identify.

In Manila, authorities tightened security in the capital that has been hit before by bombings. Armed police closed streets, set up

barricades and circled the Australian Embassy after it was shut.

Philippine national security adviser Mr Roilo Golez said his government was unaware of specific threats but was working to clarify the situation.

THE STATESMAN

29 NOV 2002

Al Qaeda brains trust may be in Bangla

Indrani Bagchi
NEW DELHI 27 NOVEMBER

HAS Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's trusted lieutenant and Al Qaeda's brains trust, moved to Bangladesh from Pakistan? A confidential report by the National Security Council (NSC) would suggest so.

Even as external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha told Parliament on Tuesday that Pakistan was using its high commission in Bangladesh as a hub for ISI activities directed against India, the Centre is preparing to send a copy of the NSC report to the Bangladesh government that gives a detailed account of stepped up Al Qaeda movement within Bangladesh after US forces started hunting them down in Afghanistan and Pak-

istan. The report, which will also be made available to the US, shows a new trend in the anti-

effort, it was discussed in detail at a meeting last week of the foreign minister, foreign secretary, home minister and home secretary under orders from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After the arrest of several Bangladesh-based terrorists in West Bengal, chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee too was roped in for a special meeting late last week.

The report stated in excruciating detail that since June 2001 until as recently as September 2002, there have been a steady stream of Al Qaeda leaders either moving into Bangladesh or transiting through Bangladesh to South East Asia. In June 2001, 25 Al Qaeda militants turned up in Bangladesh to train counterparts from Harkat-ul-Jehad ul-Islami (Huji). It must be remembered that Huji leader Fazlul Rehman was one of the signatories to bin Laden's fatwa of 1998. Al Qaeda, according to the NSC report, has also infiltrated local Bangladeshi jihad groups like the Islamic Aikyo Joth, Islamic Shashan Tantric Andolan etc.

In February 2002, a large number of Al Qaeda leaders landed in Chittagong, while in April another boatload of them came in from Afghanistan, via Karachi. According to intelligence reports, Al Qaeda militants from the South East Asia branch of the movement transited through Bangladesh after US operations started in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

On October 7, a Bangladeshi member of Huji, Fazle Karim, was picked up in Kolkata, who revealed that in September, 2002, Al Qaeda mastermind Ayman Al Zawahiri had moved his base to Bangladesh as well.



WALK INTO MY PARLOUR: President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam greets Bangladesh's former Prime Minister and Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed in New Delhi on Wednesday. — AFP

dia activities in Bangladesh, with an upsurge in Al Qaeda presence in this country. An inter-agency

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2002

CURBING THE FINANCING OF TERROR

IN REITERATING THEIR commitment to combat the financing of terrorism, the Finance Ministers and Central Bankers of the Group of 20 (G-20) have demonstrated that the civilised world remains alive to the need to counter the menace at different levels and through multiple techniques. At almost the same time as the G-20 was holding its fourth ministerial meeting in New Delhi, the U. S. administration and the Government of the United Kingdom made clear that they would not be contributing to the funds being raised for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the north and east of Sri Lanka unless and until the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) renounced violence and terror in all its forms. These two developments — a reaffirmation of principle at one level and specific action at another — also indicate that the nations actively involved in the coalition against terror are sharpening their definition of the phenomenon that they are trying to combat. The underlying import of the message that has been given to the LTTE is that it is the methodologies that terrorist groups resort to, rather than the causes they claim to promote, that define them as such. It has also been made clear that no responsible government will contribute financially towards very genuine and necessary ends so long as there is a remote possibility that these funds might be diverted for use in terrorist activity. It may also be recalled that the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted by the United Nations in 1999 established as an independent crime the very act of providing or collecting funds with the intention or knowledge that they would be used to carry out terrorist acts.

While most Governments do appear to be firm in their determination to dry up the sources of finance for terrorism, the implementation of declarations to this effect has proven to be far more problematic since several of the organisations that are known to indulge in terrorism do

also involve themselves in charitable works. Some Governments have taken the route of imposing a blanket ban on all fundraising by groups that have anything to do with terrorism. But others find the altruistic activities of such groups so attractive that they try to create space for themselves by arguing that funds intended for legitimate activities can be distinguished from those meant for the illegitimate and that they can and will interdict the latter. This is clearly an unviable position since no such distinction can be made once the monies flow into the coffers of any organisation; and so long as some Governments remain ambiguous on the matter, terrorist organisations will be able to attract finances from legitimate sources. The immensity of the problem can only be imagined once it is realised that funds raised through legally legitimate methods make up only a portion, and very often much the smaller portion, of the total quantum of finances available to terrorist groups. A nexus has long existed between the global terror network and the international criminal fraternity especially in connection with the trade in narcotics.

If the choking off of finance for terrorism at its source is a problem in itself, no less difficult is the task of interdicting the transfer of funds. The events of September 2001 did at least awaken the world's major financial powers to the need to become more active in the efforts to curb money laundering. Yet, as India's efforts in respect of the hawala market have shown, it might be possible to divert most remittances from abroad into legitimate channels but much more than financial regulations are required when the funds are going to be used for illegal purposes. The question, however, is whether the major financial powers can claim that they are doing all in their power to combat terrorism when they tolerate tax havens and other mechanisms that blunt regulatory control over money transactions worldwide.

THE HINDU

27 NOV 2002

Terror Designs

Jammu and Kashmir's post-election tryst with peace has been brutally shattered with a string of bloody strikes — on two temples in Jammu on Sunday and several fidayeen attacks earlier in the Valley. Yet, we might have known this was coming. The Jammu siege did not kill many, but it was traumatic nonetheless for those held hostage. It was an ordeal equally for those who watched the terrifying moments on television screens: Blood-splattered temple floors and panic-stricken devotees caught between flying bullets. There should be no doubt whatever as to the objective of those who masterminded the horror: To derail Indian democracy and confuse and communalise its polity. Unfortunately, the desperation of this cross-border act seems to have escaped the political bosses in Delhi. BJP spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi attributed the attack to the Mufti government's kid glove treatment of separatists. A more sympathetic Arun Jaitley said while he would not blame the J&K government, he expected the new ministry to review its soft stand vis-a-vis the separatists. It can be nobody's case that terrorism should be condoned. To the contrary. However, terror cannot be liquidated without an understanding of the whys and wherefores of it.

The reason for fresh terrorist violence in the case of J&K should be clear to anyone who has watched the return of democracy in that troubled state. For the first time in over two decades Kashmir has a government which is not a condescending gift from New Delhi but one that genuinely represents the aspirations of the people, indeed that talks the language of dialogue. Chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has never hidden his sympathies for the separatists. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If anything, this displays a degree of empathy with local sentiments, long thought to be absent from the calculations of Delhi and vital for ensuring the return of dissidents to the mainstream. The key thing here is to differentiate between separatism and militancy. The first is an idea born of long years of alienation. The second is Pakistan-inspired mischief. It is only by reaching out to the first that the second can be defeated. In other words, any action that strengthens the process of dialogue will automatically isolate militancy. Those who want the Mufti government to get tougher with the Kashmiri separatists must know that Pakistan would like nothing better. For that will once again blur the distinction between Pak-based terrorists and Kashmiri separatists. Between those who will attack temples to cause communal trouble and those who use azadi as a means of expressing their alienation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2002

'CENTRE NOT CONSULTED ON RELEASE OF MILITANTS'

Terrorism
11.10.1

Pak. responsible for Jammu attack: Advani

26/11

By Javed M. Ansari

NEW DELHI, NOV. 25. The Deputy Prime Minister and Union Home Minister, L. K. Advani, today held Pakistan responsible for Sunday's terrorist attack on the Raghunath temple in Jammu. "Our neighbour is responsible for all this," he told Parliament.

In the course of his *suo motu* statement, and later while answering questions in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Advani came down heavily on Pakistan and sought

to allay the impression that the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir Government were not working in coordination. He was cautious in not criticising the State Government's decision to release some militants and said that the attacks would have taken place anyway. "It is not that the release of terrorists has led to the attack, this would have happened anyway, because Pakistan has not given up its dream of avenging the 1971 defeat."

Though Mr. Advani ruled out

any direct link between the decision of the PDP-Congress coalition to release some militants and Sunday's attack, the issue did lead to some sparring between the Congress, main Opposition party, and the Government.

The Congress leader, Jaipal Reddy, asked Mr. Advani to clarify "whether or not the State Government had done anything without the clearance of the Central intelligence agencies," a demand supported by Somnath Chatterjee of the CPI (M).

Mr. Advani said the Centre was not consulted before the Jammu and Kashmir Government released the militants. "The Central Government was not consulted, in fact, the Home Secretary wrote to the State Government suggesting that they hold proper consultations before taking the decision."

The Deputy leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Shivraj Patil, intervened to say that they had been told that Central agencies had been consulted. Mr. Advani tried to assuage the ruffled tempers, saying that the State Government had a right to do what it did, but it would have been better if the Centre had been consulted.

Cutting across the political spectrum, the members expressed strong sentiments against Pakistan and its role in aiding and abetting terrorism. Referring to the Pakistani hand in the attack on the Raghunath temple, he said that communication intercepts had revealed that it was the handiwork of the Al-Mansooran, a front organisation of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Mulayam Singh Yadav (SP), Vijay Kumar Malhotra (BJP), Raghuvansh Prasad Singh (RJD), Prabhaunath Singh (Samata Party), P. H. Pandian (AIADMK) and Rashid Alvi (BSP) urged the Government to deal with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism decisively.

Both the Houses of Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the attack and expressing their condolences to the bereaved.

Attack condemned: Page 11

Another terrorist killed

By Luv Puri

JAMMU, NOV. 25. The 13-hour night-long encounter between terrorists and the security forces came to an end here this morning after the shooting down of a 'fidayeen' (suicide squad militant) who was holed up inside a residential complex near the Shivalya Mandir here. He was killed after a fierce battle in which two security personnel were injured, one of them critically.

The deadly attack on the Shiva temple came some time after the attack at the Raghunath temple on Sunday night in which one terrorist had been killed.

The communication system around the temple was disrupted resulting in further panic and the entire area was cordoned off. The security forces had a tough time carrying out a frontal assault as the terrorist had taken refuge in a residential complex in the old city and from where there were many escape routes. The entire area was in darkness, further prolonging the assault. Also, the terrorists had chosen a residential area just a few hundred metres away from the Chief Minister's house.

When it was learnt that a group of terrorists had entered the residential area, bullet-proof vehicles were pressed into action. Around 2 a.m.

there was a let-up in firing and later there was no return fire from the terrorist. Eyewitness told *The Hindu* that after fleeing from the Shiva temple, the injured terrorist tried to seek shelter in one of the houses, but was denied entry. Then the terrorist scaled a wall nearby and entered the top floor of another house owned by a woman, Chanchal Gupta.

The terrorist then hid himself under the bed and around 7 a.m. today Ms. Gupta who went upstairs for cleaning the room found blood on the quilt. Immediately, she called the police camping near her house. They did not shoot the terrorist, as they wanted to confirm his identity. But he hurled a grenade and police rushed in reinforcements.

Then the terrorist started firing indiscriminately and hurled more grenades. A three-hour encounter followed, with all the troops near the Shiva temple being rushed to the area. Finally, the terrorist was killed in a combined operation of the Special Operations Group and the CRPF when he ran out of ammunition around 10 a.m.

Y.N. Rao, DSP, in an act of dare-devilry, tried to launch a frontal attack on the terrorist but was injured in his arm. A constable, Vijay Kumar, was also injured. The DGP, A.K. Suri, blamed the Lashkar-e-Taiba for both the attacks.

THE HINDU

26 NOV 2002

Advani blames attack on LeT

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, November 25

HOLDING LASHKAR-E-TAYY-EBA responsible for last night's attack on Jammu's Raghunath Temple, LK Advani today said the strike was part of a "deliberate design" to create a communal divide in J&K.

The Deputy Prime Minister said in Lok Sabha that the Centre remained committed to providing all assistance to the J&K Government in its fight against terrorism.

Advani's reply came in the backdrop of a special mention moved by Congress MP Satyvrat Chaturvedi. Earlier, US Ambassador Robert D. Blackwill met the Deputy PM.

"Terrorist groups being mentored from across the border have struck once again," Advani said. Pointing out that there had been a series of terrorist attacks over the past three days, he said the strikes "make one speculate whether it is a mere coincidence that this spate of terrorist incidents has occurred just when the process of Government formation has been completed in Pakistan."

The Deputy PM said monitoring of the communication

network of terrorists indicated that the Raghunath temple attack was the handiwork of al-Mansoorian, an outfit related to Lashkar.

Advani said that as a precautionary measure curfew had been imposed on Jammu town. The Centre has also sent a team under Minister of State for Home ID Swami and the CRPF Director General to Jammu today, he said.

The State Government had said that at the time of the earlier terrorist attack on the temple in March this year, the complex was guarded by two to eight special guards besides local policeman which was subsequently replaced by one CRPF platoon, Advani said.

This was further augmented by deploying one section of CRPF at each of the two entry points to the temple — Raghunath Chowk and Hari Market. In addition, a local police team was also deployed at various checkpoints in and around the temple.

J&K Governor Girish Chandra Saxena and Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had visited the temple and the hospital to take stock of the situation, Advani said.

TOLL RISES TO 14; LASHKAR TARGETS DGP

Another ultra shot in temple complex

Statesman News Service

JAMMU, Nov. 25. — Security forces gunned down another *fidayeen* in an encounter at the Panjbakhter Temple compound today. Life in the city was paralysed by the curfew imposed after the twin attacks in Raghunath Bazaar area yesterday. The curfew was lifted late tonight.

The Lashkar-e-Taiyaba has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The death toll has gone up to 14 (including the two ultras) with one of the injured succumbing to his injuries today.

Mr Farooq Khan, Jammu senior superintendent of police, said security forces had killed one militant inside the Raghunath Temple last night. Another *fidayeen*, who was holed up inside the Shiva temple on Panjbakhter Road was gunned down this morning, he said. "We had cordoned off the Shiva temple complex where the

militant was holed up throughout the night. We allowed him to exhaust his ammunition and ultimately killed him at 9.45 a.m.," Mr Khan said.

The encounter began around 7 p.m. yesterday, continued till 2.30 a.m. but was suspended for few hours. Security forces continued their cordon and switched off electricity in the area. The mop up operation resumed around 8 a.m. today and continued for two hours. Gunshots reverberated in the temple complex. The operation was watched by the media and hundreds of local residents.

The militant fired shots which hit a CRPF deputy superintendent of police in the forearm. He has been admitted to a hospital. A local TV channel reporter too was injured.

Confusion persists over the total number of militants involved in the twin *fidayeen* attacks. Eyewitnesses said there were more than two terrorists holed up in the Panjbakhter temple complex because shots

were being fired from two sides. Security forces claimed there was only one and that he had been killed.

State DGP Mr Ashok Suri visited the Panchbakhter temple complex today when the encounter was on. He has received a call, allegedly from a Lashkar man, claiming that he would be the outfit's next target.

Curfew, which had been imposed in the city after the attack on the Raghunath Temple yesterday, was lifted tonight. There were no reports of any untoward incidents from any part of the city. "The situation is under control," Mr Satpal, Jammu Police Control Room deputy superintendent of police, said. An all-party meeting was held at the chief minister's residence this evening to review the situation after yesterday's attacks.

On page 4

**Mufti blames Lashkar
Cong may signal 'go-slow'
Sinha's Hard Talk on Pak**

THE STATESMAN

26 NOV 2002

CRPF JAWAN AMONG 9 KILLED, FIRING ON IN ANOTHER JAMMU SHRINE

Militants storm Raghunath temple

By Luv Puri

JAMMU, NOV. 24. Militants attacked the Raghunath temple here today for the second time in nine months, killing nine persons and injuring forty-two. In the encounter that followed with the security forces, one militant was gunned down ending the siege. A jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force was also killed.

Another terrorist attack was simultaneously launched at the Shivalya Mandir (also known as Panchbakhar mandir), a few hundred metres away from the Raghunath temple. The militants were firing from inside the shrine when reports last came in. Sources said that a curfew would be imposed in the town tomorrow and all educational institutions would remain closed.

The militants targeted devotees at the Raghunath temple as they made their way into the complex by passing the security ring at the gates. They sneaked in much deeper than they had done in March and opened fired indiscriminately. The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, and most of his Cabinet colleagues reside around 500 metres away from the temple. Initial reports said there were two militants but they could not be confirmed.

The militants hurled grenades in the nearby Hari market to divert the attention of the security forces and gain entry into the temple. A fierce encounter ensued around 7 p.m., with the CRPF, assisted by the State Police, leading the operations. They blocked the three escape routes from the temple. The flush-out operation lasted two hours.

Most of the devotees were locals as the rush of the Vaishno



Paramilitary personnel take position outside the Raghunath temple complex in Jammu on Sunday. — AP

Devi pilgrims has declined in the recent months due to similar terrorist attacks in the vicinity. The telephone lines in some parts of the city snapped after the attack resulting in breakdown of communication.

The militants chose to attack on a Sunday evening when the bazaar is closed. Emotions ran high in the market and huge crowds thronged the near-by streets. Police found it difficult to control the enraged people.

Before the people could gain in strength, another group of militants attacked the Shivalya Mandir. It is possible that they simultaneously entered the

temple but opened fire a little later than the attackers did in the Raghunath temple.

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Omar Abdullah, expressed his anguish over the incident. "The new Government should make sure that its policies do not in demoralise the security forces and give an upper hand to the terrorists." The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Shabir Shah, also condemned the attack.

PTI reports:

The Deputy Inspector-General, CRPF, S. Stalin, said some people tried to set the body of the militant, killed inside the

Ram Lakshmi temple in the Raghunath shrine complex, on fire, but police thwarted the attempt.

With tension running high, the authorities have deployed CRPF and additional police forces in all the sensitive areas.

Angry protesters took out a rally denouncing the PDP-Congress Government, saying that the release of militants and its "soft policy" towards them had "emboldened" the terrorists.

'PM monitoring situation'

The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Deputy

Prime Minister, L. K. Advani, are "closely monitoring," the situation arising out of the terrorist attack, a report from New Delhi said.

Mr. Advani would make a statement on the attack in both Houses of Parliament tomorrow, according to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Pramod Mahajan. "Both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are in touch with the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir." A high-level meeting at Mr. Vajpayee's residence took stock of the situation.

More reports, picture: Page 11

Terror tastes temple blood again

OUR BUREAU

Jammu/New Delhi, Nov. 24: Militants struck for the second time in nine months at the 150-year-old Raghunath temple in the heart of Jammu city, engaging security forces in an exchange of fire that continued into the night.

After around three hours of gun battle, two militants were killed. If they had accomplices, they had fled. One militant was killed inside the inner Ram Lakshmi temple in the complex. Firing had been heard in the nearby Rupewallah temple, too. (The second assailant was gunned down near this temple, according to PTI.)

Twelve persons, including four women and two security-men, died in the encounter and 50 were injured. Among them are more than a dozen devotees and two *pujaris* who were inside the temple at the time of the attack around 7 pm.

"The reason we believe that no more terrorists are around is because the firing in Raghunath temple has ceased," said a police officer.

Around the time of the puja in the Raghunath temple, there were blasts in two adjacent markets — Residency Road and Hari Market — usually thronged by tourists and Vaishno Devi pilgrims. Today being a Sunday, the markets were closed.

The militants first struck at Shaheedi Chowk opposite the Congress headquarters and later triggered a blast near a hotel.

Some eyewitness accounts suggested that a militant started throwing grenades when the guards manning the checking point at the Raghunath temple wanted to frisk him.

Nursing a splinter injury on

his forehead, Sunil said: "I saw one terrorist who was not carrying a gun but was lobbing grenades as he ran into the temple."

The CRPF, which conducted the commando operation, did not say how many militants were involved. "The complex is now cleared," an officer said.

Some people tried to set one of the slain militants on fire, but police whisked away the body. The militant was wearing a shirt and trousers. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

Security forces carried out the simultaneous operation of clearing the temple of militants and rescuing devotees stuck inside as angry residents protested against the state administration for having failed to prevent a second terrorist strike on the temple. In March, 10 people had died in a similar attack.

The demonstrators were shouting slogans against the new government headed by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. "*Aur chhoro ugrawadiyon ko aur dekho yeh sab* (Free more militants and see this happen)," they said.

An alert was sounded in Delhi and quick-reaction teams were deployed at various places following intelligence reports that a similar strike may take place in the capital.

News of the attack came when a meeting was going on in Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's house to discuss the government stand on the resignation of Justice K. Venkataswami from the Tehelka probe.

Later, deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani said: "It is clear that militants have targeted Raghunath temple to create communal disturbance."

He appealed for calm, asking people to realise their designs. The government will make a



Security personnel stand guard behind the body of a victim at Raghunath temple. (AFP) ■ See Page 8

statement in Parliament tomorrow. It hopes that the incident — the first attack on a civilian target since the new government took over — will act as a wake-up call for Mufti, who has taken steps that are seen as being soft towards militancy.

The BJP blamed the new government's "appeasement policy" for today's attack. "The terrorist strike is a natural fallout of the soft corner of the Congress-PDP government for terrorists and secessionists. Their morale has been boosted as a result of the

state government's appeasement policy," BJP general secretary and spokesman Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said.

With the Gujarat elections due on December 12, the attack hands the BJP an opportunity to hit out at the Congress, which is

a part of the Mufti coalition, for being soft on terrorism.

Mufti had promised not to use the Prevention of Terrorism Act, but home ministry officials in Delhi hope that the temple attack will make him change his mind.

Bin Laden 'calls' for attack on civilians

London: A message, believed to have been sent by Osama bin Laden, has urged British Islamic extremists to launch an attack on civilians even as Britain issued its strongest warning against Al Qaida attacks.



Bin Laden

A media report said the letter was being circulated among Muslim fundamentalists. Foreign office minister Mike O'Brien said, "We face an enemy who will attack us in Britain as well as overseas. There is a threat of well-planned attacks on British national institutions, commercial and financial infrastructure and on many aspects of our everyday life."

The letter said, "Anyone who tries to destroy our villages and cities, we are going to destroy their villages and cities. Anyone steals our fortunes, we must destroy their economy. Anyone kills our civilians, we are going to kill

their civilians."

A major part of the letter comprises a lengthy list of grievances against the West. The fugitive terrorist, who is believed to be hiding either in the Afghan-Pak border or Yemen mounted a sustained attack on the "immorality" of Western society. The letter has been posted on Islamist websites, one of which carried bomb-making information and another offered a link to a site with information on chemical and biological weapons, the report said.

Meanwhile, Pakistani security agencies, aided by FBI officers, are trying to find out how an audio cassette of what is believed to be Bin Laden's voice arrived in Islamabad.

The tape has also sparked off speculation among US counter-terrorism officials if Bin Laden has taken on a new look. Since he delivered his message via audio, rather than video, intelligence officials suggest he might have wanted to conceal his appearance. Agencies

Lashkar men storm CRPF camp in J&K

Rashid Ahmad & Arun Joshi
Srinagar, November 22

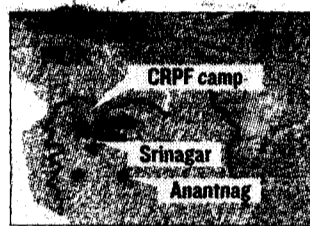
IN A move aimed clearly at derailing Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's "healing touch" policy, militants stormed a CRPF camp in Srinagar's high-security Civil Lines area today and killed six personnel.

Five other jawans were wounded in the suicide attack on the headquarters of CRPF's 92 and 113 Battalions at Pamposh hotel, for which the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has claimed responsibility. The two attackers were killed in the jawans' return fire.

Today's strike shattered the widespread impression that the recent lull in violence was the militants' way of saying they appreciated the new Chief Minister's soft approach towards them. The attack came barely hours after Governor GC Saxena — in his address to the Assembly yesterday — had discussed at length the Mufti's policy of unconditional dialogue, rehabilitation of militants and jobs for their kin.

At 6 am today, two militants slipped into Pamposh hotel from the rear, firing rifle grenades and bullets. One sneaked into a bunker inside the hotel and injured several personnel before being killed; the other entered the kitchen and shot dead six people before the forces took him out in a one-hour gun battle.

The militants, who clearly want to bury the Mufti's efforts to heal old wounds, deliberately timed the attack to coincide with the Ramzan prayer hours, a senior security official said. The forces had stopped frisking people



1 Two militants sneak into the CRPF's 92 and 113 Battalion headquarters at Pamposh hotel at 6 am

2 One enters a bunker at the hotel and fires at jawans, injuring several. He is shot dead

3 The other enters the kitchen and sprays bullets on the cook and seven others. Three die on the spot and three receive fatal injuries. The militant is gunned down

before the morning and evening prayers. The attack could end the concession, hitting the credibility of the new Government.

The strike, especially if followed by similar ones, could pose a serious dilemma for the Mufti. The Chief Minister will only alienate himself with the security forces and Delhi if he continues to be too soft towards the terrorists.

But if he cracks down on them, he will be seen as backtracking from his "healing touch" policy after only three weeks in charge, and will stand to lose credibility in the Valley.

702000
513

6 more Bali blast suspects identified

1811

Associated Press

DENPASAR (Indonesia), Nov. 17. — Police released photos and sketches today of six more suspects in the Bali bombings, including the group's alleged leader who, authorities said, learned how to make bombs during visits to Afghanistan.

Police also said the same group was responsible for an explosion near the honorary US consul in Bali minutes after the blasts at Sari Club and Paddy's bar on 12 October which killed nearly 200 people. No one was injured in the consul blast.

"We are confident they are still in Indonesia," said lead investigator Maj.-Gen. Mangku Pastika. "We want to arrest them as soon as possible. But it not easy to catch them because Indonesia is so big. It will depend on who is luckier, the police or the suspects."

Police foil plot to gas London Tube

London: Three north African men have been arrested and charged for an alleged plot to release cyanide gas in London's underground rail system, British police sources and media reports have said.

The gang is believed to have links to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network. MI5, the internal security agency, believed the gang was acting on instructions from an Al Qaida commander in Europe, sources in the Prime Minister's Office said.

"Three men were charged with offences under the Terrorism Act, 2000, this week," a home office spokeswoman said.

Rabah chekat-Bais, 21, Rabah Kadris in his mid-30s, and Karim Kadouri, 33, were charged with "possession of articles for the preparation, instigation and commission of terrorism acts", a police source said.

However, deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said there was no evidence that bombs or poison gas were involved. "It's excited the Press. I'll

leave them to sell their newspapers," he told BBC. "It doesn't appear that there's any evidence whatsoever there was going to be a gas attack or indeed use of bombs regarding the three people who've been arrested."

'Bin Laden may be hiding in Yemen'

London: Al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden may be alive and in his ancestral homeland, Yemen, where he is being protected by his tribesmen.

The focus of the Laden hunt has dramatically shifted over the past few weeks from Afghanistan and Pakistan's border areas to the lawless tribal region of Hadhra Maug in south-east Yemen, where Laden's father was born, a media report said on Sunday. Agencies

Garrison
The Sunday Times, which broke the story, said six men were arrested by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch but only three were charged. They were snatched in raids on addresses in North London on November 9. Police sources said the men had not been charged with plotting a specific attack and no noxious substance had been found during the course of the inquiry.

Chekat-bais appeared before Bow Street magistrates court last Monday and Kadris and Kadouri appeared in court on Tuesday. The three men, all unemployed, were remanded in custody to appear before magistrates again on Monday.

Meanwhile, rail freight services, ports and airports are in a state of heightened alert not seen since September 11. "It is like a war situation right now," said Richard Dixon, a security manager at Folkestone. "We are checking and rechecking cargoes. There is a definite feeling that something may be about to happen." Agencies



Bali suspect happy over blast

DENPASAR (INDONESIA): The key suspect in the Bali nightclub attack that killed nearly 200 people said on Wednesday he was 'delighted' that the bomb exploded. Reporters and photographers were allowed to be present during part of a meeting between the suspect, Amrozi (in the picture), and National Police Chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar. "I am very happy that it exploded," Amrozi told Gen. Bachtiar. Officials said Amrozi, who was arrested last week at his home in Tenggulun, has admitted he owned the Mitsubishi minivan laden with at least 50 kg of explosives that blew up outside a packed nightclub on October 12. Amrozi, who uses only one name, said today his role was only to purchase the explosive materials and that others built the bomb. He was overheard saying he was "delighted that the bomb exploded" and apologised to his family for his actions. "Those involved were me and my younger brother Ali Imran." According to authorities, Amrozi has confessed to being a field commander for Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been linked to the Al-Qaeda terrorist network and reportedly wants to declare a massive Islamic state across Southeast Asia. Gen. Bachtiar said it was "very possible" that Amrozi's older brother Mukhlis is Jemaah Islamiyah's new operations chief, taking over from Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali. — AP



Refugee crisis worsens

PARIS: Dozens of refugees spent the night dozing on flimsy mattresses (in the picture) in a church in northern France, awaiting the government's Wednesday deadline to force them out. The immigrants say they have nowhere to go since a nearby Red Cross shelter was closed to new arrivals last week. They were given temporary refuge at Calais' Saint-Pierre Saint-Paul church over the weekend. On Tuesday, officials gave them an ultimatum: Leave the building or face forcible removal within 24 hours. The question of what to do with the refugees was the latest chapter in a struggle between authorities and refugees who flock to Calais in hopes of sneaking into Britain, where asylum laws are looser than in France. A Red Cross centre in the nearby town of Sangatte has long served as a stepping stone for illegal immigrants trying to sneak through the Channel Tunnel. Many risk their lives to stow away on freight trains heading through the tunnel to Britain. Officials in France and Britain are planning to close down the centre, and as a first step, they said last week that it would stop accepting new refugees. The centre is to be shut permanently in April. Many illegal immigrants see Sangatte as their only hope of making a new life in Britain. — AP



14 NOV 2002

Iraq parliament for rejection of resolution

BAGHDAD, NOV. 12. Iraq's parliament today unanimously recommended the rejection of a United Nations resolution on arms inspections, hours after the Iraq President, Saddam Hussein's son urged its acceptance provided the Arabs were included on the inspection teams. Lawmakers, however, said the final decision would be that of Mr. Hussein.

The United Nations has asked Iraq to respond by Friday. Today's vote in parliament

could be seen as strengthening Mr. Hussein's hands if he wants to push for a change in the U.N. resolution along the lines proposed by his son, and, earlier, by the Arab Foreign Ministers. Mr. Hussein had asked the lawmakers to convene an emergency session to advise the ruling Revolutionary Command Council which he heads on how to respond to the United Nations. The debate began on Monday night.

Describing the vote as "a

message to the United States that the people of Iraq are united behind their leadership," the Iraqi Speaker, Saadoun Hammadi, told reporters that "it also shows that the people of Iraq know that in the U.N. resolution ... there are major allegations which are baseless. This decision by the Iraqi National Assembly is the right and patriotic stance which expresses the Iraqi people's opinion." According to a resolution read during the session, the 250-member parlia-

ment accepted an earlier recommendation from its foreign relations committee to reject the U.N. resolution.

Bush warning

In Washington, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, said he would commit "the full force and might of the U.S. military" against Iraq if Saddam Hussein refused to disarm swiftly. At two Veterans Day addresses on Monday, Mr. Bush underscored his impatience. — AP

15 NOV 2002

THE HINDO

~~Laden praises~~ ~~Moscow~~ ~~Bali attacks~~

DOHA, Nov. 12. — Osama bin Laden has hailed the spate of recent terror attacks and threatened US allies in an audiotape purportedly recorded by him and broadcast by *Al-Jazeera TV*.

"As you assassinate, so will you be (assassinated), and as you bomb so will you likewise be," he said. He was wearing a turban and *khaki* jacket and had a rifle at his side.

The message addressed to US allies cited by name "Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Australia" and praised attacks "on Germans in Tunis, French in Karachi, Australians in Bali, the French tanker in Yemen, Marines in Kuwait and the Moscow hostage-taking. The White House said it had seen reports of the new tape. — AFP

13 NOV 2002

Putin: Osama, Omar calling shots in Kashmir, Chechnya

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW, Nov. 11. — Rejecting the European demands for a political dialogue with the Chechen rebels, the Russian President, Mr Vladimir Putin, has said Osama bin Laden, Taliban supremo Mullah Omar and their like-minded are calling shots in Kashmir, West Asia, Chechnya and elsewhere in the world.

"These guys kill hundreds and thousands of innocent people not just for their pleasure, but they make political demands also. They are putting their demands before the USA, also before the European and Arab states, demands concerning the Middle East and also Kashmir, and in our case it is Chechnya," Mr Putin said in a statement at a Kremlin meeting with pro-Moscow Chechen political, business and religious leaders.

Experts scour for 'dirty bomb'

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11. — International nuclear experts are combing former Soviet republics to recover the remains of powerful radioactive devices that they fear could fall into the hands of terrorists, the *Washington Post* reported today.

The devices were developed in the 1970s by scientists in the then Soviet Union, who dispatched them to the countryside for a project known cryptically as Gamma Kolos, or "Gamma Ears".

With new backing from the US Energy department, the International Atomic Energy Agency led a 10-month sweep of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, which turned up five of the Gamma Kolos devices. All of them are now in safe storage, the *Post* reported.

Four more devices were found in Moldova but many others remain unaccounted for, the daily reported. Many were simply abandoned after the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. — AFP

"To those who thoughtlessly or deliberately, out of fear of the bandits or following the lingering European tradition of appeasement, will further continue to urge us to sit down at the negotiating table with the killers, I suggest that

they should enter in to talks with Bin Laden or Mullah Omar," Mr Putin said.

He cautioned that any body at home or abroad urging for talks with the self-styled Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov would be seen by the Kremlin as "an



Mr Vladimir Putin

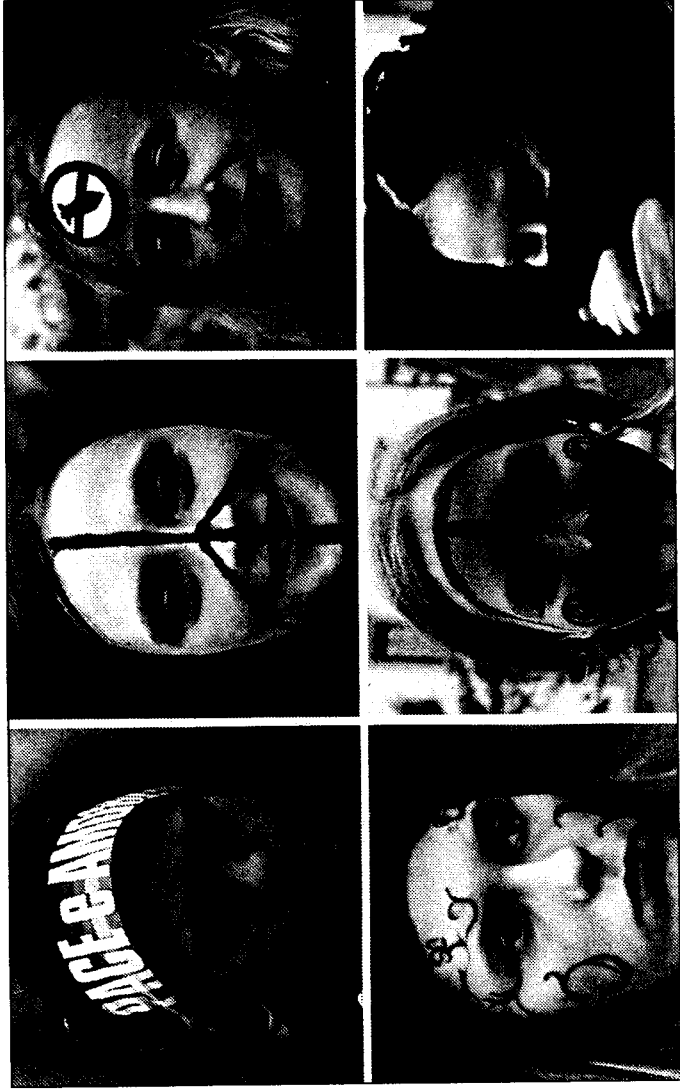
accomplice of terrorists".

Mr Putin gave this statement yesterday ahead of his Brussels visit for Russia-EU summit, where Maskhadov is projected as the only legitimate negotiations partner for Moscow in Chechnya peace talks.

1 2 NOV 2002

THE STATESMAN

Bush plan for Iraq: Large force & swift strikes



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE: A composite image of the faces of six protesters at a rally in Florence on Saturday against a possible US-led war on Iraq. Over 500,000 demonstrators participated in the march.

Washington, November 10

PRESIDENT BUSH has settled on a war plan for Iraq that would begin with an air campaign shorter than the one for the Gulf war, senior administration officials say. It would feature swift ground actions to seize footholds in the country and strikes to cut off the leadership in Baghdad.

The plan, approved in recent weeks by Bush well before the Security Council's unanimous vote on Friday to disarm Iraq, calls for massing 200,000 to 250,000 troops for attack by air, land and sea. The offensive would probably begin with a "rolling start" of substantially fewer forces, Pentagon and military officials say.

The military plan calls for the quick capture of land within Iraq, which would be used as bases to funnel US forces deeper into the country. That approach is intended to relieve some of the diplomatic pressure created by massing troops and initiating attacks from neighbouring na-

tions, including Saudi Arabia. Under the plan, US and coalition forces could operate out of such forward bases in northern, western and southern Iraq.

As the Pentagon puts the finishing touches on a plan of attack, White House and State Department officials are discussing what one senior official called a "seamless transition" from attack to a military occupation of parts of the country. It would include efforts to deliver food to Iraqis and to engage them quickly in planning for economic development and eventual democracy in areas that President Saddam Hussein has terrorised.

Meanwhile, Iraqi scientists and local military officials would be encouraged to reveal the location of hidden stores of weapons of mass destruction.

Even as the UN weapons inspectors prepare to fly to Iraq, the American military is moving into a new phase of positioning logistical forces that military officials say are significant indicators of a movement toward war.

The Army is loading tugboats, forklifts and other cargo-handling equipment onto the Tern, a giant cargo ship is bound for the Gulf to prepare ports for the arrival of tanks and other armoured equipment.

Pentagon officials had been awaiting language from the Security Council because the timetable for the inspection process will shape the schedule of troop deployments and, ultimately, the start of any offensive that Bush may order.

The air campaign this time would be less than the 43 days of the first Gulf war, and probably under a month, officials said.

In the opening hours of the air campaign, Navy and Air Force jets, including B-2 bombers carrying 16 one-ton satellite-guided bombs and B-1 bombers carrying 24 of the same weapons, would attack a range of targets from military headquarters to air defenses. Only 9 per cent of the weapons dropped in the Gulf war were precision-guided; this time, the figure would be well in

excess of 60 per cent, allowing more effective bombing with fewer total aircraft, officials say.

The campaign would seek to cut off the country's leadership in hopes of causing a rapid collapse of the government.

France might back force: France said on Saturday it would not be opposed in principle to the use of force if Iraq did not observe the UN call to disarm.

Iraq Parliament convened

Saddam Hussein on Sunday called an emergency session of Parliament to consider the UN resolution to disarm, while Arab ministers indicated he was ready to accept the document. Saddam's order was reported by al-Shabab TV, owned by his son Odai, but the report did not say when Parliament would convene. Before an Arab League meeting in Cairo on Sunday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said the Arab position is firm in rejecting any use of US military force.

The New York Times & AP

Al Qaida says it carried out Bali blast: CNN

Agence France Presse

HONG KONG, Nov. 8. — The Al-Qaida terrorist network has said it carried out last month's devastating bombing on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, CNN reported today.

The group said it had attacked "nightclubs and whorehouses in Indonesia" in a website message which was translated by *CNN.com*.

Over 190 people, mainly foreign tourists, were killed when a huge car bomb went

off outside Bali's Sari nightclub on 12 October.

CNN said the website has been used in the past by Al-Qaida to claim responsibility for attacks, including the synagogue fire in Tunisia in which mainly German tourists died, and strikes on two ships in Yemen.

"By attempting to strike a US plane in Saudi Arabia and by bombing a Jewish synagogue in Tunisia, destroying two ships in Yemen, attacking the Fialka base in Kuwait, and bomb-

ing nightclubs and whorehouses in Indonesia, Al-Qaida has shown it has no qualms about attacking inside Arab and Islamic lands," the statement said.

"This is provided that the target belongs to the Jewish-Crusader alliance," it added.

A spokesman for Bali-based multi-national investigation team which is hunting the perpetrators of the bombing said he had no information about the reported claim by Al-Qaida.

9 NOV 2002

THE STATESMAN

UK tightens security fearing Al Qaida attacks

London: Amidst warnings that an attack by Al Qaida is imminent, Britain has tightened security measures and put a Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) of army and a squadron of fighter jets on permanent standby, reports said on Sunday.

The pilots have already had psychological training to prepare them for the task of shooting down any civilian aircraft being used as a terrorist weapon, *Observer on Sunday*, a weekly reported.

Special fighter jets, termed quick response aircraft, have been based at RAF Marham in Norfolk, RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall and RNAs Yeovilton in Somerset to provide additional cover from hijacked planes, it said.

Plans for a 'reserve reaction force' will be in place by the end of next month to help the emergency services. Numbering up to 6,000 reservists, the RRF has been divided across the

country into 11 brigades.

Police snipers are being trained to kill suicide bombers and anti-radiation pills are being distributed to hospitals, the reports said.

Another report in 'The Sunday Times' on Sunday, said ministers and civil servants had to be evacuated from their offices in Whitehall (seat of the government), last week after an anthrax scare at the heart of the government.

British environment secretary, Margaret Beckett, had to end a briefing with Tom Ridge, President George W. Bush's security adviser, when traces of white powder were found.

The security alert led to the evacuation of offices at the Trafalgar Square and meeting was brought to an abrupt end with the officials being shepherded out of the building by a back entrance to the Horse Guards parade. The powder was

Plans have been drawn up to evacuate major cities and deal with any eventuality

analysed and found to be a harmless chalky substance. But the fact that it was taken so seriously demonstrates the concern about possible Al Qaida and other terrorist attacks, the report said.

The disclosure comes two days after home secretary David Blunkett warned of the threat from terrorist dirty bombs and poisoned gas attacks in a mistakenly released security alert. His statement, withdrawn within half an hour, was intended as a warning for the public to be extra vigilant in the run-up to Christmas.

Plans have been drawn up to evacuate major cities and deal with any eventuality, it said.

Quoting government sources, the

Observer report said the intelligence services believe the threat of attack on Britain is growing steadily. The Bali bombing and the attack on a French super-tanker in Yemen have led Western security forces to conclude that Al Qaida is regrouping and preparing for further attacks.

"There is considerable new intelligence and the background noise is growing that there is increased activity from Al Qaida", said one intelligence source.

Studies after the September 11 attack on the US showed Britain was largely unprepared for such huge disasters.

The civil emergency plans drawn up for the Cold War had been largely abandoned. But the past 12 months have seen a desperate scramble to set up measures to prevent any attack or, in a worst case scenario, cope with the consequences of a major terrorist outrage. PTI

1 1 NOV 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Chaos at UK poison gas terror warning

The Times, London

LONDON, Nov. 8. — Mr David Blunkett last night issued a national terror alert that Al-Qaida could unleash a “dirty” bomb or poison gas attack on Britain. The home secretary said the terrorist group could use boats or trains to infiltrate cities and towns to carry out attacks.

He also said terror groups could resort to tactics long used by the IRA — assassination bids on VIPs, car bombs in crowded centres and parcel bombs. He also suggested they might try to hijack passenger aircraft.

But within 30 minutes of the document being released, the Home Office asked journalists to return it. They then issued a blander version omitting any reference to a “dirty” bomb or poison gas.

Last night the Home Office said the original was a week-old draft, but in Westminster it was believed that it was withdrawn as ministers didn't wish to cause panic.

Intelligence sources said the warning was not linked to a specific threat or information but the government is concerned to ensure that vigilance is maintained at a high level in the coming weeks. There will be extra security mounted for the

annual service of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday and for the State Opening of Parliament next Wednesday.

Mr Blunkett gave his warning in the preface to a new assessment of the anti-terrorist measures taken by the government since the 11 September attacks.

In the original preface to the 35-page report, the home secretary said: “We can't be sure when and where or how the terrorists will strike, but we can be sure that they will try. Maybe they will try to develop a so-called dirty bomb, or some kind of poison gas; maybe they will try to use boats or trains rather than planes. The bottom line is we simply cannot be sure.”

The blander version read: “The kind of risk that the UK is used to because of our experience with terrorism related to Northern Ireland ... must be taken seriously, and the public must remain vigilant.”

“But as we have seen with the 11 September, the theatre siege of Moscow, the attack on a French ship off Yemen, the scale of the attacks in Bali, today's breed of terrorist is looking for ever more dramatic and devastating effects.”

9 NOV 2002

THE STATES

Bali: breakthrough claimed

JAKARTA, NOV 7. Indonesian police hailed a breakthrough in the Bali bombing inquiry here today, with the arrest of the first strong suspect in the case.

The National police chief, D'ai Bachtiar, said the suspect, named Amrozi, was the last buyer of the van that exploded outside the Sari Club in the resort island, killing more than 190 people.

"He is M. Rozi or Amrozi and he has many aliases. He has confessed to his acts in Bali," national police chief D'ai Bachtiar told reporters without clarifying what exactly the man has

confessed to. He described Amrozi as a suspect in the case. "We now have one strong one," Mr. Bachtiar said.

"We are searching for his friends that have been place on the police wanted list," Mr. Bachtiar said. Those people are the buyers of a motorcycle and another van used in the October 12 bombing, he said. Amrozi was flown to Bali from Java last evening for further questioning, police said. "I am confirming that the individual in question, I mean Amrozi, has arrived for questioning in Denpasar last night," an official said. — AFP

8 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

Osama pox scare grips US

New York, November 5

THE US has launched a mass vaccination drive following Intelligence reports that Osama bin Laden has adopted smallpox pathogen as a biological weapon, media reports said.

The drive, considered to be extremely costly, is being rushed through following information that Iraq and North Korea, too, have covert stock of the deadly virus.

Public health authorities say the vaccine itself, widely administered, can kill around 300 people. Records and operation manuals recovered from Afghanistan reveal that Laden has devoted money and personnel to pursue smallpox as a potent biological weapon, *The Washington Post* reports.

The Post has quoted officials

who, however, say there is no reason to believe that he has succeeded.

Washington's anxiety about smallpox have prompted urgent requests from allies in the Middle East — including Jordan and Kuwait — for assistance in obtaining the vaccine, before the US goes to war with Iraq.

The Intelligence believes four nations other than United States — Iraq, North Korea, Russia and France — possess hidden samples of the virus.

Al-Qaida too is believed to have sought samples of smallpox virus. But the terror network is not capable of mounting an attack with it. US officials are worried that Iraq and North Korea can develop potent biological weapons with their samples. Experts had long ago suspected North Korea of possessing sam-

ples of the virus. A Russian Intelligence report in 1993 had accused Pyongyang of having a smallpox weapon. A declassified US Defense Intelligence Agency report in May 1994 also quoted an unnamed source saying Russian scientists had given North Korea smallpox samples.

Before 1998, UN Weapons inspectors had discovered small evidence of a smallpox program in Iraq. They found a machine labeled "smallpox". Iraq is experimenting with a related virus that infects camels.

Russia acknowledges having samples of the virus, as does the US. But Ken Alibek, a former scientist in the Soviet Biological Weapons Program, claimed the Soviets covertly developed smallpox as a weapon in the Eighties.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 NOV 2002

Axis against evil

Southeast Asia has at last acknowledged

96. 8 the dangers of terrorism *terrorism*

THE ASEAN leaders acknowledged the reality of terrorism's spread across the globe when they vowed on Sunday to take joint action against the 'evil of terrorism'. This is indeed quite some distance from their views only a few years ago, when they hesitantly moved to focus on transnational crime even at non-governmental think tank levels. Indians and Australians, in fact, had found it difficult to convince their counterparts in the Council for Security and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific that transnational terrorism with all its accompanying elements like narcotics trafficking, diffusion of lethal small arms and light weapons, piracy on the high seas, money laundering, and so on, were the major issues undermining peace and stability in the region. The attacks on the United States on September 11 last year galvanised global thinking toward greater consciousness about the scourge of terrorism. But what logic and forecasts of trends could not achieve, the rapid rise of terrorism in Asia has done.

Terrorist attacks in New Delhi, Bali, Zamboanga (the Philippines), Moscow, Amman, Yemen and Tunisia, among others, have highlighted the reality that terrorism has been rippling outward rather rapidly from its epicentre of Afghanistan-Pakistan to destinations as far apart as North Africa and Southeast Asia. That it now also undercuts economic development and well-being has been highlighted by the ASEAN leaders when they asked the West countries to be more careful in indiscriminately issuing travel advisories.

Whatever else ^{9/11} was the objective, the bombings in Bali were clearly aimed at tourism and its socio-economic implications. Foreign investments into ASEAN countries had already been declining after the economic crisis of the mid-1990s. Any future slowdown of ASEAN economies would have a ripple effect on the region. The terrorist threat surfaces at a major shopping centre in New Delhi on Sunday indicates that economic terrorism is fast becoming another dimension of the global phenomenon that we are witnessing.

But ASEAN leaders are also worried about the increasing risks of polarising Muslims in what are essentially multiethnic and multicultural societies. US unilateralism, especially its threats of war against Iraq, has further eroded confidence in a co-operative approach. The controversy about the US-sponsored regional centre in Malaysia for counter-terrorism training has already started to add to perceptions about the West's anti-Muslim policies. The fact that it was President George Bush, rather than an Asian leader, who announced the setting up of the proposed centre seems to have disturbed many people in the region because of what such a centre might ultimately lead to. Some already believe that this could be the thin edge of the US military wedge in the region. Such trends undermine the commitment and efforts to eradicate terrorism since it feeds the sense of relative discrimination among communities. Even now it is not too late to restructure such a centre as a UN institution or even a purely ASEAN-run affair.

NDIAN EXPRESS

6 NOV 2002

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2002

TIMELY ACTION

Terrorist

TIMELY AND FIRM action, which ended with the gunning down of two militants in a New Delhi shopping mall, has averted a catastrophe of frightening proportions. At the same time, it has focussed attention on how vulnerable the nation is against jihadi attacks which, because of their very nature, are not easy to detect and even more difficult to prevent. If the December 13 attack on Parliament forced the nation to understand that no place is free from the terrorist threat, the massacre within the precincts of the Akshardham temple has increased awareness of the devastation that can be wreaked by a small suicide squad armed with nothing more than hand arms and small explosives. On the face of it, the aborted terrorist attack in one of the Capital's biggest and busiest shopping malls wears a considerable resemblance to the Akshardham outrage. Two militants were engaged in both attacks, the two groups were armed chiefly with guns and both attacks were planned in crowded places to cause as many deaths as possible. What sets the two incidents apart is that while the Gujarat attack could not be stopped before innocent blood was spilt, the plan to snuff out shoppers on Deepavali eve was prevented by a mixture of alertness and operational resolve.

What was responsible for averting a tragedy at the shopping mall was, first of all, credible intelligence. The Delhi police were warned by the intelligence agencies not only that militants could attack busy market places during Deepavali but also specifically that Ansal Plaza — where the militants were gunned down — was the likely target of such an operation. The deployment of plainclothesmen at the various entry points into the building resulted in the two terrorists being spotted even as they were preparing to execute their plan. The fact that both were gunned down quickly and without any collateral damage/civilian injury points towards an exercise that was not only conducted successfully but also very professionally. Such a

10/10 6/11

terrorist strike can be planned with stealth and without much preparation — all that this one seemed to involve logistically was a stolen car and the acquisition of small arms. This makes averting such strikes all the more challenging or difficult. Given this, the intelligence agencies and the Delhi police deserve to be congratulated for first detecting and then effectively foiling the Machiavellian plan.

The Delhi police have claimed to have established the exact identities of the two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, both of whom are said to be Pakistani nationals sent by the LeT leadership to cause unrest and communal tension during the Deepavali season. But a more comprehensive picture of the exact ramifications of the terrorist conspiracy will unravel only after the existing leads are followed up. The police have stated that materials recovered from the bodies of the dead militants point towards a connection in Mumbai, something that suggests that the plan to wreak havoc in the Delhi shopping mall may only be a part of a larger and even more diabolical conspiracy. It may also help to answer some specific questions relating to the aborted attack, particularly since there have been competing theories of exactly what the terrorists were planning — this included a view that the real targets could have been the houses of top-ranking bureaucrats near the shopping mall. As experts in terrorism have repeatedly pointed out, it is well nigh impossible to devise a method of preventing jihadi-style attacks in buildings and other areas, which have no screening procedures and are open to the general public. The real challenge in attempting to ward off such attacks lies in collecting or intercepting information about the movement of terrorists and their plans. The failure of the attack on the New Delhi shopping mall was primarily the result of successful intelligence gathering and the apparatus for this needs to be constantly improved or strengthened. In the face of jihadi threats, to be forewarned is the only way to be forearmed.

Yemen probes America's role in al-Qaida car bombing

6/11
+11-13

Sanaa (Yemen), November 5

YEMEN ON Tuesday said it was investigating the cause of a car blast that killed six alleged al-Qaida members after a US official said the vehicle was destroyed by a missile fired from a US drone.

Earlier it had said the six, including a key suspect in an attack on a US warship two years ago, were killed when the car they were traveling in exploded in eastern Marib province, but officials have refused to comment further.

"The investigation into the car blast is still underway," a Government official said.

A US official in Washington on Monday said the missile was fired by an unmanned US CIA aircraft.

One of the dead, Qaed Senyan al-Harhi, also known as Abu Ali, was suspected of involvement in the 2000 suicide bombing of the US warship Cole in a Yemeni port that killed 17 US sailors.

Washington blames that blast and the September 11 attacks on the al-Qaida network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, whose ancestral home is Yemen.

The Arab state in September said it would use only its own troops to hunt down al-Qaida suspects in Yemen, dismissing reports that US forces could launch covert operations in the country against militants believed to have fled Afghanistan.

A Yemeni Interior Ministry official said arms, traces of explosives and communications equipment were found in the car traveling in the oil-producing Marib province Sunday.

The Arab State, keen to shake off its image as a haven for Muslim militants, says it has detained 85 people in its hunt for suspected members of al-Qaida and other militant outfits.

US military trainers were sent this year to advise Yemeni troops on striking al-Qaida guerrillas believed to be in hiding.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 NOV 2002

Two arrested for Bali blasts, police claim crucial leads

6/11
Sumatra
HR-13

Jakarta, November 5

POLICE TODAY arrested two men in connection with the Bali nightclub bombing.

A 28-year-old man, identified as Zulfan, was picked up yesterday in North Sumatra for using a fake identity card. Police said he resembled one of the suspected bombers. A second man was detained today here.

The arrests came six days after sketches of three suspected bombers were released, and a nationwide manhunt launched. Police claimed they had at least 10 leads, and the investigation into the October 12 attack was progressing.

Brigadier General Edward Aritonang, a spokesman for the Indonesian police, said they had identified three suspects — said to be “low-level operatives” — but refused to give any names. It still is not clear whether Zulfan is among them.

Another man arrested last Thursday was released on Saturday after the police realised it was a case of mistaken identity. About 120 detectives and intelligence officers from Australia, United States, Britain, Japan and other countries are probing into the case with Indonesian officials.

Brig Gen Aritonang claimed an Indonesian-Australian investigative team knew the whereabouts of the three suspects, and was confident about cracking the case.

No group has as yet claimed responsibility for the blasts. The regional terrorist network, Jemaah Islamiyah, is the prime suspect though.

Abu Bakar Bashir, the group's spiritual leader, is to be questioned for allegedly orchestrating a series of Christmas bombings in 2000, and plotting to assassinate President Megawati Sukarnoputri. Bashir, however, is not a suspect in the Bali blasts.

Police today identified five more victims. Altogether 118 victims have been identified so far. Officials in Bali say at least 184 people were killed in the bombing, several disfigured beyond recognition delaying disposal of bodies.

The identification process has accelerated recently with authorities collecting fingerprints, dental and DNA records.

The Guardian

THE HINDUSTAN TIME

6 NOV 2002

Saddam has links with Al-Qaeda: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 3. As the United Nations Security Council is in the processing of sorting out the Iraq resolution, the United States President, George W. Bush, is giving his last minute "inputs" into the process, calling Saddam Hussein a "dangerous man" who has had contacts with terror outfits like the Al-Qaeda.

In the course of a campaign blitz for Republican candidates, Mr. Bush once again stressed the dangers of the Iraqi leader having nuclear weapons. "We know the implications of him having a nuclear weapon. We know he's had contacts with terrorists' networks like the Al-Qaeda", the President said at a stop in Tennessee.

Mr. Bush repeated the same theme in Georgia and perhaps went one step ahead saying Mr. Hussein would like nothing more than "use an Al-Qaeda type network, if not Al-Qaeda itself, to be the advanced army to utilise his training and his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction on his most hated enemy, the American people".

In an off year Congressional election, Iraq is still one of the issues that are meriting a lot of attention — not debating the merits of acting against Mr. Hussein, but more in pointing out which one of the members of

the House of Representatives and the Senate voted for or against the recent Congressional Resolution. By extension, the Grand Old Party is able to make the "case" whether the lawmaker is "strong" or "weak" on national security issues.

Formally, the Bush administration is not saying much as to when a resolution on Iraq will come out of the United Nations. If anything is being said here with some certainty it is that the revised resolution is not expected before the Nov. 5 elections.

The U.S. says that it has the nine needed votes for the resolution to pass the Council; but other diplomats are not so sure. Further, the nine votes hardly matter if any one of the Permanent Members casts a veto. In the present instance, Russia and France have not finally signed on to the U.S.-sponsored resolution.

The administration is said to have made important changes to an earlier draft, especially as it pertained to time-frames related to non-weapons programmes. But the critical and heated debates are taking place in New York and elsewhere on how to go about defining "material breach"; and a language on the consequences of balking that not only sends a clear message to Baghdad but one that is also acceptable to Russia and France.

4 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

A chilling note to festive season

■ DAY BEFORE DIWALI | Delhi police kill two militants in shopping mall, avert tragedy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

A MAJOR terrorist strike in the national capital was averted tonight when Delhi Police killed two terrorists suspected to belong to the Lashkar-e-Toiba in a posh South Delhi shopping plaza, striking a chilling note in the festive season.

Though the shopping complex — Ansal Plaza — was teeming with last-minute Diwali shoppers, no civilians were injured. The entire area has been cordoned off and police are looking for possible accomplices who may have escaped.

No official comment was available from the government till the time of going to press, though it was understood that the Prime Minister would be going ahead with his tour of China, beginning tomorrow morning.

Acting on intelligence warnings of a strike, a special team of Delhi

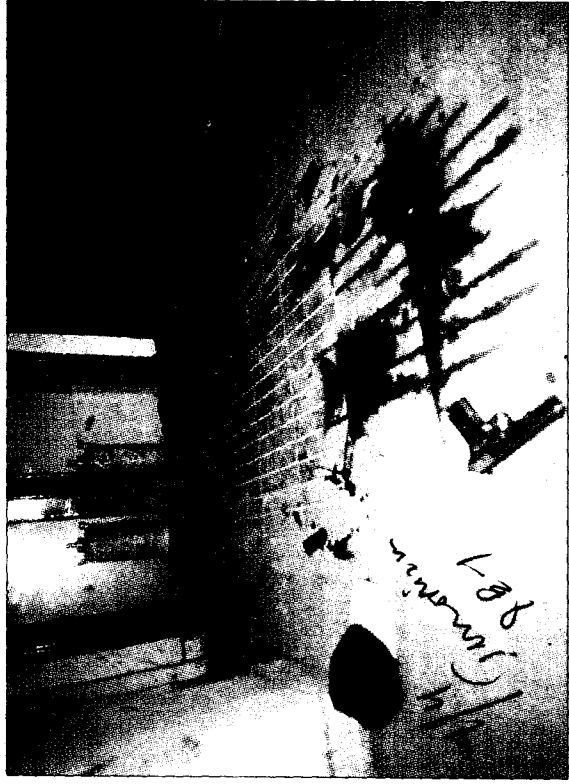
the police. The terrorists, heavily armed, then started firing at the police in an encounter lasting 15 minutes. Both terrorists were killed.

A Russian-made AK-56 rifle, two pistols, two loaded rifles, an equal number of Chinese-made pistol magazines and a map of Delhi with markets marked on it were recovered from bodies of the militants.

Police sources said a policeman was injured in the gunbattle.

Kumar said the police had information of a Diwali-eve strike in some congested market place. "We had specific information that it would be carried out either at South Extension or Ansal Plaza", he said, adding that around 20-25 plainclothes commandos were deployed in the operation.

The strike was expected to be on the lines of that at Akshardham in Gandhinagar on September 24, which was also carried out by two militants.



The scene of the shootout at Ansal Plaza on Sunday. Mustafa Quraishi

Police was waiting in the plaza's Joint Commissioner of Police basement when the two terrorists (Special Cell) Neeraj Kumar said.

— believed to be on a suicide mission — drove into the underground parking lot in a white Maruti shortly after after 7 p.m., Delhi's were located but were stopped by

Al Qaida tries to set up network again in Pak

New York: As the US hunted worldwide for leaders of Al Qaida this summer, a key planner of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Ramzi Bin Al-Shibh, was living quietly in an apartment about 16 km from the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistani law enforcement officials were on Friday quoted as saying.

Members of the terrorist outfit are now trying to re-establish their network in Pakistan with support from local people, helped by internet communication, the officials have said. The Pakistani officials are convinced that Al Qaida's head of operations, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed remains in Karachi, hiding in an apartment in this maze of

14 million people, *The Times* report said. Mohammed, whom American investigators consider responsible for masterminding the Sept 9/11 attacks, is one of America's most wanted men.

At some point in August—²⁴ Al-Shibh, who has been subsequently arrested—and six others suspected of being members of the outfit began arriving at an apartment building in the middle-class defence housing authority area of Karachi, *The New York Times* quoted them as saying.

Along with his Al Qaida friends, Al-Shibh spent his days logging on to the internet via satellite telephones. At night, neighbours saw them playing cards and laughing, the officials said. PTI

THE TIMES OF INDIA

NOV 2002

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Denver

Valium gas used in Moscow raid?

DENVER (COLORADO), OCT. 27. Military experts and toxicologists say Russian commandos probably pumped a gas containing Valium into a Moscow theatre to subtly disable and disorient heavily armed Chechen rebels prior to Saturday's dramatic assault.

Russian authorities didn't identify the gas used in the operation, which freed hundreds of hostages but also resulted in the deaths of more than 100 captives and rebels.

Officials claimed none of the hostages was killed by the gas.

Several nations, including the United States, have developed a variety of non-lethal incapacitating agents, which can also induce choking, nausea or blurry vision, depending on their recipes.



According to some hostages inside the theatre, they realised they were becoming sleepy and confused, but no one reported seeing a vapour cloud, smelling a chemical or experiencing the sort of irritating symptoms associated with tear gas and pepper spray.

Relatives of freed hostages listen to a doctor at a hospital in Moscow on Sunday. — Reuters

Experts said the Russians may have released a gas concentration of a powerful sedative like Valium or may have used a form of BZ gas, a hallucinogenic drug widely researched in the 1960s that works more slowly.

"The thing that pops into my mind is aerosolised Valium," said Christopher Holstege, medical toxicology director at the University of Virginia. "But there isn't much literature out there on it. There is talk of using it as a riot control agent."

Others said the agent used by the Russians didn't seem to be like anything that has been part of the U.S. arsenal.

"It's no surprise that the Russians have that kind of stuff," said Ron Madrid, a former Marine and an expert on non-lethal weaponry at Pennsylvania State University. "They spent 30 years putting it together. We're prevented from doing that by treaty and executive order."

Russian television reported the gas was dispersed through the theatre's ventilation system. Workers were seen digging around sewers and steam pipes near the theatre in the first day of the crisis.

One Interfax News Agency employee among the captives in the theatre said the rebels appeared ready to kill all the hostages, "then something happened."

"I lost consciousness and woke up in the emergency room," said Olga Chernyak. "It must have been some special gas."

Al-Qaeda link

Meanwhile, a report from London said Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama Bin Laden's chief lieutenant, had tried to enter Chechnya to establish Al-Qaeda's links with Chechen rebel leaders.

Court documents from the neighbouring republic of Dagestan reveal how Al-Zawahiri was arrested and handed over to Russia's Federal Security Service in December 1996 after he tried to enter Chechnya secretly.

Al-Zawahiri, one of the most powerful members of Osama's terror network, was already wanted in connection with bloody terrorist attacks in Egypt. Files stored on an Al-Qaeda computer, which later surfaced in Kabul, contain extensive notes written by Al-Zawahiri about his failed mission that tally with the court papers. "God blinded them to our identities," he wrote. — AP, PTI

2 8 01 2002

Russia vows to hit terrorists abroad

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, Oct. 28. Even as Russia mourned the victims of its worst hostage crisis the President, Vladimir Putin, announced a dramatic hardening of his anti-terrorist policy, vowing to deliver pre-emptive strikes at other countries where terrorists found shelter or support.

Two days after Russian commandos stormed a packed Moscow theatre seized by Chechen gunmen, Mr. Putin said Russia would never make deals with terrorists or give in to any blackmail. Noting that international terrorists got increasingly brazen and ruthless, threatening to use weapons equivalent of means of mass destruction, Mr. Putin said: "I declare with full responsibility that should anyone as much as attempt to use such weapons against our country, Russia respond with measures commensurate with the threat and will strike at terrorists, organisers of their crimes, their moral and financial sponsors wherever they may be.

I stress again — wherever they may be. "Mr. Putin made it clear he was prepared to use the regular armed forces to attack terrorist bases abroad.

"The General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces will be given relevant instructions today itself to modify its plans for the employment of the armed forces," Mr. Putin told a Cabinet meeting today. Monday was declared a day of national mourning for 117 people who died in the 58-



Vanessa Redgrave, Founder of the International Campaign for Peace and Human Rights in Chechnya, and Ousman Ferzaoui, official Chechen representative to Denmark, at the Chechen World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Monday. — AP

hour hostage drama in Moscow.

Hundreds of Moscovites brought flowers to the scene of the recent tragedy, which continued for the families of those who died from the effects of a sleeping gas used during the theatre storming. He cancelled a visit to Denmark next month in protest against its refusal to cancel a Chechen conference that opened in Copenhagen today. Russia also strongly protested to Holland over the planned launching of a Chechen newspaper, forcing The Hague to call off the ceremony. Bowing to Moscow's pressure Azerbaijan closed down an office of Chechen separatists in the capital Baku over the weekend. Russian officials have also accused unidentified foreign embassies in Moscow of helping Chechen rebels and promised to take action against them.

Russia breathes sigh of relief

ELIZABETH PIPER

Moscow, Oct. 26 (Reuters): A single blast ripped through the damp dawn, shattering the silence and heralding the end of three days of humiliation, threat and fear for the hostages held in a Moscow theatre.

Gunshots echoed round high-rise residential blocks nearby and minutes later scores of Russian special-force troops streamed into the modern concrete building, past piles of explosives, abandoned food packages and shattered glass.

Within 40 minutes, there was only silence.

The guerrillas were dead. Most of their over 700 captives escaped with their lives. Hostages seen by a Reuters photographer were carried out, apparently unconscious from a gas pumped into the vast hall to knock out the Chechen guerrillas. The nation breathed a sigh of relief.

Russian television footage from inside the theatre showed female hostage-takers slumped lifelessly in the padded red chairs of the auditorium, their faces covered in black scarves, packs of apparent explosives still strapped to their stomachs.

Two of rebel mastermind

dead, many are unconscious," said an interior ministry official. "There were hostages everywhere, upstairs, downstairs."

A girl in bright red evening wear, her blonde head thrown back, was carried out by rescuers. Another woman, too stunned to move, simply slumped by a column, her head in her hands. Others, shocked and exhausted, piled into city buses, their arms around each other, seeking support.

"When we came into the auditorium we saw one man lying on the floor with a smashed skull, clearly dead," rescuer Vadim Mikhailov said.

"One woman we were unable to save, but we rescued about five people, mostly girls. One of them just kept asking for her mother."

Dozens of ambulances poured toward the site, sirens screaming as they drove through stunned crowds and rows of heavily armed interior ministry troops.

"All the parents were of the same opinion that the storming would be absolutely unacceptable. It's like a mystery. Like a miracle for us. We were amazed that this could happen like this, without (many) victims," said the father of one girl.



A female terrorist lies dead inside the Moscow theatre. (Reuters)

Movsar Barayev's guerrillas lay sprawled in the corridor in combat gear.

"I saw dead terrorists. I myself saw Barayev, an Afghan and an Arab," said Moscow deputy mayor Valery Shantsev outside the theatre, where musical lovers had gathered on Wednesday to watch *Nord-Ost* (North-East).

All those alive, those who were wounded, have been taken out. I don't know how many are

END OF HORROR

● **Friday afternoon:** Negotiators report that gunmen are threatening to start shooting hostages by 10 pm (1800 GMT) unless Russia's military pull out of Chechnya

● **4.45 pm:** Head of FSB domestic security service Nikolai Patrushev promises that guerrillas will not be killed if they free hostages

● **8.00:** President Putin, making his second appearance on TV in two days, says he remains open for contacts, but only on basis of his previous tough stand over Chechnya

● **10.35:** Kremlin officials announce release of three women and one man, all hostages from ex-Soviet Azerbaijan

● **Midnight:** Journalist Anna Politkovskaya says after talks with rebels that they will take "the most serious measures" unless given evidence of a plan to withdraw troops

● **2.30 am Saturday:** Medics take two hostages, a man and a woman, out of the theatre and put them into ambulances. Both had gunshot wounds

● **3.25:** Loud explosion heard outside theatre, followed by shots

● **5.30:** Several rounds of gunfire and a series of explosions heard. Sirens blare, a black van speeds towards building. A squad of 30 interior ministry troops begins moving towards building

● **5.50:** Pavel Kudryavtsev, emergency unit official overseeing the crisis, says the guerrillas have shot dead two captives and wounded two earlier seen being taken out of theatre

● **6.30:** Heavy gunbattle erupts. Special forces pour into building. A series of explosions and gunfire are heard. Five female hostages run out of theatre, covering their faces

● **7.10:** Gunmen taken out of theatre with hands behind their backs. Many hostages leave or are brought out of building. Corpses also carried out. A dozen emergency vehicles rush up to front of theatre along with several empty buses. A car packed with women and children drives away

● **7.20:** Kudryavtsev says Russian forces have taken control of theatre and killed group commander of around 40 gunmen. Rescuers see dozens of dead or injured lying on pavement

● **7.45:** FSB official Sergei Ignatchenko says operation was launched after rebels started killing captives, who then tried to launch an escape attempt

● **8.15:** Deputy interior minister Vladimir Vasilyev says most gunmen killed. Officials announce that 34 rebels were killed and others rounded up

REUTERS

Moscow hostage crisis ends with 140 deaths

Terrorism

SFI 27110

AGENCIES

MOSCOW, Oct. 26. — A 40-minute commando operation ended the four-day Moscow hostage drama early today. But 90 of the hostages won't relive their trauma, for they died during the operation.

About 50 Chechen fighters, including 18 women, holding the people to ransom, too were killed in the pre-dawn strike by crack commandos. More than 750 hostages were freed safely, ending the hostage drama here.

All 67 foreigners are safe and no child was killed. None of the commandos was killed either.

Russian interior minister Vladimir Vasiliev told reporters that most of the hostages died after heart attacks or because of negative reaction to the sleeping gas used by the commandos. Sleeping gas was released inside the theatre to "neutralise" the Chechen gunmen just before the Federal Security Service's Alpha commandos stormed the building.

The operation began at 5.30 a.m. (7 a.m. IST), when the rebels started killing the captives after their deadline to Russia to stop military operations in and pull its troops out of Chechnya expired. By the time the commandos stormed the theatre, the Chechens had already killed two and injured three.

Mr Vasiliev said the commandos blew up a wall to enter the building and quickly took over control of the ground floor. The "rest was a matter of technique". Three women



END OF THE ORDEAL: Troops of the Russian Special Forces bring wounded hostages out of the Melnikova Street theatre in Moscow after storming the building early on Saturday. — AFP

fighters in black *burqas*, with explosives tied to the waist, were among those shot dead. "We succeeded in preventing mass deaths and the collapse of the building..."

Among the slain rebels was their leader Movsar Barayev. Two Chechens were captured when they tried to escape.

About 30 people were arrested in Moscow and elsewhere for alleged links with the terrorists, interior minister Boris Gryzlov said. The rescue will not only restore Russians' confidence in their security



"We've virtually given up guerrilla warfare and embarked on an offensive strategy. I've no doubts the final stage will see a more sophisticated operation, similar to the *jihad*, that will liberate our land from Russian aggressors."

— **Aslan Maskhadov**, Chechen President

"The rescue of hundreds of hostages proves Russia can't be forced to its knees. We could not save everyone. Forgive us. The common foe is strong and dangerous... it's international terrorism."

— **Vladimir Putin**, Russian President



forces but will also boost the already-high popularity of President Putin.

Chechen terrorists reportedly have links not only with their leaders in Chechnya and other countries but also with a number of foreign embassies in Moscow, and the foreign ministry will take up the matter with them.

President Vladimir Putin visited Sklifosofsky Institute of Medicine, where the hostages were taken. He asked relatives of victims to forgive him for the deaths.

Extradition: Russia today vowed to seek the extradition of foreigners it blames for fund-

ing the Chechens responsible for the hostage crisis. A presidential aide said extradition requests would target organisations in "countries including Western ones" and that the gunmen had received "funding" from foreign groups, some based in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Russia will also boycott the next Council of Europe meeting on Chechnya.

PM's alert: In New Delhi, Mr Vajpayee today alerted security forces against "unexpected targets and tactics" of terrorists, and said chemical and biological weapons could "fall into the hands of non-state actors".

■ **Editorial: Terror thwarted, page 8**
 ■ **More reports on p11**

Indian resolution on terrorism passed

By Amit Baruah

49-8 27/10
General

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26. A resolution moved by India calling on all United Nation member states to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction was unanimously passed by the U.N.'s First Committee in New York on Friday night.

Briefing presspersons here, senior External Affairs Ministry officials said this afternoon that the passage of the non-binding resolution by consensus was a "benchmark of political acceptance".

The resolution urged all Governments to "undertake and strengthen national measures" to prevent weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related technologies from falling into the hands of terrorists. It invited member States to "inform, on a voluntary basis, the (U.N.) Secretary-General of the measures taken in this regard".

Reflecting the motivations behind the resolution, which was sponsored by Sri Lanka

among others, the text said progress was needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation to "help maintain peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism".

This resolution, which will now make its way to the U.N. General Assembly in the next few weeks, is the first of its kind moved by India in the First Committee (where all member nations are represented) since 1998. The document contained a "request" to the U.N. Secretary-General to compile a report on the links between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and seek views of member States on additional relevant measures to tackle this threat.

In response to questions, the officials said the passage of the resolution by consensus showed that the Indian initiative had been widely welcomed. Stating that the passage of the resolution was part of a long process, the officials said this showed that the issue was on the international agenda. It was a demonstration of the political

will of member States to take measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring these deadly weapons.

They made it plain that the resolution was not aimed at States or Governments, but at terrorists or non-State actors. There is little doubt that the resolution moved by India is part and parcel of the international community's agenda to combat international terrorism. The U.S. has repeatedly voiced fears about groups such as the Al-Qaeda getting hold of weapons of mass destruction. In that sense, the Indian resolution is very mainstream.

While unstated, there is little doubt that the Government of India would have seen reports about a "retired" Pakistani nuclear scientist making trips to Afghanistan when the Al-Qaeda-Taliban clique was lording it over that country. Quite obviously, the resolution is very general in nature and does not go into specifics but India's concerns about proliferation in the region, including those relating to non-State actors, are evident.

Bomb ticks, centrestage

Moscow, Oct. 25 (Reuters): Several hundred hostages in a Moscow theatre were living on the edge 48 hours after their capture amid warnings that the Chechen guerrillas holding them would start killing any time now.

With the building laden with explosives and a bomb placed at the centre of the hall, fear for the lives of the 700 hostages hung heavy on President Vladimir Putin, who went on national television to say he was open to talks with the guerrillas, but on his terms.

"We are open to any kind of contacts," a sombre Putin said in his second television address since Wednesday's attack.

Earlier, the government pledged not to kill the guerrillas if they freed all their captives.

"We are holding and will keep holding talks.... If all hostages are released, the terrorists will be guaranteed their lives," Nikolai Patrushev, the head of Russia's security service FSB, said after meeting Putin.

But a Russian negotiator said the rebels would start killing the hostages later tonight if their demands were not met. The Chechens want Russian forces out of their homeland.

"The situation is becoming difficult. If representatives of the authorities do not go in, I

cannot exclude — according to our information — that at 10 pm (1800 GMT) the terrorists will start shooting the hostages," the negotiator told a TV channel.

Other officials who attended talks with the Chechens, however, said the atmosphere at the negotiating table had not worsened. A Kremlin official said the talks were moving forward "slowly but surely".

The Chechen "suicide squad", which has threatened to blow up the building if security forces storm it, freed four hostages tonight after releasing eight children and seven others separately earlier in the day.

The siege dealt a blow to Putin, whose meteoric rise to power was built largely on his decision to send troops back into breakaway Chechnya in southern Russia in October 1999.

Putin said for talks to start past conditions stand: that separatists lay down their weapons. Moscow also rejects any idea of independence for Chechnya.

Conditions have been growing grimmer by the hour inside the theatre where the hostages use the orchestra pit as a toilet and supplies of food and medicines are low.

"Many are suffering from stress. Can anyone imagine living under those conditions?" Dr

Leonid Roshal, the chairman of the International Committee for Paediatric Disasters who spent some six hours in the theatre, said.

"They don't know whether the troops will storm the building, whether they will be shot or not.... They don't know what is going to happen," he said, adding that officials were trying to get in medical supplies, toilet paper and food.

A woman being held inside the theatre said the hostages' nerves were at breaking point.

"It feels like something bad is hanging in the air," Anna Andrianova told a radio station. "People are starting to feel very bad."

A TV channel broadcast a film showing the man behind the attack, Movsar Barayev. Guerrillas accompanying Barayev, including two black-clad hooded women, were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and pistols. Ammunition pouches and grenades swung from their belts.

Theatre spokeswoman Yelena Malyonkina said: "There is a big bomb in the centre of the hall. The stage is mined as well as all the passageways. Fifteen guerrillas who are covered with explosives are on duty in the hall. They watch all possible directions from which a storming of the building may start."

THE TIMES

2001

A grim wait on a grey street for their kin

MOSCOW, Oct. 24. Getting a breath of fresh air outside the counselling centre set up for relatives of the hundreds of hostages held in a Moscow theatre, Tatyana Lukashova vowed that she'd leave only under one condition. "I am going home only with Masha, even if it takes many days," she said, referring to her 26-year-old daughter who was among the crowd at a popular, high-spirited musical when scores of armed men stormed in, demanding an end to the war in Chechnya.

Ms Lukashova and her husband heard about it on television and sped to the scene, a working-class neighbourhood of pitted streets and grey, deteriorating apartment blocks.

Amid the bleakness and gnawing dread, they found an attempt at warmth unusual for Russia — officials established a centre for psychological

assistance at a nearby technical college, following a procedure that has become common in Western countries.

That modernity is mirrored by the wide use of cellular phones in the crisis, although whether that makes the vigil easier or more tormenting is in doubt. Calls from hostages let their loved ones know they're alive — and that they're miserable.

"Whenever the hostages call, they always say they are okay, but you can hear in their voices that they are being threatened," Ms Lukashova said. "My baby started to cry."

Alina Vlasova said that in the last call she got from her sister Marina, she could hear someone saying "shut up" in the background. "They are standing over us with automatic rifles and getting angrier," she quoted Ms Marina

as saying. For some, the pain comes not when the phone rings, but when it doesn't.

Vladimir Matov (20), who hadn't heard from his friends Alexei and Sergei inside the theatre since the beginning of the terror, could only assume that the young men shared his feelings. "Any of us would give ourselves, if they would just let the women and children go," he said.

On the neighbourhood streets, drying out from an overnight pelting of rain and snow, stood hundreds of people with no loved ones inside the theatre, but still gripped by worry, and journalists trying to glean clues as to how the crisis was unfolding.

Kept hundreds of metres back from the theatre by police and troops in helmets and camouflage, they surged forward into crushing clots whenever

someone appeared who looked like he might know something. Otherwise, there was little to do except watch occasional detachments of troops stride past, keep an eye on the movement of armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles and workers digging around sewers, perhaps looking for a way to get into the theatre. Some tried to cut the anxiety with a lighthearted or ironic remark.

Some of the waiting relatives tried humour, too.

Noting that her daughter's birthday is just a week away, Ms Lukashova said, "I was joking that we might have to go in there with cakes and bottles."

In a move that spoke both of consistency and concern that the crisis could last a week, city authorities set up half a dozen portable toilets on one of the streets. — AP

10-14-2002

①

Person

Bali blast group in US terror list ✓

JERRY NORTON

JAKARTA, OCTOBER 22

96-6
2/2/06

THE Bush administration moved towards designating Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist organisation as Indonesian police waited on Tuesday to interrogate its alleged leader in his hospital bed.

Ten policemen and 15 supporters of Muslim militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, suspected of plotting to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri when she was Vice President, stood watch outside his hospital room in the central Java city of Solo.

Bashir, who says he is a simple teacher and preacher with no terrorism ties, was rushed to hospital on Friday with what doctors say are respiratory, heart and ulcer problems.

Foreign intelligence officials have said for months that Bashir is a leader of the Al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah, blamed for terror plots throughout Southeast Asia. Some regional governments had urged his arrest.

In Washington, officials declined to say whether US Secretary of State Colin Powell had signed an order designating Jemaah Islamiah a terrorist group but one said it would now be natural to add it to the list of 34 terrorist organisations.

The detention of Bashir and new anti-terrorism decrees that followed the Bali blasts have prompted fears of a backlash in Indonesia where even moderates fear the US-led war on terror could be

First 9/11-related trial in Germany

■ HAMBURG: Germany launched the first trial of an alleged 9/11 conspirator on Tuesday with a Moroccan man, Mounir El Motassadeq, 28, facing more than 3,000 counts of aiding and abetting murder.

The former electrical engineering student, is suspected of belonging to a militant Islamist cell in Hamburg and of helping the 9/11 hijackers. — Reuters

used as an attack on Islam.

Some countries, notably Australia, which suffered the highest number of victims in Bali, have told their citizens to consider leaving Indonesia.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Bashir's detention "could lead to a strong reaction from his supporters and other extremist organisations".

An Indonesia-based Western security analyst said he was "relatively confident that the backlash will be curtailed".

He said one reason was that there was significant support "from moderate-thinking Muslims throughout the country" for the belief that the Bali bombing was "as much an attack on Indonesia" as on Westerners.

However, some analysts say that with the likelihood of mass protests, extremists might use isolated acts of violence to make their presence felt. — Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS

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Osama aide confirms al-Qaida hand in Bali nightclub blasts

London, October 20

OSAMA BIN Laden has been linked to last week's Bali nightclub bombing, which killed at least 187 people and injured more than 300, following a testimony by one of his senior lieutenants.

According to a confession made by Omar Faruq, described as bin Laden's envoy in Southeast Asia, who was arrested in Indonesia in June and handed over to the CIA in Afghanistan, a series of plots were hatched to kill Westerners, Indonesians and Israelis. Faruq claimed to American interrogators that Abu Bakar Bashir, the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiah, the Islamist group suspected of the Bali bombing, received \$74,000 from the bin Laden account.

Bashir sent his assistant to buy explosives — illegally sold by the Indonesian army — which were then distributed to Islamist groups there. The plots included random shooting of Israelis and Americans at hotels across Indonesia. This was abandoned because it would only have "minimal impact", media reports said.



People dressed as angels take part in an open-air service for the Bali blast victims at the Domain in Sydney on Sunday.

Other plans included hijacking a civilian aircraft and flying it into an Israeli target, a plot in May 2002 to blow up American naval vessels during US-Indonesian military naval exercises, for

which Faruq was trained in planting underwater explosives and a chemical attack using cyanide to be sprayed from perfume bottles.

PA

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Al-Qaeda: a disturbing pattern

HAMBURG (GERMANY), OCT. 20. They arrived in Germany as students, and departed as terrorists.

The transformation of eight Arab men from devout Muslims into Islamic terrorists underlines a pattern that still troubles law enforcement authorities around the world as they confront the continuing threat of terror attacks.

The trial of one of the men, which opens on Tuesday in this port city, is expected to provide a rare glimpse into the lives of some of those who have been linked to the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The Hamburg cell was particularly stealthy, binding eight men, mostly in their 20s and hailing from both secular and religious Arab backgrounds, in a secretive mission without ever betraying their murderous purpose.

None had a history of Muslim militancy, yet all eventually found common ground in what Germany's chief federal prosecutor, Kay Nehm, calls the "hatred of world Jewry and the United States of America."

Investigators believe the men initially came to Germany simply to study, enrolling between 1992 and 1997 at two Hamburg universities. All are thought to have been recruited after their arrival, mostly at Hamburg's al-Quds mosque.

By the summer of 1999, German prosecutors say, the men had evolved into a "closed conspiratorial group" with the goal of extending jihad, or holy war, to the West. By that October, they had settled on the World Trade Center as a target. The first group went off to Afghan training camps a month later.

In the end, three of the eight — Mohammed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi, Ziad Jarrah — died in the September 11 attacks, using their pilot training to transform ordinary airliners into weapons of mass destruction. Three more are in custody, accused of organizing logistics for the cell. Mounir el Motassadeq and Abdelgheni Mzoudi of Morocco face trials in Germany. Ramzi Binalshibh, a Yemeni believed to be the cell's chief contact with Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, is in U.S. custody following his arrest in Pakistan.

Two more Moroccans, Said Bahaji and Zakariya Eassabar, are on the run. Deny Haryanto, a 32-year-old mechanical engineering student from Indonesia, helped Atta, the leader of the Hamburg cell, form an Islamic prayer group at the city's Technical University. He describes Atta as always serious and devoutly religious — just the kind of person that experts say is sought out by Al-Qaeda.

"He is the most religious person I have met," Haryanto said. "His fear and awe of God made him cry while he prayed. When I came to the mosque he was always there. And when I left, he stayed."

Magnus Banstorp, a terror expert at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, said available information suggests an Al-Qaeda recruiter was at work identifying promising Muslim students in Hamburg. Those spotted to have potential are also subjected to psychological tests to see how cool they are under fire. The aim is to see whether they are psychologically fit to stay the course," Mr. Banstorp said. — AP

10/20/01

10/20/01

Osama linked to Bali blasts

Press Trust of India

LONDON, Oct. 20. — Osama bin Laden has been linked to last week's Bali nightclub bombing, which killed at least 183 people and injured more than 300 mostly foreign tourists, following a testimony by one of his senior lieutenants.

According to a confession made by Mr Omar Faruq — described as Bin Laden's envoy in Southeast Asia — to the CIA, a series of plots were hatched to kill westerners, Indonesians and Israelis.

Faruq, who was arrested in Indonesia in June and handed over to the CIA in Afghanistan said Abu Bakar Bashir, the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiah — the Islamist group suspected of masterminding the Bali bombing — received \$74,000 from bin Laden's account. Bashir sent his assistant to buy explosives — illegally sold by the Indonesian army — which were then distributed to Islamic groups there.

The plots included random shooting of Israelis and Americans at hotels across Indonesia. This was abandoned because it would only have 'minimal impact,' media reports said. Other plans included hijacking a civilian aircraft and flying it into an Israeli target. The plans were devised by Faruq and Indonesian co-conspirators after the Al-Qaida sent him to Southeast Asia in the 1990s to establish links with groups fighting for a separate Islamic state.

Abu Bashir detained

SOLO (Indonesia), Oct. 20. — Indonesian police today formally detained Abu Bakar Bashir, but said they would let the Muslim cleric stay in hospital here till he recovers.

"At around noon we officially changed his status to a police detainee," said the national director of criminal investigations, Brigadier General Aryanto Sutad.

Brig. Gen. Sutadi said the 30-day police detention will begin after he recovers. "We can allow a suspect to be treated in a hospital and the time spent there will not be included in the detention period," Brig. Gen. Sutadi said. — PTI

He tried to enrol in pilot training for a suicide attack, before joining the Khalden terror training camp in Afghanistan.

According to the *Sunday Times* today, Faruq told the CIA that "thousands of dollars from an account controlled by Bin Laden was used to buy explosives by the Islamist group suspected of the attack".

A confidential American intelligence document, seen by *The Sunday Times*, reveals that \$74,000 was transferred from an account in the name of Sheikh Abu Abdul-

lah Emirati, one of Bin Laden's pseudonyms, to pay for three tons of explosives bought from the Indonesian military.

The revelation adds weight to the claim that the Bali bombing was part of coordinated worldwide attacks on western interests and not the work of a disaffected local group. It raises new questions about why the British and Australian governments, to which the intelligence was made available by the CIA, did not respond more quickly to

the threat by the Al-Qaida.

According to the report, in 2000 Faruq escorted Ayman al-Zawahiri, the Al-Qaida second-in-command, on a trip to Indonesia to forge closer ties with rebel groups trying to drive out Christians from the mainly Muslim Indonesian archipelago.

Faruq, a Kuwaiti, describes two attempts to kill Megawati Sukarnoputri, the Indonesian President and daughter of Sukarno, the nation's founding father.



IN FOND REMEMBRANCE: Hindus take part on Sunday at an inter-faith memorial service at Kuta in Bali for the 12 October bomb blast victims. — AFP

THE STATESMAN

US issued warning a day before bombing



Two of the suspected militants, Shaari Mustapha (left) and Nik Abdul Rahman. (Reuters)

Washington/Jakarta, Oct. 16: The United States warned Indonesia that al-Qaida were planning to attack a day before the Bali bombings.

Ralph Boyce, the US ambassador, had given the Indonesian president, Megawati Sukarnoputri, until October 24 to take action on the terrorist organisations within Indonesia or the US would intervene.

The CIA had issued a warning in late September citing Bali as a possible target for terrorist attack. This followed the arrest in June of a known al-Qaida member, Omar al-Faruq.

He was questioned by the US and gave what appeared to be reliable information about attacks that were planned for a "Western tourist site". The CIA included Bali on their list of possible targets.

Two detained

Two Indonesian men were formally detained today as suspects in connection with a weekend bombing attack, the national police spokesman said.

Saleh Saaf originally said two men had been detained in connection with blasts on the island of Bali that killed more

than 180 people on Saturday night. "Yes, we're afraid they might run away so they had to be detained," Saleh Saaf told Reuters. "They have caused difficulties related to the investigation," he said when asked if they had been declared suspects. He declined to elaborate.

In a later telephone call with Reuters, however, he said: "There is no suspect in Bali, but we have two people as suspects for Manado." Manado is a city on Sulawesi Island, to the north of Bali.

A bomb exploded in the front yard of the Philippines con-

sulate in Manado several hours before the blasts in Bali, causing some damage but no casualties in an attack officials blamed on terrorists.

No group has also claimed responsibility for Saturday's blasts in Bali, which killed mostly foreign tourists, but on Monday Indonesia for the first time linked Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network to the explosions.

The blast came from a minivan with C4 plastic explosives packed into the roof, the spokesman said today.

It was the first confirmation from authorities that a car bomb

was responsible for Saturday night's explosion outside the Sari nightclub on Kuta Beach.

The spokesman denied a report in the *Washington Post* that a former Indonesian air force member had confessed to building the bomb. "There hasn't been any confession from anyone," Saleh Saaf told Reuters. "It's only a rumour." Judging from the size of the crater in the road and the damage to the minivan, he said, investigators had concluded that the explosives were in the roof, not under the vehicle.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH AND REUTERS

Deadly method behind madness in Bali

JANE MACARTNEY

Singapore, Oct. 16 (Reuters): An undefended French super-tanker or a strip of popular beachside bars may seem soft targets for a weak and splintered al Qaida, but experts say they are also highly strategic.

The bombing on a tropical Saturday night that transformed a row of Bali bars packed with casually-dressed revellers drinking beer and cocktails into a charnel house was not a strike by a group so weak that it now only had soft targets in its sights.

Experts say the latest series of strikes attributed to the al Qaida network that is blamed for the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and led by the elusive

Osama bin Laden are not unexpected. "There is the structure of, say, a play with a script and within this script every cell in a geographical place has to carry out a mission," Yoni Fighel, analyst at the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel, said in an interview.

Secular Indonesia was a perfect place. Stirring anger in a country with the world's largest Muslim population is consistent with bin Laden's aims of hitting out at the West and bringing into being governments under the Shariat.

"Civilian targets are preferable from their point of view to create chaos, anxiety, fear among the public," Fighel said.

"The public is a generator of change and will press their government to take action. To

of hardcore militants fleeing to secret mainly Muslim sanctuaries from the war in Afghanistan.

"They will hit at military targets, those with an American presence, just as before," said Fighel. But soft targets offer the opportunity to spread panic among the populace while achieving more long-term goals.

"Within civilian targets you have a variety of models that they can implement and attack. In this regard every civilian is a target," said Fighel.

"In general, we can say the pattern is to hit big exposed places. It can be malls or buses. Wherever people gather."

The Bali bombing appeared to be part of a carefully orchestrated and well-thought out plot. That is Fighel's view.

Not all analysts hold to that theory and they believe weakness, not strength, to be behind the Bali bomb.

"After suffering devastating losses around the world, Islamic terror networks are attempting to return to the offensive to prove they are still viable," wrote Ralph Peters, author of *Beyond Terror: Strategy in a Changing World*, in an article in the *Asian Wall Street Journal* today.

"Far from striking major governmental or military targets, the terrorists have been reduced to sloven assassinations and, now, the calculated mass murder of young people," he wrote.

Tourists in flip-flops, shorts and T-shirts are about as soft a target as any militant could dream of.



Two Indonesian students pay respect to the victims of the Bali bombings in Jakarta. (AFP)

Bali debris has Al-Qaida traces

The Times, London

KUTA, Oct. 16. — Detectives here are slowly piecing together charred fragments of the vehicle that terrorists packed with explosives and detonated outside a nightclub here.

Investigators yesterday said they had found traces on the vehicle of C4 plastic explosive, the same type used in previous terrorist attacks in the region blamed on Al-Qaida. The engine block, carburettor and parts of the chassis are laid out on the street in front of the ruins of the bar.

The largest international task force to investigate a suspected Al-Qaida attack was gathering here last night.

Indonesian security forces, who have rounded up more than 50 people for questioning, insist that they are leading this inquiry and that experts from Britain, the USA, France, Japan and Germany and the 40-strong police team from Australia have come only to advise.

Some parts of the Indonesian-built Kijang car. Some parts were found on rooftops more than 200 yards away. Investigators are trying to find if this bomb was detonated by a timer or set off by remote control by a terrorist who was close to the

Sari Club. Forensic scientists also face the task of checking the DNA of all the human remains to discover whether any of the terrorists died in the attack.

Mr Dai Bachtiar, Indonesia's police chief, yesterday said the officers were "intensively interrogating" two local men. One is the brother of a man whose identity card was found at the scene. The other is a security guard who claims to have seen a "suspicious-looking man" leave a white plastic bag outside another club, Paddy's Bar, on the Jalan Legian strip at about 10.25 p.m. on Saturday. Soon after the man ran off there was a small explosion at the entrance of Paddy's Bar which caused little damage. Moments later the Kijang car blew up 20 yards away.

Police suspect the first blast was to drive tourists out of Paddy's Bar into the street, where they would have been caught by the force of the car bomb. A third bomb that went off outside the US consulate in the Bali capital about the same time was intended to stretch security and rescue services.

Forensic experts will study the chemical trace left by the C4 to see if they can match the batch of high-grade explosive to other attacks.

Editorial: Truly senseless, page 6

Jakarta vows to crack down on terror

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Oct. 16. — Scolded internationally for ignoring demands that it crack down on terrorism, Indonesia pledged today to press ahead with tough new anti-terror laws and formed an international probe team to hunt for the culprits in the Bali nightclub bombing.

But even as it announced the initiatives, Indonesia's resolve appeared to waver when its security minister claimed that Jemaah Islamiyah, an Al-Qaida-linked extremist group identified by Australia and others as a likely culprit, does not even exist in Indonesia.

The spiritual head of Jemaah Islamiyah, meanwhile, denied the group

'USA behind blast'

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 16. — The USA could be behind the bomb explosion in Bali, Malaysia's Opposition Islamic Party alleged today. "The USA will take the opportunity to get international sympathy from this bombing, saying Muslims had committed the violence, hence the need to attack Iraq," a party MP said. "Parti Islam SeMalaysia doesn't deny the possibility the Bali bombing has direct links with the USA." — AFP

existed at all, along with denying that Al-Qaida was tied to the attack. "There is no link between Al-Qaida and the

bomb blast," Muslim cleric, Mr Abu Bakar Bashir, told reporters, calling the accusations "the invention of infidels."

Foreign minister Mr Hassan Wirayuda said the government was working on giving President Megawati Sukarnoputri authority to impose, by decree, a long-stalled anti-terrorism law. The law has been stuck in Parliament for months. "We are working on that," he said.

There was no indication when a decree would be handed down, but Ms Megawati would be expected to seek approval from parliamentary leaders before doing so. The government is struggling to shake off its image that it ignored months of warnings about terrorists being active here.

Bali blast a warning to U.S.: Russia

16/10 By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, Oct. 15. The terrorist attack on Bali has given Russia fresh fire-powder to oppose a U. S. unilateral strike against Iraq and urge joint action to defeat terrorism. While condemning the Bali attack Moscow warned that the U. S. attack on Iraq could fuel more terrorism, rather than help wipe it out. "Terrorists will seize on any opportu-

14 nity, such as the situation in Palestine or in the Persian Gulf to provoke destabilisation and incite extremism, in the Islamic world in particular," the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, said in obvious reference to the proposed U. S. attack on Iraq.

The RIA Novosti news agency quoted the Russian Minister as saying that the world can defeat terrorism only by strengthening the anti-terrorist coalition and the legal ba-

sis for its operations. Russia has staunchly opposed U. S. plans to attack Iraq and called for a speedy resumption of U. N. weapons inspections to make sure Baghdad had no weapons of mass destruction.

"We face a long and uphill fight to combat international terrorism," the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ivanov said. "To defeat terrorism the international community must stand united."

A MENACE BECOMES MORE MALIGNANT

THE BOMB EXPLOSION in Bali on Saturday, that left nearly two hundred dead and several hundred injured, does not just demonstrate that the menace of global terrorism is very much alive. It would also appear to indicate that this phenomenon is able to mutate itself so as to survive even as the environment turns adverse. Indonesian authorities have charged the Al-Qaeda with having perpetrated this particular outrage but others seized with the task of combating terrorism believe that this assessment is premature. Assessment of both kinds would actually appear to be already anachronistic since the term Al-Qaeda today denotes loose groups with an ideological affinity rather than a functionally centralised organisation as it did in the past. After the Afghanistan base of the fundamentalist terrorist network was uprooted, or at least severely undermined, individuals and groups which were intimately connected with the terror mastermind, Osama bin Laden, scattered to all parts of the globe and new cells inspired by him have sprung up. The atrocity in Indonesia, horrific in its proportions as it was, formed the latest in a series of attacks carried out in Morocco, Kuwait, off the coast of Yemen and elsewhere. Each of these separate terror groups now appears intent on carrying out missions that are relatively simple to set up, using local conditions and without the need for the elaborate network for recruitment, funding, training and logistics that hallmarked terrorist operations till September 11, 2001.

If the organisational methods and operational procedures of the terrorist outfits have changed they are still nevertheless of one mind as shown by quite a body of evidence that they are regularly communicating with each other. But that mind too seems to be metamorphosing into a more malignant mode. Such a conclusion seems to be indicated by the manner in which the terror network has widened its choice of targets. A hit list which once comprised largely U.S. citizens and Jews has now been expanded

to include Australians, Europeans and the innocent civilians of Bali. Perhaps such a virulent mental makeover was the natural outcome of the process whereby separate outfits with their own special agendas have established such a broad ideological affinity. Now each separate group's enemy has become the enemy of all of the others. For instance, the finger of suspicion in respect of the atrocity in Bali has also been pointed at the Indonesian fundamentalist group, Jameeah Islamiya, as well as nationalists enraged at the forced retreat from East Timor. But even though each of these groups has a separate agenda they are nevertheless believed to be not unconnected to each other or cells elsewhere that claim an affinity with the Al-Qaeda.

Indonesian authorities appear to have finally become alert to the scale of the menace after Saturday's incidents. Other countries of South-East Asia — notably Malaysia and Singapore — which have forcefully cracked down on the terrorist networks have complained for some time about the slackness on the part of the Indonesian authorities. Indeed, till the blast in Bali the Indonesian authorities were not willing to acknowledge the existence of indigenous terrorist groups out of fear that it would irritate the Muslim majority in the country. Following from this concern the Indonesian Government had been most reluctant about endorsing the United Nations Security Council resolutions pertaining to the war on terrorism. Nor had it been very forthright in cooperating with the agencies concerned of other Governments that have been combating this menace. In the context, the very acknowledgement that terrorist groups are very much alive and active in the country has been welcomed as a sign that the Indonesian Government has woken up to its responsibilities. When terror groups are constantly on the lookout for new sanctuaries it is necessary that all Governments do what they can on their own and in cooperation with others to ensure that these marauders have no place to hide.

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New Osama tape gloats over anti-US attacks

Dubai, October 14

THE WORLD'S most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, on Monday reportedly praised the perpetrators of last week's anti-Western attacks in Kuwait and Yemen and warned the United States and Israel in a statement of more carnage to come.

The statement, faxed to Qatar's Jazeera television and carried by Jazeera and at least one Islamist website (www.islammemo.com), could be the first conclusive proof that the Saudi-born militant had survived last year's US-led military campaign in Afghanistan. Washington struck

Afghanistan to flush out bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, its key suspects in last year's September 11 hijacked plane attacks on New York and Washington.

The typed text also blasted the US for planning to strike Iraq and accused Washington of trying to rob Arab nations of their "riches", particularly crude oil.

"We congratulate the Muslim nation for the daring and heroic jihad (holy war) operations which our brave sons conducted in Yemen against the Christian oil tanker and in Kuwait against the American occupation and aggression forces," it said.

"By striking the oil tanker in

Yemen with explosives, the attackers struck at the umbilical cord of the Christians, reminding the enemy of the bloody price they have to pay for continuing their aggression against our nation," it added.

The text, which Jazeera said bore bin Laden's signature, was referring to last Tuesday's attack on US troops training on a Kuwaiti island which killed a Marine and to the October 6 blast which gutted the French-flagged tanker Limburg in the Gulf of Aden, killing a crewman.

The statement made no mention of the weekend bomb attack which killed 181 people,

mostly young Westerners, on the resort island of Bali and which Indonesia and other nations have linked to al-Qaida.

Kuwait has blamed Tuesday's shooting on a local militant cell indirectly linked to al-Qaida while Yemen, home to many Islamic militants and suspected al-Qaida members, said it was convinced the suspect pertanker had been deliberately struck. "We renew our promise to God, and to the nation, and our promise to the Americans and Jews that they will not be at peace and should not dream of security until they let our nations be and stop their aggression and support for our

enemies," the statement added. "The priority in this war at this stage must be against the infidels, the Americans and the Jews... who will not stop infringing upon us except through jihad," it added.

Bin Laden regards the US as the key enemy of Muslims for what he calls bias toward Israel and for having a military presence in Muslim countries such as his homeland Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam. The statement called on Muslims to unite and unleash what it called their countries' substantial military and economic capabilities against the US.

Reuters

Osama shadow on Bali blast

S Rajagopalan and Agencies
Washington/London, October 14

THE FRIENDS and enemies of Osama bin Laden today read his fingerprints on the Bali blast that have killed 181 people.

"I think we have to assume it's al-Qaida," US President George Bush said in Washington, echoing a London-based Muslim cleric with suspected al-Qaida links.

Abu Hamza al-Masri, wanted in Yemen on terrorism charges, said Laden's outfit had "definitely" played a role in the Bali bombing and would carry out similar strikes against a wider range of Western interests to combat what he called "American arrogance".

Prodded by Western Governments, Indonesia too blamed the al-Qaida, for the first time admitting in public that the outfit was active within its borders.

Laden hails strikes

QATAR'S AL-JAZEERA TV on Monday broadcast what it said was a statement by Osama bin Laden hailing last week's attacks on US Marines in Kuwait and a French supertanker off Yemen. The statement, which Jazeera said bore bin Laden's signature, was silent on the Bali blasts.

Detailed report on P13

Jakarta strove to shed its image of a slack and reluctant fighter against terrorism, threatening tough action against militants and announcing some headway in investigations.

The US has already sent an FBI team to help the probe, State Department spokesperson Jo-

Anne Prokopowicz said. Washington's urgency springs from its belief that the blast marks a new phase of terror attacks by surviving members of the al-Qaida and its cells and affiliates.

US officials have noted that the Bali bombings came within days of Osama's lieutenant Ayman Al-Zawahiri issuing a call to arms. The broadcast on the al-Jazeera network last Tuesday reportedly threatened attacks on America and its allies.

The US media has noted that the Bali blast occurred on the second anniversary of the al-Qaida's suicide bombing of the USS Cole in Aden which killed 17 American sailors. The Cole attack had been attributed in part to Riduan Isamuddin of the Jemaah Islamiyah, the same group whose hand is suspected in Bali.

Related reports on Pages 7 & 13

'Al-Qaida behind Bali blast'

THE STATESMAN

JAKARTA, Oct. 14. — Defence minister Matori Abdul Djallil has blamed the Al-Qaida for the bomb blast in Bali on Saturday. "I believe the Al-Qaida is linked with what happened in Bali," Mr Djallil said at a press conference today.

"The incident makes me believe that the Al-Qaida network is present in Indonesia," he said.

The death toll in the blasts at the Kuta entertainment district over the weekend reached 187 on Monday, ranking it as the bloodiest terrorist attack this year. "Many of the bodies will be hard to identify because they are only bits and pieces or have been badly burned," said a spokesman at Bali's Sanglah Hospital. Staff at Sanglah Hospital were

able to identify only 38 of the dead, including 10 Australians, nine Indonesians, eight British, five Singaporeans, and one national each from Ecuador, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the USA. Around 300 people were injured in the blasts.

Two Muslim militant leaders today accused the USA of being behind the bomb blasts. But they did not offer any evidence to support their accusations. "We deplore and condemn the masterminds, fund-raisers and whoever was involved in the bomb explosions in Bali," said Habib Rizieq Shihab, leader of the Islam Defenders Front (FPI), a militant group known for its frequent attacks on bars and other night-spots in Jakarta.

"The incident could be used as reason for the USA and its allies to justify

their accusations that Indonesia is a terrorist network base."

Abu Bakar Ba'asyir, chairman of Indonesian Mujahidin Council (MMI), too has accused the USA of being behind the blasts. "The US Intelligence is behind the Bali bombings in an attempt to justify their accusation that Indonesia is a terrorist base," he said.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri's government has been criticised for failing to crack down on terrorist suspects after the September 11 attacks in the USA. Muslim clerics and academics in the country are raising questions about who could be behind the Bali tragedy, which has seemingly justified a stronger government stance against terrorists and their sympathisers.

More reports, photographs on page 3

Terror strikes Indonesia, 182 killed

REUTERS

BALI (INDONESIA), OCTOBER 13

The toll on Saturday's blast at a packed nightspot on Indonesia's traditionally tranquil tourist island of Bali overnight, killed at least 182 people, many of them foreigners.

The Saturday night blasts followed persistent reports that Al Qaeda network was trying to establish a foothold in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Police said the dead included nationals from Australia, Britain, France, Germany and Sweden, but declined to speculate on who might be responsible for the attack in one of the world's most popular tourist destinations.

Indonesia's President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, said the latest information showed 182 people, mostly foreigners, had been killed in the mainly Hindu corner of the country.

"According to the last report, 182 people were killed and 132 were injured in Bali," she told reporters after an emergency cabinet meeting, adding that some were still missing.

A US Embassy spokeswoman in Jakarta said a car bomb outside the Sari nightspot in the teeming Kuta Beach nightclub district did most of the damage. "There were bodies everywhere, people burned were walking around in shock," Amos Libby, a 25-year-old American, told reporters on Sunday at the



(Above) President Sukarnoputri at a press conference after the blast; People gather near the blast site. Reuters photos

airport, where he was looking for a flight out. The blast in Bali, a destination popular with everyone from hippies to high-flyers, coincided with heightened security around the world and followed a bomb blast in Finland, another unlikely target, that killed seven people and wounded dozens.

The smell of burnt flesh hung in the air at the scene. Hospital staff said many dead were charred beyond recognition.

The main blast at the Sari club, one of two explosions, blew a hole in the ground. One visitor



said terrified tourists had left their hotel rooms to sleep in open areas or on the beach after the attack.

Windows were blown out in buildings within a 500-metre radius of the Sari club and wrecked up to 15 cars whose mangled wreckage littered the streets.

Richard Poore, 37, a television presentation director from New Zealand, said hundreds of revellers were inside the Sari.

Poore, who filmed the aftermath, had tried to get into the club 20 minutes before the blast - but it was too full.

Britain slapped a travel warning on Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago where Islam is traditionally moderate and bloody ethnically based separatist violence has seldom targeted foreign nationals.

Some tourists in Bali, long considered a safe haven for tourists, spoke of leaving for home on the first available flights. Airlines officials said some airlines were planning extra flights or bigger planes.

Last week, regional security sources said the US was considering withdrawing some embassy

personnel from Indonesia after a grenade blast in the capital raised questions about Jakarta's ability to provide security.

The US and Singapore, which has detained dozens of people in a crackdown on what it says is a Southeast Asian terror network, have been pressing Indonesia to arrest Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir they describe as a pivotal player in the group.

Indonesia says it has no evidence to link Bashir to Jemaah Islamiah, as the group is known and which in turn has been linked to Al Qaeda.

Bali police spokesman Yatim Suyatmo said police believed all the explosive devices were home-made bombs. The US Embassy spokeswoman said the third explosion occurred 50 metres from the honorary US consulate in Sanur, another tourist area about 30 minutes from Kuta. No one was hurt in the incident.

Earlier, a suspected home-made bomb knocked over the gate and smashed windows in the compound of the Philippine consulate in the Indonesian city of Manado. No one was hurt.

Downer said there were about 40 Australians in hospitals in Bali and of those about 15 were seriously injured.

Visitors included a number of Australians celebrating the end of various football season competitions. Simon Quayle, coach of the Kingsley Football Club, an amateur team in suburban Perth, said eight players were missing after the team members had gone to the Sari club.

An officer said the explosions had occurred virtually simultaneously at around 11:30 p.m. Before dawn on Sunday, flames licked into the air around the rubble of the Sari as tourists carried victims away from the carnage, many half-naked and moaning in pain.

Some critics say Indonesia is a weak link in the US-led war on terror in Southeast Asia, adding that the government is reluctant to crack down on radical Muslim groups.

Termin

180 killed in Bali blast

By P.S. Suryanarayana

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14/10

SINGAPORE, OCT. 13. At least 180 persons, most of them Australian and Western tourists, were killed in a powerful car-bomb explosion at a beachside night club at Denpasar in the traditionally-tranquil Indonesian holiday-resort of Bali in the late hours of Saturday. The Indonesian authorities estimated the number of injured victims at more than 270. A mild explosion occurred near the U.S. consular office in Bali, but this as also another blast at Manado in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province did not cause fatalities.

The U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Ralph Boyce, not only condemned the gruesome car-bomb explosion as a "despicable act of terrorism" but also offered "all appropriate assistance" to the Indonesian authorities so that those responsible could face justice.

The Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, who rushed to the site of explosion, said in Jakarta that the brutal act was "against the existing laws, religious teachings and moral values" of

the Indonesian nation. The security establishment had swung into action to investigate the crime and nab those responsible to bring them to justice. The latest horrific episode of violence, on a scale of unprecedented proportions in South-East Asia since the terrorist strikes rocked the U.S. in September 2001 has firmly turned the spotlight on Indonesia, which is facing delicate domestic rumblings over its decision to extend a general but firm support to the U.S. in its "global campaign" against terrorism.

Indonesia's neighbours, particularly Singapore and Malaysia, have been hinting that Jakarta's cooperation would be crucial to track and erase the terror menace in South East Asia with a laser-beam focus.

As Jakarta now comes under a heightened international pressure to weigh the evidence to look for the possible terrorist signature of the Al-Qaeda or its suspected South-East Asian affiliates, an official of Indonesia's largest Muslim organisation, the Nahdlatul Ulema, expressed concern over the Bali tragedy.

14 OCT 2002

14/10

Bali disco blast rattles world

Agencies 14/10 terrorism
Bali (Indonesia), October 13

A CAR bomb blast that destroyed a nightclub and started an inferno left at least 187 people dead and wounded 300 on this tourist island late on Saturday night. The blast was followed by another, smaller explosion near the US consular office. Nobody was hurt, the police said.

The explosions came on the second anniversary of the Al Qaeda-linked bombing of the *USS Cole* off the Yemeni coast.

No group claimed responsibility for the bombing, the most devastating terror strike since the 9/11 attacks. But the needle of suspicion pointed to the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a fundamentalist organisation seeking to set up an Islamic state in south-east Asia. Its alleged leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, lives in Indonesia.

The bomb went off in a Kijanj, a jeep-like vehicle, at the packed Sari



Canadian tourists mourn the dead in Bali on Sunday.

Club at the Kuta Beach resort at 11 pm, Gen. Da'i Bachtiar, Indonesian police chief, said. It ignited a huge blaze -- apparently caused by exploding gas cylinders -- which brought down the flimsy roof, trapping hundreds of people inside. Among the dead were tourists from Australia, Canada, Britain, Sweden, France, Germany and Ecuador.

The blast attracted a barrage of international condemnation. The US embassy in Indonesia said Washington "condemns in the strongest possible terms this despicable act of terror". In London, Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee said the incident, "inspired by religious extremism, reminds us of the responsibility (of) ... ridding the world of this cancer".

JI chief Bashir addressed a news conference on Sunday, at which he accused the US of engineering the blast so that it could "blame Muslims, including me". Bashir is a professed admirer of Osama bin Laden. A Kuwaiti man called Omar Farooq, recently handed over to the US by Indonesia, had given Al Qaeda hunters details of Bashir's and the JI's links with Al Qaeda.

Malaysia and Singapore have been pressing Indonesia to arrest Bashir, but Jakarta says there is no evidence against him.

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Singapore

Malaysia deports terror-suspect

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, Oct. 10. Malaysia today deported a terrorist-suspect, who is now a disenfranchised American, to the United States following Washington's request for assistance in this high-profile case. The suspect, Ahmed Ibrahim Bilal, was studying at the International Islamic University Malaysia when he was first identified by the U.S. authorities as a terrorist-suspect who, along with several others, was alleged to have plotted to wage war against America under the overall auspices of the Al-Qaeda.

The deportation followed a brief legal in-

terlude that ended with the withdrawal of a *habeas corpus* petition that was filed on behalf of the suspect. The application was withdrawn even as it became clear that the Malaysian authorities would treat Bilal's status as the open-and-shut case of an illegal immigrant. The prism of anti-terror international politics loomed large on the scene, the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, today considered it necessary to clarify his administration's perspective without wishing that his country be judged on the basis of a specific case. Responding to the suggestions that Malaysia, a Muslim-majority state, has moved against a student

of Islam for the fear of being accused of harbouring a terrorist-suspect, Dr. Mahathir said: "We go according to the law (in Malaysia), not according to rumours and public opinion. If the law says you cannot keep a person with no document (of citizenship), then, that is it. We are not talking about offences. We are talking about (a person) not having a document (of citizenship)."

Underlining that Malaysia was not dancing to the "anti-terror" tunes of the U.S., Dr. Mahathir said: "We go according to the law. In this country (Malaysia), the rule of law applies. If a person has no document (of citizenship), he has to leave the country."

INDONESIA

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Memorandum
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Malaysia to deport terror suspect

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By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 7. America's search for reliable partners in its campaign against 'terrorism' received a boost today as Malaysia expressed its willingness to cooperate despite deep differences with Washington on the definition and direction of the campaign.

Malaysia's decision to deport a suspected terrorist to the U.S. was announced amid a sustained articulation of dissent over the Bush administration's current policy of zeroing in on Iraq as an epicentre of terror. By doing so, Malaysia has signalled that it will not allow itself to be treated as either a terrorist sanctuary or indeed as a new frontline state in America's 'irrational' war against terrorism.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who only yesterday had lambasted the Bush administration for seeking to treat "might as right", today underlined a legalistic argument to convey Kuala Lumpur's willingness to deport Ah-

mad Ibrahim Bilal, to the U.S. in response to its moves in this regard.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, made it clear that he would be not play second-fiddle to the U.S. in its campaign. Dr. Mahathir said the American attempt to dislodge the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, from power in Iraq and usher in democracy there would not help solve the terrorism issue. The "root causes" of terrorism should, at first, be identified and addressed, Dr. Mahathir said.

Reinforcing this argument, he pointed out how Malaysia had rolled back a terrorist insurgency in the past by detecting the "root cause" and addressing it. The Malaysian insurgency was traced to the sense of alienation among the ethnic Chinese, who were later allowed to become citizens through a measure that helped defuse the problem of terrorism.

Even against the backdrop of Dr. Mahathir's suspicion that America is now seeking to move against Iraq in anger and therefore in an ambience of irrationality,

Mr. Badawi made out a case to deport the man America now wanted to indict and prosecute on terrorism charges. Pointing out that the U.S. authorities had presently revoked the suspect's American citizenship, Mr. Abdullah said that this aspect would give a qualitatively different dimension to the U.S. demand.

While the U.S. wanted Bilal for trial under the "anti-terror" drive, Malaysia could see him as "illegal immigrant" and deport him to America, Mr. Abdullah explained. Bilal was, in the first place, allowed entry into Malaysia in "good faith" and as a student at the International Islamic University Malaysia. Now, however, "if his (Bilal's) own government has revoked his passport, his status has changed". He could no longer stay in Malaysia in these changed circumstances, Mr. Abdullah said, without going into the anti-terror angle of the U.S. demand regarding Bilal. This subtle sub-text reflects Malaysia's inclination to draw a line in the sand as regards the U.S.' war on 'terror'.

21-917
Sridhar Krishnaswami

Bush steps up rhetoric against Saddam Hussein

By Sridhar Krishnaswami
WASHINGTON, Oct. 6. Keeping up the rhetoric against the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, offered his rationale for a first or pre-emptive strike, saying that the Iraqi leader had a "horrible history" of attacking his enemies first.

"We cannot ignore history. We cannot ignore reality. We must do everything we can to disarm this man before he hurts one single American", Mr. Bush told a cheering crowd of National Guardsmen in Manchester, New Hampshire.

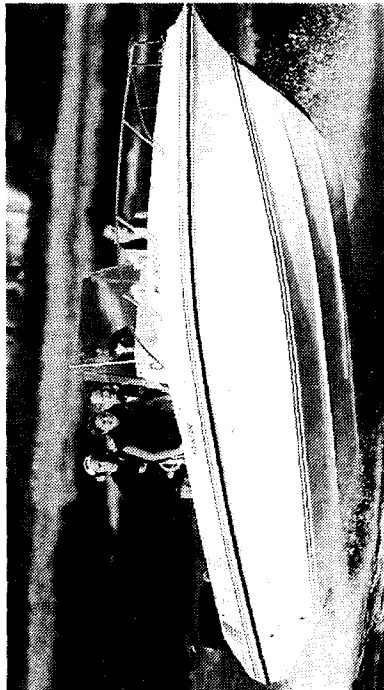
Mr. Bush repeated his known theme of the last several days — that he is willing to establish a coalition of "like-minded nations" to take on Iraq if the United Nations did not act. "The world community must work to disarm him. And if they

don't, I will lead a coalition of nations, like-minded nations to... send a message — we long for peace in this world", Mr. Bush said. The stepping up of the rhetoric against Iraq and Mr. Hussein came two days before Mr. Bush is due to give a national address on Monday night from Cincinnati, Ohio, the major theme being Iraq.

Mr. Bush is said to be working on the speech at his parents' home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The address is already said to be in its fifth draft; and Mr. Bush, according to one version, will be making a very succinct case of why war against Iraq is necessary and the threat from Mr. Hussein imminent.

The White House has not taken kindly to criticism on why it is this administration is itching



MAINTAINING MOMENTUM: Fidelity II catches some air as the U.S. President, George Bush (third from left), rides with his father and former President, George Bush (in sunglasses), in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Saturday. — AP

for a showdown with Iraq in spite of serious reservations from key nations in Europe, including Russia.

The two often mentioned

ately close to the Congressional elections of Nov. 5.

To argue that electoral politics has nothing to do with the ongoing debate on Iraq would be naive.

Even top Democratic leaders have reluctantly accepted the ground realities — that in an election year it would be politically unwise to make a strong stand against the White House on Iraq and a resolution authorising the President on the use of force.

The "deal" between the White House and the House Congressional leaders such as Richard Gephardt, the Democratic Minority leader, is a case in point.

The Democrats are keen to retain majority in the Senate — now by a single seat — and are trying to take a best shot at the House of Representatives where

they are short of six. Needless to say, the Republicans are desperate to get back the Senate and keen on hanging on to their slim majority in the House.

Democrats in the Senate, who are making all the right noises on Iraq, are doing so with also the ultimate realisation that Mr. Bush is eventually going to get away with a resolution on his terms.

And all alternatives posed by Democrats or with a semblance of bipartisanship are falling by the wayside.

The Senate Majority Leader, Tom Daschle, is arguing that the House resolution gave too much latitude to the President to wage war; and has stressed that the White House has said very little on the "imminent" threat posed by Iraq and in the challenges, financial especially, of the post-invasion phases.

Anti-war protesters take to US streets

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oct. 6. — Chanting “no more war”, an estimated 5,000 people rallied in the city’s downtown against possible US military attacks on Iraq, one of a number of such protests planned across the nation this weekend.

In Texas, the chant by hundreds who flocked to the state capital yesterday was “no more blood for oil”. In Manchester, New Hampshire, about 50 demonstrators protested outside as President George W Bush stumped for Senate candidate Mr John Sununu. Mr Bush did not mention the protests, but reiterated his stance that the USA must disarm Iraq to protect American lives.

All the rallies were apparently peaceful. Organisers — their effort centred on a website called “Not in Our Name” — hoped to spark protests in at least two dozen cities yesterday and today.

In Portland, first-time protesters joined vet-

eran pacifists for the march. They chanted, banged on drums and clapped their hands.

“My co-workers were talking to me about this and it is something I believe in,” Ms Cris Jackson, an office manager who has never attended a rally before, said. “Maybe it will spread awareness that not all of America is behind Mr Bush.”

Yugoslav help to Iraq defence

Highly-skilled Radar and weapons system experts from Yugoslav army have been seconded to help Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to organise his air defences against US and British jets, adds PTI from London.

An “investigation” by *The Sunday Times* here has “revealed” that the system experts from the Yugoslav army are helping Mr Hussein in organising his air defence.

They performed impressively during the 1999 Kosovo war, when their adroit use of supposedly outdated technology helped much of the army’s hardware to escape destruction by American airstrikes.

‘Bin Laden is alive’

LONDON, Oct. 6. — Osama bin Laden is alive and regularly meeting Mullah Omar, Taliban’s fugitive leader, according to a telephone call intercepted by US spy satellites.

In the conversation, recorded less than a month ago, Omar and a senior aide were discussing the

American-led hunt to track them down.

The two men, using a mobile Thuraya satellite phone, spoke about tactics for several minutes. Omar then turned to a third person who was within a few yards of him, voice analysis has revealed, *The Observer* reported from Jalalabad.

After exchanging a few words, Omar said: “The *sheikh* sends his *salaams* (greetings).” Senior Taliban figures usually refer to Osama as the *sheikh*.

The revelation comes amid speculation that Osama is dead. There has been no public statement from him since early this year. — PTI

THE STATESMAN

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Laden is alive and regularly meeting Omar: US report

London: Suspected terrorist mastermind,



Osama bin Laden

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American-led hunt to track them down.

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After exchanging a few words, Omar said that 'the Sheikh sends his *salaams* (greetings)'. Senior Taliban figures usually refer to Bin Laden as 'the Sheikh'.

The revelation comes amidst growing speculation that Bin Laden is dead. He has

looked gaunt and unwell in videos released by Al Qaida, and appeared unable to use his left arm.

There has been no public statement from Bin Laden since early this year.

Bin Laden's current whereabouts are not known, but it is thought he is moving between Pakistan and Afghanistan via the remote border between the Afghan province of Paktia and the Pakistani tribal agencies of Waziristan.

Some analysts say this lack of communication indicates that he might be dead, but others say he is biding his time. "He does not want to be rushed into saying something reactive. He wants to make statements on his own terms," said Abdul Bari Atwan, editor of *Al-Quds* newspaper in London.

Other analysts pointed out that Mullah Omar could have been bluffing in the knowledge that he was being tapped by Americans. Three months ago a senior Al Qaida operative, apparently inadvertently, referred to Bin Laden in the past tense in an interview with an Arab journalist in Karachi. PTI

War may be unavoidable: Bush

Kennebunkport (Maine), Oct 5

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush said on Saturday war might be unavoidable if Iraq refuses to disarm, declaring Baghdad a "grave and growing" threat to the United States.

But while US officials pressed on with their campaign for a tough new UN resolution on Iraq, Russia insisted on the swiftest possible return of weapons inspectors to Baghdad under their existing mandate.

In his weekly radio address from his family's seaside compound at Kennebunkport, Bush called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "a cruel and dangerous man" who had deceived the world about his weapons of mass destruction for 11 years.

"Our country values life and we will never seek war unless it is essential to security and jus-

tice," Bush said, previewing a speech next week in which he will explain to the American people, the US Congress and the United Nations why the United States is prepared to go to war to disarm Baghdad.

"We hope that Iraq complies with the world's demands," Bush said. "If, however, the Iraqi regime persists in its defiance, the use of force may become unavoidable. Delay, indecision and inaction are not options for the US, because they could lead to massive and sudden horror."

Washington is working with the Security Council to win support for a new resolution on weapons inspections which would threaten military action if Iraq failed to comply with the council's demands.

Britain has backed the US text, but Russia, France and

China have expressed their opposition.

Bush will devote a televised address on Monday to arguing his case against Saddam and outlining the threat he believes is posed by Baghdad's alleged weapons programs. "The US does not desire military conflict, because we know the awful nature of war," Bush said. "The danger to the US from the Iraqi regime is grave and growing."

Meanwhile, the US has asked Turkey for permission to use Turkish air bases in a possible military operation against Iraq, a news channel reported today.

The US has requested the use of the Incirlik base in Turkey and to increase the number of its warplanes already stationed there. Incirlik has been home to US and British jets enforcing the northern no-fly zone over Iraq.

Reuters

Globalising terror, terrorising the world

THE agitated moralising of Tony Blair, allied to the ferret-like bellicosity of George W Bush, fills the people of the world with amazement. Not because people are unmoved by the crimes of the Thief of Baghdad, nor because they are indifferent to morality or justice. It is simply that they see greater wrongs than the menace of Saddam Hussein, whose injured country they do not believe has the destructive capacity attributed to it by the most powerful nation on earth.

At the moment when Bush was telling the United Nations that America would usurp its function should it fail in its duty to carry out the demands of the USA, India was shaken by the killing of 37 Hindus in the Swaminarayana Temple in Gujarat. The communalist allies of the BJP government immediately spoke

assault on Islam. It has become customary for India to blame all atrocities committed on its soil, whether indigenous or instigated by Pakistan, on the "foreign hand". This technique is now being mirrored within Pakistan, where the attack on Christians, and even a rail crash, which occurred in the same week, was declared by the government to have been inspired by India. As if all this were not enough, at the same time, the Israelis were destroying the remains of Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah; Israeli missiles also killed two leaders of Hamas and wounded scores of people on the streets of Gaza, in response to yet another suicide bombing in Israel. Incidentally, 60 killings took place in Kashmir within three days during what was hailed as a "successful" election.

It was, in short, just another ordinary week in the growth of communal hatreds. In this tangled skein of rising religious warfare in West and South Asia, it is unsurprising that dossiers against Saddam, issued with all the pious solemnity which the highly religious Tony Blair can command, failed to ignite the world with the zeal he exhibits for the ousting of Saddam Hussein. It seems to those living through the daily torment of murderous intolerance an eccentric priority.

But nothing deflects the powerful from their vengeful path. It appears that to Bush and Blair the communalising of the politics of South Asia is a less potent and threatening force for mass destruction than the arsenal of terror constructed by Saddam Hussein. This is not how it appears to those who look with grim comprehension on the war-fueled exaltations of Blair and Bush.

George W Bush has recently taken to referring to "civilisation" as a singular noun once more, and even as civilisational strife (is that a contradiction in terms?) engulfs large parts of the world, the USA announces its intention of initiating further mayhem by "dealing with" other states that harbour or promote terrorism, including Yemen, Sudan, Iran, Syria and even the world's largest Muslim country, Indonesia.

Colin Powell — that sometime dove — enunciates the doctrine of pre-emptive strikes before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "The right to resort to pre-emptive or preventive strikes is inherent in the sovereignty of a

bers that the impending attack on Iraq has little to do with a war on terror at all. If Saddam Hussein were to use his alleged weapons of mass destruction, his small Third World country would be annihilated in the twinkling of an eye by the greatest power on earth; could, indeed, be buried with the Ottoman Empire from the rubble of which it was plucked and protected by Britain at the end of World War I. Perhaps Blair is not unconnected with the fact that so many of the present communal fault-lines in the world are part of the legacy of the British imperial past — the existence (or non-existence) of Palestine, the Partition of India, for instance. Perhaps Tony Blair's eagerness to please George Bush is a product of past imperial experience; although there is little sign that the US imperial adventure will exhibit any greater understanding of its subject peoples when the moment of its dissolution finally comes.

If Bush and Blair exhibit so little concern for the malignant symptoms of fundamentalist terrorism now raging in the world, this is because they are part of the same process. For globalisation is itself the most compelling and irresistible fundamentalism of all. We should not be distracted by its ostensibly secular origins. The word "globalisation" is itself an incomplete idea, since it fails to explain what, precisely, is being globalised. When Bush spoke of "the globalisation of terror", he might equally well have referred to "the terror of globalisation", the well-founded fear of the appropriation, by force if necessary, of the resources, labour, wealth and raw materials of the world in the interests of the USA, and those who shelter in the shadow of its dominance. It is astonishing how the practice of terror, when it is called something else — economic necessity, for example — gains such easy acceptance, while anything labelled "terrorism", even struggles for self-determination and ag-ainst injustice, immediately call forth howls of execration.

The endless war on terror serves to further the fanatical commitment of Bush and his allies to economic growth and expansion without end, a goal reconfirmed by the solemn conclave of the G-7 which also took place in Washington at the end of the same eventful week. The fall

of Saddam is a mere detail in the majestic progress of these fundamentalist forces, whose purposes have been clarified by the declaration of permanent and global war, which is to be waged primarily against countries that harbour, not terrorists, but the resources necessary for the health of the US economy.

Condoleezza Rice expressed this more demurely. She said that "the US is a very special country, in that when we maintain this position of military strength that we have now, we do it in support of a balance of power that supports freedom". She failed to say at whose expense that freedom was to be sustained, or how overwhelming military preponderance can be "in balance" with anything.

The ostensible purpose of the war against Saddam is fraudulent and abusive, which not only

Globalisation is itself the most compelling and irresistible fundamentalism of all. We should not be distracted by its ostensibly secular origins

fails to engage with the agents of terrorism but actively provokes and stimulates them by its single-minded elevation of economic interests over all others.

One day, perhaps, there will be a memorial in the world to all those who have perished in futile and unnecessary wars; if it is to contain the names of all who have died in vain, it will have to be a large one, with ample space for the numberless victims of the coming onslaught on Iraq. No wonder George W Bush was so adamant in his opposition to any citizen of the USA being brought before an international court: he might well be the first to be arraigned there.

(The author lives in Britain. He has written plays for stage, television and radio, made TV documentaries, published more than 30 books and contributes to leading journals around the world.)

the world new vistas JEREMY SEABROOK



have escaped observers of the developing conflict that Ba'athism, the official ideology of Iraq, is secular; a military dictator friendly towards the USA would be a more reliable guarantor of the free flow of oil than the unstable ruling elite of Saudi Arabia, who, in any case, can scarcely contain the religious and social ferment in their own country. A secular Iraq is more likely to serve the American economy — that weapon of mass extraction — than a rapidly communalising Saudi Arabia. In any case, the use of friendly dictators has been well established by the starring role in the war against terror of Perviz Musharraf, sanctified by America for his selective staunchness against terror, and rewarded just this week past with a promise of yet more military aid.

It is clear to the people whose countries are daily witness to the toll of bombings, shootings, grenades, car-bombs and suicidal bom-

nation to protect itself." This erases the need for any visible provocation, and establishes the principle of retaliation in advance. This risks returning the world to a state of global warfare against the Taliban in Afghanistan was supposed to have terminated. Simultaneously, it was revealed by the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay that members of al-Qaida had indeed been trained by Iraq. This opportune information clearly shows one function of the prolonged internment of the detainees: detention: their generous supply of intelligence provides the USA with a pretext for anything it wishes to do.

It is the sheer implausibility of this war against Iraq that makes benign idea associated with the forthcoming attraction is that the USA will install a democratic Arab state to serve as a model for others in the region. It will not

Power trio opposes America's Iraq line

RICHARD BALMFORTH

Moscow, Oct. 3 (Reuters): The world's most powerful countries revealed deep divisions on Iraq today, with Russia, China and France refusing to toe Washington's uncompromising line.

The United States has proposed a tough new United Nations resolution paving the way for possible war against Iraq, but Britain is the only other of the five veto-wielding permanent Security Council members to back it.

Russia joined France to rule out mention of automatic use of force in the draft and called instead for the swift return of weapons inspectors to Baghdad under existing UN agreements.

"Attempts to make the UN Security Council subscribe to automatic use of force against Iraq are unacceptable for us," deputy

foreign minister Alexander Saltanov told Interfax news agency.

In Paris, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder dined together yesterday evening and agreed there was much common ground between their positions on Iraq, which contrast starkly with Washington and London's interventionist approach.

China joined the dovish chorus, calling for a political solution to the Iraqi crisis and the smooth resumption of UN weapons inspections.

US President George W. Bush secured domestic support yesterday for his anti-Iraq campaign as leaders of the House of Representatives closed ranks behind possible military force.

But with opposition abroad ever more vocal, Washington has

hesitated in introducing to the Security Council its draft resolution, which demands Iraq open every inch of its territory to inspectors or face attack.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair urged the international community to stop sending "mixed signals" on Iraq, and said the more united the message, the less likely it was that a strike would be needed.

Blair said today if diplomacy failed, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein must be disarmed by force, but insisted that inspectors should not return until given sweeping powers by a tougher UN resolution.

"If it doesn't happen peacefully, it will have to happen through military action... he can't avoid disarmament," Blair told a news conference.

He also demanded the Iraqi President open up his sprawling

palace complexes to full scrutiny by weapons inspectors.

"The access that we require must include the presidential palaces. It is no good allowing inspectors access to 99 per cent of Iraq if the weapons of mass destruction are actually located and stored... in the remaining one per cent," Blair said.

But Baghdad has already rejected the draft resolution and other countries think the best route to disarmament is to send inspectors back quickly under existing agreements.

"What the U.S. and the British have provided us with only strengthens us in the correctness of our position in favour of the quickest possible resumption of inspection activities in Iraq," Russia's Saltanov said.

Iraq has said it will allow inspectors, who left in 1998, back

into the country, but it has indicated it wants some limits on their work. Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix reports to the Security Council after reaching agreement with Baghdad on letting inspectors back in.

Blix had intended to send some advance teams to Iraq in about two weeks but the US is expected to tell him to hold off and wait for a new resolution.

Defence hub hit

US and British warplanes attacked an air defence command center in a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq today after Iraq tried to shoot down an aircraft dropping warning leaflets in the area, the Pentagon said.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said five civilians had been killed in an air attack on civilian installations in the south.



Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit during a training exercise at an undisclosed location in West Asia. (AFP)

TWO PASSENGERS, 5 JAWANS KILLED

J&K militants blow up bus, BSF vehicle

to 577 Terrorism
8/10

Statesman News Service

SRINAGAR, Oct. 2. — Militants exploded a bomb this morning in a bus at Manda on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, killing at least two people and injuring 24. Five BSF jawans were killed in Pulwama in south Kashmir when terrorists triggered an improvised explosive device.

The bus explosion took place at 6.25 a.m, 10 minutes after the bus left the Jammu bus stand. The bus carrying pilgrims was heading towards Katra, the base camp for Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. The explosive device was kept on its fuel tank. The attack came a day after the killing of nine passengers in a bus explosion at Hiranagar in Kathua.

Though Al-Manroorein, a faction of the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba claimed responsibility, the DGP, Mr AK Suri, said either the Lashkar or the Jaish-e-Mohammed was behind the attack.

The BSF patrol vehicle was exploded around 8 a.m near Tral township in Pulwama. The BSF personnel were sanitising the Wagat-Sheeri road to facilitate the safe return of polling staff and equipment from an interior village near Sheeri. Militants had triggered an IED at Avantipora in Pulwama district yesterday, killing seven BSF jawans.

In another militant strike, three National Conference activists were shot dead at Haima village in Kupwara

district for "actively participating in the Assembly polls". This triggered protests by residents who clashed with police in which 19 people, including seven policemen, were injured. The NC workers were returning from a security camp late last night.

But the villagers alleged that the three were killed by securitymen after being summoned to the camp. They demonstrated before the Kupwara deputy commissioner's office.

The protesters threw stones at policemen, injuring seven. The police burst teargas shells and fired in the air, injuring 12 protesters.

Militants shot dead a policeman and wounded three of his colleagues in an ambush at Shareikhi village in Doda. In two other strikes in the district, militants killed two persons at Sarasdessa and Gandoh. Ultras fired on a polling booth at Shikari in Mahore area of Udhampur after the polling was over yesterday, killing a jawan.

Five militants were killed in two encounters at Seri Khawaja and Jaliyan in Mandi sector of Poonch district last night. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered.

Security forces foiled an infiltration bid when they killed two ultras trying to sneak into Kupwara district from across the border in the Safar forests.

On page 5: Independents may hold the key in J&K; Polls mean little to the wronged

Tariq rejects US demand for new UN resolution

Ankara: Iraqi deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz reiterated on Wednesday that a tough UN resolution on arms inspection proposed by the US was unacceptable to Iraq.

Meanwhile, US secretary of state Colin Powell said in Washington that UN weapons inspectors should not return to Iraq until the UN security council sets out strong conditions in a new resolution.

"This proposal of the US is unacceptable, not only to Iraq, it's unacceptable to the security council because there is no need for a new resolution," Mr Aziz said in the Turkish capital.

"The standing resolutions of the security council concerning the inspections are valid and they are enough for the perfect performance of the inspectors."

The US and Britain are seeking a tough new UN resolution that demands that Iraq open every inch of its territory to weapons inspections or face military action.

Mr Aziz also said Iraq would fight back determinedly if attacked by the US, but had no plans to retaliate against neighbours, includ-

ing Turkey, if that happened.

"No, we are not going to retaliate against anybody in the region except American aggressors," he said.

He said Washington was using accusations that Baghdad has weapons of mass destruction as a "pretext". "If they were genuine in their concerns, they should be happy that Iraq and Mr Blix reached an agreement for resumption of inspections."

After talks with chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix and other UN officials in Vienna, Iraq agreed on Tuesday to let arms inspectors, who left in 1998, back into Iraq, possibly within a fortnight, under existing UN agreements.

On the sensitive issue of inspections of "presidential sites", Mr Aziz said an agreement reached with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in February 1998 was still in place.

The agreement allowed for a "special group" comprising UN weapons experts and senior diplomats to carry out searches of Iraqi "presidential sites", of particular concern to arms inspectors. Agencies

SEP 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2002

FIGHTING TERRORISM

X9-10
11/10

TO SAY, AS L.K. Advani did on Sunday, that terrorism cannot be fought by the security forces alone is to state the obvious. But in the course of labouring this truism, the Union Home Minister was being much too simplistic in suggesting that what was really needed was the cooperation of the media and other sections of society to tackle the menace. On the face of it, the claim that the media can play a substantial role in tackling terrorism may seem like an acknowledgement of its power and influence. However, most often, it is a veiled criticism of the role it has played or is playing. Even if one were, for the sake of argument, to agree with Mr. Advani that a section of the media did not report the brutal attack carried out at Akshardham temple with the necessary caution or fairplay, the point is that the media was in no way responsible for the outrage. The media can be a mirror to what has transpired; it cannot be expected to forestall future events just as it cannot be called upon to be conscripted as a Government ally to fight one cause or another.

A Government which believes that terrorism can be tackled by seeking the cooperation of the media or the cooperation of one section of society or another is a Government that is looking for quick fix solutions to a problem which requires to be addressed holistically and cannot be cured with limited and short-term remedies. The NDA Government loves to proclaim its tough stand on terrorism but what has really defined this policy is an attitude which only deals with the symptoms of terrorism and not the root causes. Mr. Advani argues that "terrorism fuelled by religious extremism" is posing a threat to India's internal security, yet a Government with a broader vision and perspective would be addressing this issue in a totally different manner. It might ask whether terrorism in a State like Jammu and Kashmir can be put down through the mere use of force

or whether it requires creative measures which address the alienation of the minorities and the democratic aspirations of the people. It might not have allowed a phenomena such as the post-Godhra carnage, which was allowed to take place under the benign eye of the Modi administration. It might seriously question the wisdom of an anti-terrorist law such as POTA, which had done nothing to discourage acts of terrorism and which continues to be viewed with apprehension by minorities and by civil rights activists.

It might also ask, in the context of the Akshardham outrage, why the attack in the temple premises did not provoke the kind of barbarism which followed Godhra. The answer to this question will reveal that, in an oblique but telling way, the post-Akshardham peace is a damning indictment of the Narendra Modi Government. This is because it shows up the utter falsehood of the Gujarat Chief Minister's post-Godhra hypothesis that actions are naturally followed by reactions. Akshardham has shown that a 'reaction' need not flow out of an 'action' and that if it did following Godhra, it was because the Modi administration cold-bloodedly allowed it to. The firmness with which his Government acted following the attack on the temple may have been dictated by a number of pragmatic reasons, the overriding one being the desire not to delay the polls any further. But it does tell us a Government can enforce the peace if it really wishes to. It also tells us that terrorism can assume different shapes and forms, that it can also be majoritarian, mob-driven and have the tacit support of the state. Mr. Advani does not appear to understand this, but defeating terrorism means more than looking across the border for its origins or looking towards the security forces for solutions. It also means looking inwards and evolving more holistic strategies and more sensitive policies to tackle the phenomenon.

UN, Iraq reopen talks

LOUIS CHARBONNEAU &
CAROLINE DREES

VIENNA, SEPTEMBER 30

92-6
11/10

CHIEF UN weapons inspector Hans Blix began talks with Iraqi arms experts on Monday, pushing for unlimited access when his team returns to Baghdad as Iraq tries to ward off a threatened Anglo-American military attack.

United Nations inspection teams left Iraq in December 1998 on the eve of a US-British bombing raid intended to punish Baghdad for not cooperating with the inspectors.

After a two-and-a-half-hour session, aimed at working out details of UN's return, UN and Iraqi delegations broke for lunch and were to resume their meeting at 5.30 pm IST. "The atmosphere is businesslike ... We are moving along nicely," said Mark Gwozdecky, a spokesman for the UN's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is hosting the talks.

On the topic of the tough new US-British draft resolution that threatens military action unless Iraq disarms and that rewrites the ground rules for the inspectors, Gwozdecky said inspectors would abide by any resolution that was passed.

"If the Security Council decides to issue a new directive or resolution,



of course we will follow that," he said. "In the meantime, we have these practical arrangements that we need to see eye-to-eye on with the Iraqis."

Gwozdecky said that even if the Security Council passed the new US draft resolution, UN inspectors and Baghdad would still need to agree on the practical arrangements for their return: accommodation, security, communications and other issues.

Asked if there would be any limitations on sites open to inspectors, Blix said, "No, not that I'm aware of," he said. Monday's talks are the first test of Iraq's cooperation since Baghdad agreed on September 16 to the unconditional return of the inspectors.

"We would like to ensure that if

and when inspections come about, we will not have any clashes inside (Iraq). We would rather have these things outside, in advance," Blix said. The Vienna talks come against a backdrop of increasingly strong words from US President George Bush and British PM Tony Blair, who accuse Iraq of amassing weapons of mass destruction.

On Sunday, Blair said he could not rule out an attack against Iraq even if the UN refused to back it. Blair's comments came as Washington and London stepped up diplomatic efforts to

push through the US-drafted resolution, to which China, Russia and France — which have the power of veto on the Security Council — have reacted coldly.

With the threat of war hanging in the air, Gwozdecky said all parties were aware of the importance of minimising any possibility of disagreements. On the touchy issue of access to President Saddam Hussein's palaces, Blix said he did not expect them to be off limits.

"There is an agreement about that subject at the present time. It is in force at the present time," Blix said. Members of the Iraqi delegation, led by Saddam's technical adviser General Amir al-Saadi, have declined to comment. — Reuters

Terrorists plotting to kill Advani shot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: A group of terrorists planning to kill, among others, deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani and Union human resources development minister Murli Manohar Joshi, was gunned down by a joint team of the Tamil Nadu and Bangalore police here on Sunday.

The gang was led by Imam Ali, an ISI-trained terrorist who carried a Rs 5 lakh reward on his head. Leader of the Al-Ulema group, Imam was responsible for the 1993 blast at the RSS headquarters in Chennai, in which 14 persons were killed. He was arrested in 1995 along with an accomplice, Hyder Ali. But they had escaped from police custody in March this year when their gang members attacked a police convoy taking them to court. Hyder was nabbed again after a week.

Imam was also a member of a jihadi group headed by a certain Basha and Palani

Baba, responsible for the recent Coimbatore blasts aimed at killing Mr Advani during an election rally.

Intercepts of Imam's cell phone conversations, which helped the police to zero in on his hideout, revealed that he had planned to go to Allahabad in July to kill the Union HRD minister and VHP president Ashok Singhal. The gang, which included a woman, was also plotting also to kill a Tamil Nadu additional director-general of police and a businessman, Bangalore police commissioner H.T. Sangliana and Coimbatore DIG Ashuthosh Shukla told reporters here after the operation.

They had also planned to blow up the Madurai Meenakshi Temple and other religious places to foment communal trouble.



L.K. Advani



M.M. Joshi

After his escape in March, Imam had regrouped some of his old associates and moved about Tamil Nadu and Kerala before ar-

riving in Bangalore two months ago. They moved into a rented house under fictitious names. The house owner, a retired employee of Bharat Electronics, had asked them to vacate the house by October 1 after he grew suspicious of their activities.

Meanwhile, the police received a tip-off about Imam's presence in Bangalore and a team led by Madurai DCP (crime) Shakeel Akhthar arrived in the city 10 days ago. Commandos from the Tamil Nadu Special Task Force arrived on Saturday for the strike.

Before swooping down on Imam's hideout, a woman sub-inspector and a constable posing as a couple look-

ing for a house on rent were sent to study the house and get the confirmation of Imam's presence. "However, Imam hid in the bathroom when the house owner showed the 'couple' the one-room ground floor accommodation," Mr Sangliana said.

In the wee hours of Sunday, the police covered the area from all sides. Policemen posing as vendors had been keeping a watch on the house since Saturday evening.

"Commandos lobbed tear gas shells into the house through a window to generate an element of surprise and fear. Another group barged into the house by breaking the door," a police officer said.

"When the extremists tried to retaliate, the commandos fired at them. They were brought unconscious to M.S. Ramaiah Hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival," Mr Sangliana said, adding that 13 commandos had sustained minor injuries.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

MUTING THE WAR DRUMS

THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S efforts to line up the global community behind a harsh policy in respect of Iraq has run into rough weather with three of the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — France, Russia and China — withholding their endorsement. Washington only reluctantly acquiesced in the otherwise near-unanimous demand for a multilateral approach by allowing the issue to be taken before the Security Council. But while multilateralism is being followed in form, the unilateralist approach is still evident in the U.S. efforts to shape the content of the reinforced demands that it is asking the Security Council to make on Iraq. While the United Kingdom has signed onto the U.S. agenda unconditionally, the other three permanent members of the Security Council have refused to endorse Washington's judgment that a change of regime in Baghdad is an urgent need and that Iraq's non-compliance with its obligations to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capability provides the justification and the route by which the regime change can be wrought. The U.S. administration, which has run into difficulties in getting Congress to support its policy, has sent emissaries to Paris and Moscow to try and bring around the leaderships in these two countries. However, the dissenting threesome have launched efforts to ensure that the demands the Security Council will make on Iraq are more limited in scope. It is not, however, certain that they will continue to resist U.S. pressure especially if Washington decides to treat them in the same manner as it is treating Germany. Washington has made clear its displeasure with the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, whose victory in the recent elections was attributed at least in part to the critical posture he took in respect of U.S. policy towards Iraq. The rest of the world is watching with concern if these three powers can restrain Washington's urge to rush into battle without

adequate thought and with what appear to be contrived justifications.

In its efforts to shape the outcome of the Security Council debate, Washington has drafted a three-tiered set of propositions that it wants endorsed. These include a finding that Iraq is guilty of non-compliance with earlier resolutions, a demand that Iraq unconditionally and unquestioningly readmit weapons inspectors and a declaration that the international community will act militarily if necessary (and with no further debate) if Baghdad falters in its compliance with the inspections and the weapons dismantling processes. France, articulating the alternative and probably majority view, has conceded after initial resistance that a fresh Security Council resolution might be in order but only one which stipulates that inspectors must have unrestricted access. Iraq's cooperation with the weapons inspectors is a separate matter and if there is any default on Baghdad's part the Security Council must hold further deliberations on the measures that must then be taken.

As the French Foreign Minister, Dominique de Villepin, has pointed out, there is a serious need to ensure that people elsewhere, especially in the Arab world, do not form the impression that there is a hidden agenda. In this context, the U.S. President George W. Bush, would have been better advised to not refer to the attempt on his father's life almost a decade ago, allegedly by Iraqi agents, by way of justifying his current Iraq policy. As it is, the Arab world has a very strong and negative view of the role that the U.S. is playing in the region and is extremely concerned, and rightly so, about the lack of sensitivity with which Washington pursues its interests in the area. Washington undoubtedly has the power to influence changes around the world but the rest of the global community has to be on guard to restrain the U.S. from promoting its partisan agenda without concern for those who will be most directly affected.

INDU

30 SEP 2002

USA sets deadline for Iraq

PTI & AFP

NEW YORK, Sept. 28. — The USA and Britain have proposed a draft resolution which sets a seven-day deadline for Iraq to declare its programmes of weapons of mass destruction and provide UN inspectors access to all sites including President Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces. If Iraq fails to comply with the deadline, "all necessary means" would be used against it.

The essence of the plan, which US and British officials are presenting to SC members, is to declare that Iraq has already violated its obligations to the UN and to put the onus on Saddam Hussein to comply. Under the terms of the resolution, Iraq would be required to provide a full account of its programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction before the inspectors returned. The New York Times said, quoting US officials:

Iraq has seven days to accept the resolution and declare all of its programmes of weapons of mass destruction, and 23 days

US WARPLANES STRIKE SOUTHERN IRAQ

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28. — US warplanes struck surface-to-air missile sites at two locations in southern Iraq in fresh attacks on Iraqi air defences yesterday, US military officials said. Coalition aircraft used precision guided weapons to bomb the sites at Qalat Sikur and Tallil. The Central Command said the raid was in response to Iraqi "hostile acts" against aircraft patrolling a no-fly zone over southern Iraq. The attack comes a day after US forces struck a mobile air defence radar at the Basra airport. — AFP

more to open up the sites and provide documents to support the declaration, a US official said. The resolution is expected to be circulated among Security Council members early next week.

If Baghdad failed to comply with the inspection demands — by failing to provide a full or accurate list — the draft resolution calls for "all necessary means to restore international peace and security," a diplomatic euphemism for US and British military action to remove Hussein from power. But the proposal has already run into rough weather. France has balked at Washington's insistence on a

military campaign if Hussein refuses to cooperate. President George W Bush called President Jacques Chirac yesterday to lobby for the US measure. Mr Marc Grossman, under secretary of state for political affairs, and Britain's foreign office political director Mr Peter Ricketts flew to Paris to seek France's support. But Mr Chirac remained opposed to any UN resolution that provides for the automatic use of military force if Iraq fails to cooperate with UN demands. He said France favoured a resolution that was "simple and firm, showing the unity and determination of the international community" to get inspectors back

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into Iraq. Russian foreign minister Mr Igor Ivanov said yesterday there was no "clear proof" to back US and British claims of Iraq's weapons buildup. He dismissed US charges that Iraq was linked to the Al-Qaida network. Mr Chirac met Chinese premier Mr Zhu Rongji on Thursday. He also met Mr Vladimir to lobby for Russian support. Mr Zhu said on French television: "If the weapons inspections do not take place, if we do not have clear proof and if we do not have the authorisation of the Security Council, we cannot launch a military attack on Iraq."

Iraq denies terror links

Iraq today strongly denied US allegations that it had links to the Al-Qaida network, adds a report from Baghdad. "I do not think a single official or individual in the world believes ... in the same lies repeated by the vile American and British administrations," Vice President Mr Taha Yassin Ramadan told journalists. "They are lies every one knows about," he said.

General 5-12

29 SEP 2003

TO OPPOSE U.S. MILITARY...

Handwritten notes: (1) MONTANA, (2) 19

Massive anti-war protest in U.K.

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, SEPT 28. A week after the farmers took London by storm, it was the turn of anti-war protesters to lay siege to the city on Saturday when thousands of Britons from across the country poured into the capital to denounce the Prime Minister, Tony Blair's backing for U.S.-led military intervention in Iraq.

Though the turnout did not quite match the claims made by the organisers, there was no mistaking the anger of the protesters as they marched past the Westminster and Downing Street carrying banners which proclaimed: "Stop War", "Not in Our name", and "Boycott Murder".

The roughly 5-km stretch from Embankment to Hyde Park was awash with demonstrators who included leading political lights, film and media personalities, trade

unionists, religious figures and Gulf War veterans. The march, billed as one of the biggest anti-war demonstrations seen in Europe in decades, took nearly two hours to reach Hyde Park where protesters were addressed by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, the left-wing Labour leader, Tony Benn, a former U.N. weapons inspector, Scott Ritter, and a number of ruling party MPs opposed to British military involvement in Iraq.

Activists of Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of UK, who jointly organised the march, said the one-point message they intended to send out to the world was that Mr. Blair's stance on Iraq did not reflect the wishes of the ordinary people of Britain.

"What Blair is doing doesn't represent the wishes of the British people," Ken Loach, one of Britain's leading film directors said. A prominent dissident Labour

MP, Jeremy Corbyn, was more assertive saying: "If Tony Blair thinks he has got Parliament on his side, he has not. If he thinks he's got the country on his side, he has not."

The pro-Iraqi party MP, George Gallop, warned that West Asia would erupt into "molten lava" if Iraq was attacked.

Many protesters said they had never attended a march before, but had decided to "stand up and be counted" on this occasion because they believed Britain was being dragged into a war which "nobody but President Bush" wanted.

"It is not a Muslim show but a protest by ordinary, decent and peace-loving Britons," one woman demonstrator said.

The march came ahead of the start of the Labour Party's annual conference in Blackpool where Mr. Blair is expected to have a rough ride over Iraq.

28 SEP 2003

INDIA

Lashkar behind Akshardham temple attack: Advani

By J.P. Shukla

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 28. The recent terrorist attack at the Akshardham temple in Gujarat has the "clear signature" of the Pakistan-based terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, said here today.

Speaking at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the State BJP executive, Mr. Advani said the two terrorists killed by the security forces were armed to the teeth. Their apparent objective was to take hostage the large number of devotees present inside the temple but the 'sants' foiled their designs by closing the doors immediately.

Mr. Advani praised the security forces for ensuring the safety of the devotees, saving the temple from any damage and killing the terrorists. The Gujarat Government should also be praised for preventing any fallout of the terrorist attack.

He said the Vajpayee-led Government had many achievements, the most important being the free and fair elections being held in Jammu and Kashmir. The people of the troubled State had frustrated the designs of Pakistan whose President had described the elections as a farce.

Many terrorist organisations had also announced an award of Rs. 10 lakhs to anyone who killed a candidate.

Three months ago, Mr. Advani said, the BJP was in despair with the losses suffered by the party during the Assembly elec-



The Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, with the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mayawati, and the BSP supremo, Kanshi Ram, at a BSP rally in Lucknow on Saturday. — Photo: Subir Roy

tions in various States and the violence caused by the Godhra incident in Gujarat. Now, the situation had completely changed as evidenced by the success of the Government's efforts in controlling the attack on the Akshardham temple and its aftermath.

He said the BJP decision to support the ruling coalition in Uttar Pradesh headed by the

Bahujan Samaj Party leader, Mayawati, was part of an experiment that could have long-term political implications. Besides breaking the deadlock created following the last Assembly elections, the experiment was also expected to play a significant role in harmonising social equations. And its impact would not remain confined to Uttar Pradesh.

10 killed in stampede

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 28. At least 10 activists of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) were killed and 15 others injured in a stampede at the Charbagh railway station here this evening.

According to Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), D. P. Sinha, the BSP workers were returning after attending the party-sponsored "Ninda-Dhikkar maha rally" when the accident took place at a railway overbridge.

He said the victims were going to a platform when in a sudden rush, they toppled over each other. —UNI

29 SEP 2003

Pak. support to terrorism stalling dialogue: India

28/9 By Amit Baruah 10-11

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27. India has told the United States that continuing support to terrorism by Pakistan would remain an obstacle to any resumption of dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad.

During detailed discussions with the visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, today, the Foreign Secretary, Kanwal Sibal, told her that the recent terrorist attack in Gandhinagar was a matter of serious concern.

Apart from India-Pakistan issues, the two officials reviewed the whole range of Indo-U.S. bilateral relations and also focused on the current situation in Afghanistan. Mr. Sibal, dur-

ing his visit to Kabul on Thursday, called on the Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, and other Afghan leaders and exchanged views about the current security and political situation in Afghanistan.

While Mr. Sibal described the role of India and the Indian companies in the reconstruction of war-ravaged Afghanistan, Ms. Rocca outlined the thrust of U.S. policies towards that country. The discussion was marked by openness, sources said.

India and the U.S. also reviewed the discussions that took place earlier this week on the non-proliferation issue. There is little doubt that the Indo-U.S. dialogue has been diversified and the two countries are talking about a range of is-

ues at several levels. And, there has been an agreement to begin a separate dialogue on East Asia, whose focus will be on China.

Though there is little chance of avoiding India-Pakistan issues in a dialogue with the U.S., New Delhi has been stressing for some time now that its bilateral relationship with Washington should not be seen as Pak.-centric and that Indo-Pak. issues have not been the focus of recent meetings between the Indian and American interlocutors.

It is, however, a fact that Washington remains concerned about the situation in South Asia while remaining committed to improving bilateral relations with New Delhi.

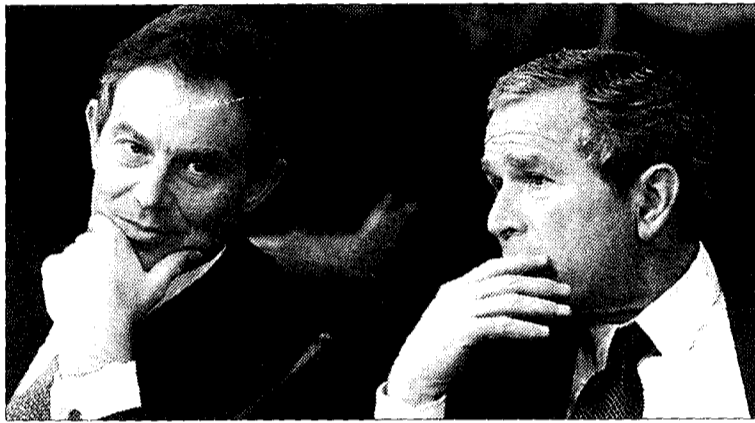
29 SEP 2003

INDIA - PAKISTAN

Between rehabilitating Saddam and killing him, Bush and Blair have chosen the latter

Paranoid androids

BY PREM SHANKAR JHA



DAD'S ARMY: Tony Blair and George Bush

SEVERAL RECENT developments have left little room for doubt that the US and the UK intend to launch a military attack on Iraq, not in January or February, as most analysts seem to think, but within days of the passage of a 'tough' new UN resolution, that Iraq may well refuse to comply with. In New York, George W. Bush used the podium of the UN General Assembly, an organisation designed to preserve peace, to make what amounted to a unilateral declaration of war. In London, Tony Blair released a 55-page intelligence assessment which purported to show not only that Iraq continues to build weapons of mass destruction, but is capable of having some of them ready for use within 45 minutes of receiving Saddam Hussein's order. The last time he released a similar document was when the US was on the verge of launching its attack on Afghanistan.

American forces are already in place for the attack. A command headquarters has been set up in Kuwait. The chief of the US Central Command, Gen. Tommy Franks, has visited Kuwait to discuss the state of planning for the Iraq war with the chiefs of the three services in his command. All this has gone on behind a veritable media blitzkrieg of carefully leaked stories that have revealed American war plans in unprecedented detail.

Along with this has come a barrage of pseudo-moral justification. "In 1991, the Iraqi regime agreed to destroy and stop developing all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and long range missiles and to prove to the world that it has done so by complying with rigorous inspections. Iraq has broken every aspect of this fundamental pledge," said Bush at the UN.

Blair was more explicit: "The threat posed to international peace and security when WMD are in the hands of a brutal and aggressive regime like Saddam's, is real. Unless we face up to the threat, not only do we risk undermining the authority of the UN, whose resolutions he defies, but more importantly, we place at risk the lives and prosperity of our own people."

The State against which he has made this charge is, no doubt, ruled by a despot with a less than savoury record of waging war, not least against his own people. But it is a broken and exhausted nation. By

1998, according to a UNICEF report, economic sanctions imposed after the Gulf war had killed more than half-a-million children. The UNICEF arrived at this figure by comparing the infant mortality rate in Iraq before and after the war. The same report said that under the sanctions regime the infrastructure of the country and, most important of all, its water supply and sanitation systems, had broken down.

What is true of the civilian infrastructure is also true of its weaponry. Since 1990, Iraq has received little new military equipment. Its planes, tanks and artillery are more than a decade old. Much of what was left after the Gulf war has been destroyed in successive bombing raids on tank and artillery depots, ammunition dumps and airfields. A part of the little that has survived has been cannibalised to keep the rest running. Thus only a fraction of the armament that survived the Gulf war is still fit for combat.

Iraq does not have the economic strength, the military muscle or the emotional staying power to threaten anyone. On the contrary, in November 1998, when the US was on the brink of an attack, it quietly sent a message to Tel Aviv that it would not attack Israel if the US attacked it. This was not the act of a war-crazed despot. Why then are the US and UK so determined to invade Iraq?

The ostensible reason is that Saddam, who has demonstrated his willingness to use WMD against Iran and on the Kurds, must be preempted from acquiring the capacity to build them again. But the real fear is that, having alienated Saddam beyond any hope of repair, the

US cannot take the risk of a resurgent Iraq becoming the next State sponsor of international terrorism. This fear haunts Washington despite the fact that Iraq is the one State that is totally free of Islamic fundamentalism and that the most diligent US efforts have failed to uncover links with any international terrorist group.

Iraq is therefore to be invaded and destroyed not because of what it has done; not because of what it has threatened to do; not even for what it is capable of doing; but for what it is suspected of being capable of doing. This is paranoia on a scale the world has never known before.

According to Bush and Blair, Saddam played hide and seek with the UN weapons inspectors (UNSCOM) between 1991 and 1998, and forced them out of Iraq rather than let them complete their job of dismantling its WMD capability. According to them, Iraq withdrew cooperation from UNSCOM in November 1997 but backtracked when faced by the threat of bombing in the same month; it withdrew it in February 1998, but backtracked in the face of another bombing threat the same month; it withdrew cooperation in August 1998 but backtracked in November, and withdrew it finally in December 1998.

On each occasion it tried to strike bargains with the remaining permanent members of the Security Council to lift sanctions in exchange for allowing the weapons inspectors back in. In the process, it eroded the effectiveness of the sanctions and drove a wedge between the UK and US and the rest.

Undoubtedly, Iraq did not cooperate with UNSCOM willingly. At the very outset, Saddam set up a "high

level concealment committee" to minimise the amount of weapons and WMD making facilities that UNSCOM could unearth. But thanks to intelligence inputs from Israel, it had immense success. On April 11, 1997, UNSCOM reported to the Security Council that "the accumulated effect of the work that has been accomplished over six years since the ceasefire went into effect ... is such that not much is unknown about Iraq's retained proscribed weapons capabilities".

From there, everything went downhill. By December 1998, UNSCOM had withdrawn from Iraq and the US and UK had begun four days of intense bombardment designed to 'degrade' its capacity to build WMD and threaten its neighbours in the future.

In a manner that eerily foreshadowed the way that Yasser Arafat and the PLO would be held responsible for the violence that was unleashed upon Israel and Palestine by Ariel Sharon, the spin doctors of the US and UK ensured that the blame for the breakdown of the inspection regime would be heaped on Saddam. However, the breakdown was engineered by the US.

To cite one example, Iraq broke off cooperation with UNSCOM in late 1997 because it believed that Scott Ritter, a senior American specialist on UNSCOM, was a CIA agent. The US dismissed the charge, nearly went to war in February over Ritter's reinstatement, and succeeded in making Iraq back down in February. Six months later when Ritter turned 'rogue', the world's press came to know that he had been a member not of the CIA but US Marine Intelligence and had enjoyed a cosy two-way relationship with Israeli intelligence while in Iraq.

The US sabotaged the end of weapons inspection because it soon realised that while compliance with the UN resolutions could destroy Iraq's WMD building capability, it could not prevent it from developing it again when the sanctions were lifted. The only insurance was a completely pliant regime in Baghdad.

Between 1991 and 1997, it made five unsuccessful attempts to oust Saddam. After the 1998 bombing destroyed UNSCOM, it genuinely did not know where to go next. Today Bush and Blair face the same alternatives - rehabilitate Saddam or kill him. They have chosen the latter.

Terminism
W

The Iraq-U.S. face-off

By Qamar Agha

2019

HQ 10

IRAQ'S LEADER, Saddam Hussein, is increasingly isolated. He has expressed willingness to allow United Nations weapons inspectors' back unconditionally in the country. But the Bush administration has dismissed the move as a trick. No matter what Mr. Hussein does now, he will find it extremely difficult to save his regime. The decks have now been almost cleared for an American attack on Iraq.

Despite differences among the members of the Security Council, the U.S. appears confident of gaining support for a U.N. resolution on Iraq. It would be a major victory for the Bush administration. Russia is the only member in the Security Council which is yet to endorse the U.S. move, but it is unlikely that it will use its veto power to scuttle the resolution. Mr. Bush has also threatened that if the U.N. does not pass the new resolution then the U.S. will take unilateral action against Iraq.

The decision to engage the U.N. comes mainly because of the growing realisation within the Bush administration that while it may be easy for the U.S. to topple the Saddam Government, one of the most repressive in the Arab world, it will be extremely difficult to install a U.S.-friendly regime in Baghdad. The Shia majority in Iraq is against both Mr. Hussein and the U.S. In order to deal with such a situation, the Bush administration has decided not to take unilateral action against Iraq but to involve its European and Arab allies. This satisfies the leaders of the U.S.-led global alliance against terrorism. The multilateral step will have less opposition within respective countries and it will help protect their own interests in a post-Saddam Iraq.

The Bush Administration wants early dismissal of Mr. Hussein. It is opposed to giving the Iraqi President time to entangle the U.N. in a game of cat and mouse, which could delay the possibility of military interven-

tion. The U.S. objective is to remove him and install a pro-American Government, which should also not oppose Israel. It believes that only if Mr. Hussein is removed from power can the Iraqis will build a thriving democracy; that a free Iraq will become a model for Arab and Islamic nations; and that the Arab-Israeli dispute will also become less intractable and moderation will become contagious. The U.S. wants the pro-West Lon-

region. In the new set-up of the region, U.S. would prefer Iraq to replace Saudi Arabia as its strategic ally. The U.S. mantra for Arab-Islamic States now is secularism. The Cold War alliances with conservative monarchies and the Wahabite Islamic organisations have now become counter productive for the U.S. A friendly Government in Iraq could also help the U.S. contain neighbouring oil-rich Iran — another member

to neighbouring Iran, whose conservative clergy extends moral support to Shia groups in Iraq. The hardliners within the Bush administration believe that the U.S. can achieve its objective only through a military confrontation and they are not prepared to accept any diplomatic solution. The U.S. administration has been doing "a lot of work internally" on war scenarios and the cost of cleaning up and reconstructing Iraq. The coalition partners will share the cost but Iraq will have to invest huge sums for its reconstruction. This means Iraq will have to export surplus into the market. It is likely to disrupt the existing production schedules maintained by OPEC, designed to keep prices high, and it could also end Saudi Arabian domination of world oil markets.

The war will have far-reaching consequences for the entire region. In the absence of democracy in most of the neighbouring states, it will give rise to forces of destabilization and weaken unpopular, repressive Arab regimes. It will further increase their dependence on Western nations and perhaps some may even be forced to seek assistance from Israel, which has long expertise in dealing with the problem of "terrorism" emanating from the region.

But the U.S. is fully prepared to deal with the long-term destabilisation consequences. Its primary objective is to contain Islamic militancy and ensure uninterrupted oil supplies to industrialised nations at an agreed price. Hardliners in America are propagating that the U.S. should capture the "oil strip" stretching from Oman to Saudi Arabia. However, the U.S. Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, believes that this does not reflect "dominant opinion" within the administration.

But one thing is certain, the Bush administration will not give up till a friendly regime is installed in Iraq, no matter what.

It will be extremely difficult to install a U.S.-friendly regime in Baghdad. The Shia majority in Iraq is against both Saddam Hussein and the Americans.

don-based Iraqi opposition groups to form the Government. But the problem is that these groups do not have much support in Iraq. However, they have already announced its intention to form a Government in exile.

The possibility of an army coup cannot be ruled out either. The U.S., in fact, would prefer a pro-American General replacing Mr. Hussein, at least initially. That would also avert a war with Iraq.

If the Bush administration succeeds in toppling Mr. Hussein, it will seek to install a secular Government, based on the Turkish model, that would be willing to contain nationalist forces and the religious opposition led by the Shia clergy.

It would be a military-cum-civilian Government. Pakistan and Afghanistan are also aspiring to install similar Governments. In Iraq, the plan is, the army will remain the most powerful institution and it will help protect U.S. interests in the region. Iraq is oil-rich and strategically located, bordering Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria and Iran. It has a large educated middle class and has the potential to emerge as a leader in the

of the "axis-of-evil".

In the new set-up, the U.S. will have greater control over the energy resources of the region. After initial setbacks, the U.S. is promising that oil prices will come down to \$ 10 per barrel which is less than half the current international oil price. America is the largest consumer of oil in the world and the high price affects its economy.

But to install a friendly regime in Iraq, the U.S. will have to not only remove Mr. Hussein but also dismantle all the institutions controlled by the Baath Party — a nationalist organisation which has ruling the country for several decades. Other political parties are not allowed to function in the country. Apart from this, the U.S. will have to weaken Shia Islamic movement. The removal of Mr. Hussein is likely to trigger a major struggle between pro and anti-U.S. forces. However, the Bush administration has made it amply clear that it will not allow any hostile Government in the Iraq because the country possesses weapons of mass destruction.

In such a situation, there are chances that the war may spill over

27 SEP 2002

INDU

✓ STRONG MESSAGE SENT TO WASHINGTON

US pressure not working: PM

SFA
27/9
Permanently

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Sept. 26. — A chorus of voices in the government, led by the Prime Minister, today sent a strong message to the US administration that India was disillusioned with that country's ability to curb terrorism sponsored by Pakistan, and would, perforce, wage its own battle against the menace.

Even though investigations into Tuesday's attack at the temple in Gandhinagar were on, the government was clear in its mind where it originated.

Speaking at a function today, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that US pressure on Pakistan to abandon support to terrorism appeared not to be working and asserted that India would have to fight its own battle.

"It seems so", Mr Vajpayee said when asked whether pressure from the USA and India's own effort was not working on Pakistan to change its stand towards supporting terrorism.

The fall-out of the deadly terrorist attack on the temple in Gandhinagar has been to

crystallise the government's determination to go it alone in dealing with Pakistan, the "one-stop shop", as officials called it, for terrorism in the region.

The fall-out of the terrorist attack on the temple has been to crystallise the government's determination to go it alone in dealing with Pakistan, the "one-stop shop", as officials call it, for terrorism in the region

Having accepted the USA's assurances in June, (when the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Richard Armitage informed the government of a firm pledge given by General Pervez Musharraf to "permanently" end cross-border infiltration and terror) the government feels there is just so much leverage the USA can and will exert to curb Pakistan.

This is the message the US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Christina Rocca, will carry when she leaves the country on Saturday.

Today she extended her visit to New Delhi (where she is attending a conference of regional heads of US missions in the region) by two days.

That Pakistan was culpable was a sentiment echoed by the external affairs minister, Mr Yashwant Sinha, (in Kuala Lumpur) who said Pakistan-sponsored terrorism had "become worse" after the failure of the Agra Summit.

Turn to page 4

27 SEP 2001

THE STATESMAN

U.S., Britain seek NATO allies' support

269 By Batuk Gathani

BRUSSELS, SEPT. 25. As the 19 NATO Defence Ministers concluded their meeting in Warsaw last night, the U.S. and Britain took the initiative to press their allies to take action over Iraq.

At the same time, the NATO secretary general, Lord Robertson, called for a new pre-emptive strategy against "rogue states" which were identified as Iraq, Iran and North Korea — and accused by the Bush administration of promoting global terrorism.

In what is interpreted as a controversial remark, Lord Robertson said it was the job of the NATO to protect citizens from "criminal terrorists and criminal states."

The French Government has insisted that the U.N. Security Council must mandate any action against Iraq.

France also warned that launching a pre-emptive strikes against Iraq could inflame the Arab world against the West and would set a dangerous precedent.

The French Defence Minister, Michele Alliot-Marie, said a military initiative without the approval of the U.N. Security Council could be "extremely dangerous because it could

open all sorts of possibilities." She spoke before senior American officials briefed the NATO Defence Ministers at a closed door session.

It is also ironical that so far the Bush administration has cold-shouldered NATO in planning the military attack on Iraq. On other hand, the British Defence Ministry has been briefed and consulted. Britain is "awash with conditional plans, but remains keen to squash speculation" according to media reports.

American officials have argued that NATO countries have not been briefed over the offensive against Iraq purely for "security reasons". NATO is obviously being sidelined in what is widely interpreted as an important military operation as it was during the U.S. offensive in Afghanistan to topple the Taliban regime.

European Governments are unimpressed by the findings of the Blair Government's "dossier" on suspected arms build-up by Iraq.

The President of France, Jacques Chirac, has dismissed the "dossier" saying it had "no proof, only indications" that the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, possessed weapons of mass destruction.

25 SEP 2003

THE INDIAN

Smallpox vaccination for US citizens

Genocide 597

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 — The Bush administration issued a detailed blueprint yesterday for vaccinating about 288 million Americans against smallpox within five days of a terrorist biological attack. The plan, issued to health officials in all 50 states and Washington DC, re-

1980. Only the US and Russia are known to have stocks of the virus, but intelligence analysts fear a hostile nation, most notably Iraq, may have acquired the weapon. "Given smallpox has been eradicated from the world, a single case would constitute an attack," Dr Dave Fleming, federal Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, said. Because smallpox outbreaks have been absent for so long, there

clinics at state and local level, including the officials needed to oversee the clinics, the logistics of delivering vaccines to centres nationwide, and the communication network needed between local officials, medical personnel and the public. "This plan provides for distribution of 280 million doses of smallpox vaccine from the national pharmaceutical stockpile storage sites to states' held

2 2
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An outrageous act: Sonia

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. Cutting across party lines, political leaders today condemned the terrorist attack at the Swami Narayan temple in Gandhinagar in Gujarat and called for restraint.

Describing the terrorist strike as an "outrageous act", the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, condemned it "with all the force at my command".

Sympathising with the devotees, who became innocent victims, and their affected families, she expressed confidence in the security forces' ability to bring the situation under control at the earliest.

Also, in a statement issued late in the evening, Ms. Gandhi urged all sections of society to exercise restraint and extend full cooperation to the law enforcing agencies.

Meanwhile, Ms. Gandhi convened an emergency meeting of senior party leaders to take stock of the situation arising out of the terrorist attack at the Swaminarayan temple.

Earlier, another senior Congress leader, Ahmed Patel, condemned the attack. In a statement, the Congress Working Committee member

said: "the dastardly attack on this pious and sacred temple is nothing less than an assault on the very foundation of Gujarati culture, which is internationally recognised. In India, we may belong to different political ideologies, but when it comes to a threat to the unity and integrity of the nation, we stand united as one. Let no one have any illusions on this score".

Mr. Patel also hoped that the State Government would take "every measure and precaution" to deal with the situation. "It is obviously an act of only those forces that have no faith in secularism and Indian democracy," he added.

Terrorist retaliation: BJP

In a statement, the BJP president, M. Venkaiah Naidu, said that the attack "could even be a terrorist retaliation in frustration of their failure in Kashmir. The BJP strongly condemns this barbaric action. In this regard, the Indian society is united and will speak in one voice to fight the vicious design".

Mr. Naidu "appealed to the people all over the country to remain united, peaceful and calm in defeating the terrorist design in Gujarat as they have done with regard to Jammu and Kashmir".

Anti-Islamic: Shahi Imam

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. The Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid, Syed Ahmed Bukhari, tonight condemned the attack on the Swaminarayan temple in Gandhinagar terming it as "anti-Islamic". "Islam does not permit killing of innocent civilians. I appeal to Muslims and our Hindu brethren to join hands to wipe

out terrorism from the country's soil," the Imam said. He, however, said some anti-minorities statements allegedly made by the Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, during his 'gaurav yatra' and the post-Godhra violence in the State "could have provoked a retaliatory act."

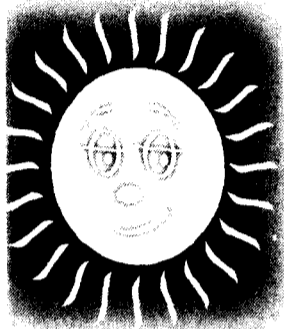
Condemning the attack as a

"conspiracy to defame Islam and Muslims", the president of the All India Organisation of Imams of Mosques, Maulana Jameel Ilyasi, demanded stern action against the culprits. "The attack is against the teachings of Islam and this kind of anarchy is unacceptable to Indian Muslims," he said. — PTI

SEP 2003

THE HINDU

on. A total of 25 questions (multiple choice mat) will have to be answered and those getting questions right will be awarded suitable prizes. It is as simple as that. Usually, not that simple, because the quiz times itself after a reasonable length of time and if you do try to enter the contest, you might not get the same set of questions every time. The questions change on rotation. Now all you have to do is brush up your history and get clever!



iving them back to the months when they chased makers for a pot of water. Meanwhile, residents could also help themselves leaving whatever shade giving trees that exist, well me.

By Sudhish Kamath,
Ramya Kannan,
T.S. Shankar and
T. Ramakrishnan
Illustration by
Varghese Kollara

vehicles facing the complex and switch on the headlights.

The Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, is in touch with the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, who is in the Maldives.

The complex is visited by hundreds of people from all over and most of the casualties were reported from among those who were near the main gate.

The terrorists, police believe, are hiding at different corners of the temple complex as sounds of indiscriminate firing were

den eyelashes widen in horror as the 'macho' hero begins to follow her, tugging at her dupatta in tune with a catchy song.

Unfortunately, real life imitates reel. Before you know it there's a line up of young men mouthing the same lyrics, and more, on our beaches and roads, buses and theatres. Only, in this case, as we have seen time and again, the story doesn't end with an 'and they lived happily ever after'.

Judging by the string of fatal and near-fatal cases of sexual harassment in the past, mainly women college students have suffered sexual harassment of this kind. On Tuesday, students representing more than 40 city colleges were brought together by the police commissioner's office to discuss and offer solutions to problems like eve teasing and ragging. They also discussed the police image and community policing in the city. However, the girls, and most of the boys, were the most vociferous on the topic of sexual harassment.

speaking up.

Suggestions to the police included their being more approachable, stationing more women inspectors outside colleges and bus stops and making the process of filing a complaint easier on the victim.

As one student pointed out, an unusual problem that Chennai has, is the large number of men-only and women-only colleges. Because of this, she said, some of the men's colleges tend to misbehave, especially in the areas and bus stops near the girl's colleges.

Many of the girls pointed out that the boys should realise that harassing a girl will end up having negative consequences for them too. In a lively group discussion, the representatives from the women's colleges asked for both assistance and co-operation from the men's colleges as well as the police in combating Chennai's 'roadside Romeos'.

By Shonali Muthalaly
Photo: R. Ragu



in the Gandhinagar Civil Hospital said that he had seen two masked men in Army uniform firing at the people.

But the people who were near the main gate said they were in civilian dress.

Police rescued about 70 persons trapped inside the museum but those in the exhibition hall and other parts of the complex are still stranded.

What is causing concern is the way in which the terrorists could infiltrate the Akshardham, which is located in the

City areas downed the shutters fearing reprisal as the Swaminarayan sect enjoys one of the largest followings among Hindus in Gujarat.

The Akshardham complex was inaugurated on October 30, 1992.

It was constructed with 6,000 tonnes of pink sandstones especially brought from Rajasthan, and it took eight lakh manhours of "devotional labour" to complete. The main temple is 108 ft tall, 240 ft long and 131 ft wide.

Widespread condemnation:
Page 11

Terrorism on its last leg: PM

By V. Jayanth

MALE, SEPT. 24. Condemning the dastardly killings in the Gujarat temple, the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, today vowed to put an end to terrorism throughout the country.

Sharing the news of the terrorist attack at a Gandhinagar temple with the expatriate Indian community at a reception in Karumba resort this evening, the Prime Minister said: "Terrorism is on its last leg now. Because we have been able to conduct the elections in Jammu and Kashmir, they are jealous".

Mr. Vajpayee asked: "Where is the Taliban to-

day? Where is the Al-Qaeda?" He said there was a global war against terrorism and India was also determined to stamp it out.

Throughout the day, the Prime Minister was in touch with New Delhi on the second phase of polling in Jammu and Kashmir. And when news of the Gandhinagar attack was conveyed to him, Mr. Vajpayee called up the Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, and enquired about the incident. The Prime Minister also spoke to the President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and assured him that the Government was doing everything it can to bring the situation under control.

He is cutting short his visit and will leave for home tomorrow morning.



Keeping you posted

Now, it's e-

POST OFFICES turning into 'e-offices'. Is it going to be another tall claim or a reality? Is it not high-sounding talk in a very old department that is known for its large workforce? Given the complex composition of the employee base in the venerable department of post, how much of electronics can go into this department, many wonder.

"Why not?" is the response of the department. "Already, a high level of automation has been brought in, with 87 multi-purpose counter machines working in 45 post offices in the city. Details of the Savings Bank accounts have been computerised in 13 offices and we have achieved total computerisation in two head post offices - in the city's commercial hub T. Nagar and far-off Tambaram."

The record may look impressive. Still, there are scores of people in the department who are computer-illiterate. To address this issue, a computer centre in Chennai was opened last week. The department got Suresh Kamath, CMD of Laser Soft Infosystems, to inaugurate the centre.

"We have another computer centre which is functioning at

ON THE EVE OF SECOND PHASE OF J&K POLLS

Militants kill constable, take two officers hostage

By Shujaat Bukhari

SRINAGAR, SEPT. 23. In a sign of increasing violence on the eve of the second phase of elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly tomorrow, a constable was killed in a shootout between militants and police, when two members of a fidayeen (suicide) squad occupied a house close to a polling booth in the Civil Lines neighbourhood of the city.

And they took the Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Saddar, and the Station House Officer, Rajbagh, hostage.

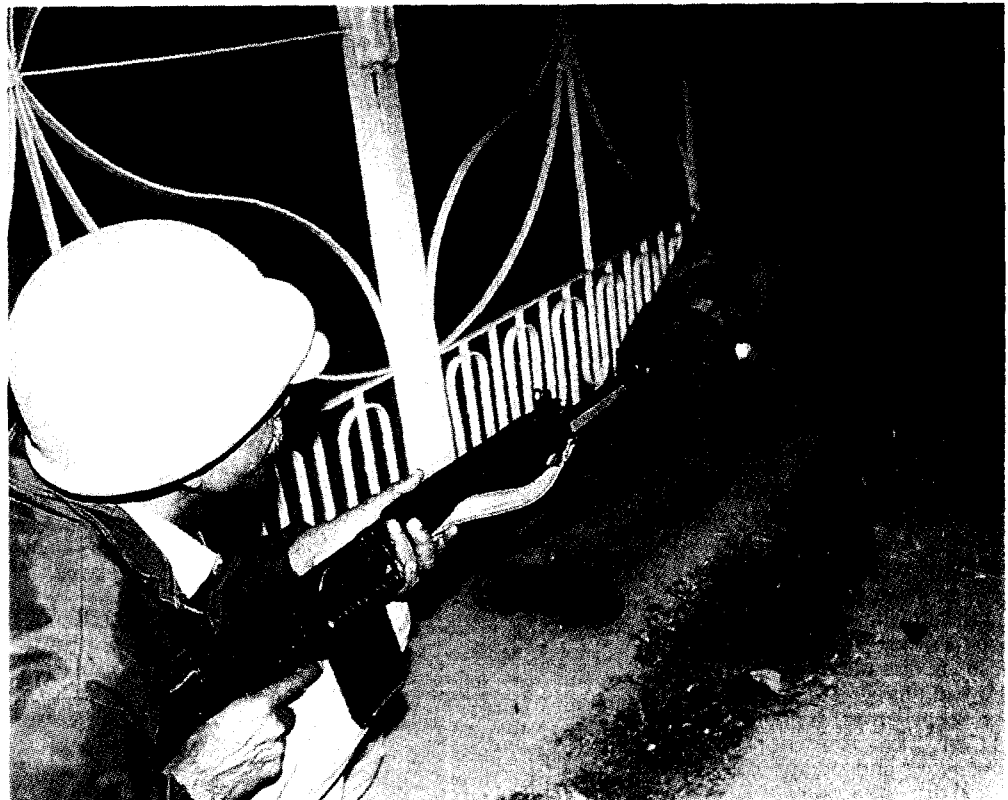
(A policeman trapped outside the building in the crossfire between militants and security forces escaped unhurt and was subsequently rescued by the security forces, reports PTL.)

Unconfirmed reports said that the militants also took some civilians hostage. The standoff was on till reports last came in.

The Inspector-General of Police, Kashmir zone, K. Rajindra Kumar, said Pakistan was "desperate" to disrupt the elections. Militants were hitting soft targets but "no major damage can be caused... we are making necessary arrangements to preempt their plans."

Replying to a query, Mr. Kumar said "we have irrefutable evidence to prove that Pakistan is involved in causing trouble in the State."

Last year, 700 out of 1,336 militants killed were Pakistani nationals, and, this year, 400 out of 600 slain militants were foreigners. Only on Saturday, they



Securitymen taking position during a "fdayeen" attack on a polling booth at Gogji Bagh in Srinagar on Monday. — Photo: Nissar Ahmad

had tried to kill innocent family members of police personnel in the Bemina Housing Colony, "but we foiled their attempts." It was Pakistan which was "training and aiding militancy here," he added.

Shortly after the authorities asserted that the security arrangements were in place, a police party patrolling the Gogji Bagh area of Civil Lines came

under fire from militants hiding in a house close to a polling booth. Their bullets hit a police constable, Jagdev Singh, who died after being shifted to the hospital.

Police and paramilitary forces cordoned off the area and started house-to-house searches amid blasts and gunfire.

The Director-General of Police, A. K. Suri, the IGP, Kashmir,

and other senior officers rushed to the spot. They were, however, unable to provide any details. Sources said two militants were holed up in the house. Election staff in the nearby Polytechnic College had been evacuated.

Earlier, the State Chief Electoral Officer, Pramod Jain, said "everything has been put in the right direction to conduct the elections tomorrow."

An electorate of about 22 lakh voters in 28 Assembly segments of Srinagar, Budgam and Jammu districts would vote for a total of 263 candidates, including 20 women.

"We have learnt a couple of lessons in the first phase and will try to rectify them in the second round," Mr. Jain said adding that comprehensive joint sessions of trainings had been held for the election staff from outside and within the state.

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More reports on
Pages 11 & 13

THE HINDU

Address causes of terrorism: Mahathir

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 22. The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, has called for a balanced approach to the terrorist problem, even as much of South East Asia today remained seized of the political implications of the ongoing anti-terror campaign in the region. Some moderate Islamic leaders in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority state with a tradition of largely secular politics, sought to caution the United States against playing "propaganda tricks" on unsuspecting governments in the region in the name of an anti-terror campaign.

The context relates to the anger and frustration in pockets of Indonesia over the suspected American action of dictating an

anti-terror agenda to the Megawati Sukarnoputri's administration in Jakarta. More important to the regional psyche, though, was Dr. Mahathir's official comment that a security-oriented agenda would not help free the world from the scourge of terrorism.

Speaking today to Malaysian journalists accompanying him on a foreign tour during which he would attend the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Dr. Mahathir said "the world will live in fear for a long time because the fight against terrorism is being done the wrong way". About the main thrust of the current U.S.-led global war on terror and about its reverberations in South East Asia too, Dr. Mahathir said: "There is too much concentration on security, how to improve security and how to

make it foolproof. By itself, it will not solve the terrorist problem. You must look at the causes, you can't put up barriers all the time".

Dr. Mahathir commended Malaysia's own example of having fought a "terrorist" menace in the past through military means as also the political process of "winning the hearts and minds of the people" during the period of communist 'insurgency'. In Malaysia, over 60 suspected militants are being held now under the Internal Security Act. They have been detained under an anti-terror process that was launched last December.

One of them, Yazid, has been cited by the U.S. authorities for suspected links to the '9/11' strikes in view of his alleged act of playing host to one or more of the plane hijackers in question.

It is in these circumstances that official Kuala Lumpur is keen to ensure that the U.S. investigators do not unwittingly

portray Malaysia as an outpost of "international terrorism" and as a regional epicentre of terror. Separately, the latest anti-terror swoop by Singapore on 21 suspects has turned the laser beam on three aspects: the alleged plot of the detainees to create a pan-Islamic state in South East Asia, their suspected game plan to convert Malaysia into a hotbed in the first stage of any such operation, and their alleged efforts to create religious strife in Singapore and Malaysia.

Of the 21 suspects, three are placed under restrictions while 18 have been held under the Internal Security Act. They include a few with 'Indian' and 'Pakistani' origin.

All of them are said to belong to one particular religion, a factor that is being sought to be addressed with sensitivity.

The Singapore authorities have also spoken of the possibility of a dozen or so Jemaah Islamiyah members being in hiding in the region at this time.

23 SEP 2003

INDIA

U.S. role raises hackles in S-E Asia

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 21. The perceived role of the U.S. in influencing the anti-terror operations of major South-East Asian countries is becoming a controversial issue in Malaysia and Indonesia, while the latest counter-terror activism of Singapore has raised the political stakes and awareness in the ongoing global campaign against terrorism.

Indonesia's Senior Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, has taken the line that his country, the world's most populous Muslim state, is not being dictated to by the U.S. According to him, Indonesia, however, was an active player under "a cooperation framework in the fight against terrorism" on the international stage. A controversy is raging in Jakarta over the alleged lead role that the Central Intelligence Agency

had played in the arrest of Al-Faruq, who is said to be an Indonesian with Al-Qaeda links, and his transfer to the U.S. Commenting on this, Mr. Susilo Yudhoyono said: "Al-Faruq's arrest was the result of cooperation between the Indonesian police and intelligence as well as foreign intelligence sources under a cooperation framework in the fight against terrorism".

It is considered significant in South-East Asia's political circles that the senior Minister's views should have been publicised as an official response to a gathering undercurrent of sentiments in Jakarta that Indonesia is perhaps being pressured by the U.S. on the anti-terror issue to hit the fast track with or without justification.

Indonesia's leading Islamic organisations, such as the Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, are seen to be in the forefront of an awareness campaign to ensure that Indonesia

acts as much in its own interests as those of the U.S. in the "war on terror". At one level, a suspected CIA "tip-off" about an alleged plot against Ms. Megawati is a dominant theme in the political discourse in Jakarta.

At another level, the focus is being made on Abu Bakar Baasyir, Chairman of the Indonesian Mujahiddin Council, for his alleged links to Al-Qaeda and suspected patronage of a pan-regional "terrorist" network.

Significantly, in this context, a top Indonesian security official had said, during the first anniversary of the '9/11' terrorist strikes, that conclusive evidence against Abu Bakar was still lacking.

In Malaysia, the Foreign Minister, Hamid Albar, has said the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation could interrogate Yazid Sufaat, who is one of over 60 suspected militants being held under the Malaysian Internal Security Act.

22 SEP 2001

THE HINDU

J&K Minister attacked again

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, September 21

279
KASHMIR MILITANTS today stepped up the violence in the run-up to the second phase of the elections, making another attempt on the life of State Tourism Minister Sakina Itoo and killing four cops in an attack on the Police Housing Colony at Bemina here.

A fierce gunfight was on between the militants and the security forces inside the colony, where over 300 police officers live with their families.

The attack on Itoo, the second in a week, came at Mirhama in Anantnag. The militants triggered an explosion and fired on her motorcade, killing a security guard and a girl watching the Minister's motorcade pass by.

Itoo, contesting the Assembly polls from Noorabad, was on her way to address an election rally at

Kulgam when the bomb, planted in a drainage pipe along her route, went off. The impact blew off the concrete cover and damaged several vehicles in Itoo's motorcade.

The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack through local news agency Kashmir Press Service though a little-known militant outfit called al-Arifeen, believed to be a shadow group of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, also staked its claim. A Hizb spokesman said his outfit had carried out the strike on the Minister while al-Arifeen was responsible for the killing of two CPI(M) workers in Kulgam.

Ten people — five CRPF personnel and five civilians — were injured in the attack on Itoo. There was no independent confirmation of how many civilians were hurt. The civilians blamed their injury on the retaliatory fire by security forces.

Several policemen, including a

deputy superintendent, were injured in the police colony attack. DIG Farooq Ahmad, too, was reported to be at the colony but it was not immediately known whether he was injured.

Two militants entered the colony in an autorickshaw, tossed hand grenades and sprayed bullets at the main gate, killing guards Susheel Singh and Ghulam Mohammad. They also fired on the Guard Room, wounding two policemen who later died of their injuries. The attackers then entered a building from where they engaged the police, BSF and other security forces in a gunbattle till late this evening.

Apart from the two CPI(M) workers, militants shot dead two National Conference members and a BJP functionary. A Congress rally at Koker-nag in south Kashmir was attacked, leaving 10 party workers injured.

Another report on Page 8

22 SEP 2003

HINDUSTAN

America retains right to strike Iraq

US brake on India's terror war

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept 21. - The USA gave its clearest indication today that, while it was empowered to engage in pre-emptive strikes against Iraq to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism, India was not authorised to carry its war against Pakistan-sponsored terror into the Pakistani territory.

In what appeared a preposterous act of muscle-flexing, aimed at both Russia, with its Chechen problem, and India, which has deployed troops along its border with Pakistan to defend itself against a continuous "proxy war" from Pakistan, an American administration official said these disputes were essentially political.

The anonymous US official was quoted by agencies as saying, "India and Russia cannot use the American doctrine of preventive and pre-emptive strikes to end terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Chechnya as there are underlying political disputes involved that could be settled by diplomatic or other means short of war."

This appeared a clear message to the Indian government that, despite September 11, terrorism in India must take a back seat, and the government did not have the right to exercise the option of pre-emptive strikes, by going into the Pakistani territory and destroying Pakistani terrorist training camps.

The Jammu and Kashmir problem was, in essence, a political problem, to be solved as such.

"Let's take the case of India and Pakistan... There are major efforts under way with India and Pakistan, led by the USA with

5-1 2/9
Great Britain, to find a diplomatic solution to the problem... of terrorism in and around Kashmir, then, of getting the two sides to enter dialogue. There are very grave - great diplomatic efforts under way there," the agency reports from Washington quoted the official as saying.

Officials here declined to comment on the reports.

Meanwhile, according to news agency reports from Washington, President George W Bush for the first time outlined justification for preventive or pre-emptive wars against "rogues" like Iraq as well as terrorist groups.

"The USA has long maintained the option of pre-emptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to its national security. The greater the threat, the greater is the risk of inaction - and the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack," Mr Bush said in a White House National Strategy Paper released yesterday.

"To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act pre-emptively," says the document, which is being sent to the Congress.

Mr Bush, however said the principle would not be used indiscriminately: "The United States will not use force in all cases to pre-empt emerging threats, nor should nations use pre-emption as a pretext for aggression." "Yet, in an age where the enemies of civilisation openly and actively seek the world's most destructive technologies, the USA cannot remain idle while danger gathers."

2 2 SEP 2003

'Pak has vested interests in al-Qaida'

51-7
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA 22/9

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 21. — Mrs Benazir Bhutto has accused the Pakistan government of failing to prevent the regrouping of al-Qaida and Taliban elements within the country. She alleged that the government has a vested interest in keeping the outfit alive as its survival depended on it.

"Pakistan's military dictatorship was unable to prevent al-Qaida regrouping in Pakistan. al-Qaida poses a threat to the Pakistani people and the larger world community. The regime has a vested interest in the continuation of the al-Qaida," she said in a lecture delivered at North Carolina on Thursday.

Asked whether she planned to return to Pakistan, Mrs Bhutto said she was ready to come back despite the possibility of contesting from behind bars but had decided to defer her return due to the "Bhutto-specific laws" and "blatant rigging".

She criticised the rejection of her nomination papers, saying: "The manner in which the nomination papers were rejected when those of Mr Nawaz Sharif were accepted was an eye-opener."

Asked whether her party, the Pakistan People's Party, had kept poll boycott as an option, Mrs Bhutto claimed her party was sure to win the forthcoming polls if the military regime did not manipulate the electoral process. "PPP is part of the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy and the ARD has taken the position that boycott is an option," she said.

Lahore HC dismisses plea: Lahore High Court has dismissed a petition to permanently disqualify Mr Nawaz Sharif and his family members from contesting. It has adjourned hearing on another petition from his wife Ms Kulsoom and brother Mr Shahbaz Sharif challenging the rejection of their nomination papers.

22 SEP 2003

NO DEATH PENALTY: ADVANI

Efforts on to get Abu Salem²²¹⁹ deported

191 By Prafulla Das

BHUBANESWAR, SEPT. 21. The Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, today expressed hope that the efforts of the Government and the Central Bureau of Investigation would result in the deportation of the underworld don, Abu Salem, from Portugal.

Talking to presspersons at the Bhubaneswar airport, Mr. Advani said the CBI was making efforts through the Interpol to get Salem deported from Portugal where he had been arrested and remanded for three months. "A team of CBI officials will go to Portugal, and I hope Abu Salem will be brought before the court in time."

Observing that Portugal was concerned because it does not permit death penalty for any criminal, Mr. Advani said India would assure that country that Salem would get a fair trial here and would not be awarded capital punishment.

Later, Mr. Advani said the Vajpayee Government was committed to fighting terrorism. Addressing a meeting where he launched the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, he said that ISI cells were being smashed across the country since the Vajpayee Government came to power. "We can even go to Portugal to catch them," he said.

CBI team for Portugal soon

By Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 21. Even as the underworld don, Abu Salem, has been detained in Lisbon, the CBI is focussing its efforts on securing his custody and bringing him back to India. New Delhi has been in constant touch with the Portuguese authorities to secure his deportation. Contact was maintained through the day for the purpose.

Salem, his companion and Bollywood starlet, Monica Bedi, and an aide, Sayed Haider, were detained by the Interpol-Lisbon on Wednesday outside their home on charges of possessing fake documents. The arrests came after the CBI, which represents Interpol in India, trailed the don and his movements for the past three months.

"Salem's arrest also marks the extremely meaningful and fruitful cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the U.S. as well as useful contacts with the Interpol-France

and Lisbon," the CBI Director, P.C. Sharma, said here. The CBI was putting together its team for Lisbon which would complete the legal formalities for bringing Salem back.

Mr. Sharma, who has been in touch with the FBI, said that the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs were also being consulted to work out the modalities for the deportation.

The arrest of Salem would have a "salutary impact" and convey the message to the underworld that global cooperation could check their activities and bring them to justice. "This is a very healthy sign. As terrorist and organised crimes rise, there is also recognition among various countries of the need to help each other," he said.

Salem, an accused in the Bombay serial blasts case of March 1993, is also wanted by police in Madhya Pradesh and Mumbai in about 50 cases of extortion and killings. His arrest comes at a time when the CBI has been able to secure deportation in the recent past of several other wanted criminals, money-launderers and extortionists from abroad such as Aftab Ansari, Raju Anadkad and Muthapa Rai.

Interest in the buying and selling properties in the U.S. and Europe by Salem also evoked suspicion of the law enforcing agencies there. He was trying to sell a property in the U.S. and his frequent visits to that country had aroused the suspicion of the FBI which got in touch with the CBI and the don's movements were monitored. In Lisbon too, he had acquired properties in the name of Monica Bedi, and also kept his aide, Haider, handy in order to wriggle out of tricky situations. A 'red corner' alert notice against Salem had earlier been issued by the Interpol in the Bombay blast case.

Later, addressing a press conference, the CBI Joint Director (Policy), Ashwani Kumar, said a CBI team could be sent to Lisbon early next week.

Mr. Kumar said that Salem alias Qayoom Ansari was sent to a 90-day judicial custody by a Portuguese court on Friday and that the CBI had enough time to "negotiate" his return. Salem and Monica Bedi were said to be posing in Portugal as Arsalan Mohsin Ali and Sana Malik.

He said their fingerprints and photographs had already been sent to the authorities in Portugal, which was of "great help" at the time of arrest.

22 SEP 2001

OFF HINDU

Interpol nabs Abu Salem in Portugal

CBI hopeful of bringing him to India

By Pratyush Kanth
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Abu Salem, one of India's most wanted criminals, has been arrested by Interpol authorities in the Portuguese capital Lisbon along with his companion, Bollywood starlet Monica Bedi.

According to sources in the Central Bureau of Investigation, the 34-year-old Salem whose real name is Abdul Qayyum Ansari, was caught because he was travelling on a forged passport. "Salem possesses about a dozen forged passports of various countries and he also uses several Indian passports while travelling to different parts of the world," a source said.

According to intelligence officials, the tracking of a satellite phone call made by Salem also helped pinpoint his location.

CBI officials said the full credit for the arrest should be given to the Dubai authorities who had provided key information to India about Salem and his movements. "After the extradition of Aftab Ansari, the Dubai authorities have become very cooperative and they were the ones who provided us with all the details of Abu Salem's passports, which we immediately flashed to Interpol offices all over the world and to several other intelligence agencies across the globe. His arrest is due to the swift action taken by us on the information gathered from Dubai and follows the close surveillance on his movements," said a source.

Although India does not have an extradition agreement with Portugal, the CBI is "quite hopeful" it will manage to get Salem back to India this time. "The post-9/11 scenario is totally different from the past and if we



Dawood

Abu Salem

present our case in a strong manner to the Portuguese authorities, then Salem should be with us soon," a CBI official said.

Salem, earlier a close associate of Dawood Ibrahim, is wanted in more than 100 cases of murder, extortion and abduction all over the country. His name has been linked to several high-profile cases, like the 1997 killing of music magnate Gulshan Kumar in Mumbai, the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts and the match-fixing controversy in cricket.

● Related report on Page 3

Pledge of 'no death sentence' likely

New Delhi: India may give an assurance to the Portuguese government that underworld don Abu Salem, detained in that country, will not be sentenced to death, deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani said here on Friday.

This is so as European countries are signatory to a convention which prohibits deportation of an accused to a country where he is likely to face death sentence, Mr Advani told reporters. "In this case, it is possible and Indian law permits that the necessary assurance may be given to the concerned government," he said. PTI

21 SEP 2002

US elite group to spearhead anti-terror war

CHARLESALDINGER

Washington, Sept. 18 (Reuters): The Pentagon plans to put the US military's elite Special Operations Command in charge of most anti-terrorist actions around the world in a shift to a more covert war against al Qaeda, US officials said today.

The command includes shadowy and highly trained special forces troops and counter-terrorism units that can conduct "snatch" or "kill" missions, among them Navy Seals and the army's Delta Force.

The officials also told Reuters that as many as 500 Special Operation troops had been recently moved to a base at Djibouti in east Africa for possible missions against al Qaeda guerrillas believed to be hiding throughout the region, especially Yemen.

"We have been looking at that

part of the world for many months. It's obvious that al Qaeda — including terrorists who have run from Afghanistan — are there," said one of the US officials, who asked not to be identified.

"They (the forces) are waiting for specific intelligence," said another official.

The officials confirming a report today in *The Washington Post* on the new Special Operations Command responsibilities, said CIA paramilitary units — which have operated with Special Operations forces in Afghanistan — are expected to work closely with SOCOM worldwide.

The Pentagon says that senior leaders and other guerrillas of fugitive Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, blamed by Washington for last year's September 11 attacks on America, have fled

from Afghanistan to neighbouring Pakistan and are also believed hiding in Yemen, Sudan, Georgia, Chechnya and other countries.

The Post reported that defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld was dissatisfied with the progress against terrorism by American military commands around the world and had decided to consolidate more control in the hands of SOCOM, based in Tampa, Florida.

The command is headed by air force Gen. Charles Holland and *The Post* said Holland had already been given direct responsibility for the hunt for al Qaeda in Yemen and Pakistan, two countries of major concern.

ABC News reported on Monday night that Special Operations troops had been moved to a base at Djibouti and that the US navy assault ship *Belleau Wood*

was sailing off the region with attack helicopters.

US officials confirmed Djibouti could be used as a jumping-off point for quick and clandestine strikes in that part of the world.

The New York Times reported that any strikes from Djibouti into Yemen could seek those responsible for the October 2000 explosives attack on the US destroyer *Cole* in Aden harbour of Yemen. It said the FBI was deeply disappointed with cooperation from Yemen's government in that case.

The Post said the move to centre the military fight against terrorism in the Special Operations Command was moving ahead quickly.

It said SOCOM was under orders to develop plans over the next few weeks for worldwide operations.

Defence department spokeswoman Victoria Clarke told *The Post* that the Special Operations Command would at times be given greater responsibility for operations but it was incorrect to say "henceforth that SOCOM would be the supported command."

Indonesian police say they are questioning a German man of Arab descent over connections to another Arab who allegedly planned attacks on US targets in Southeast Asia and who has been linked to al Qaeda.

National police spokesman Saleh Saaf said today the German, whom he declined to identify, had been initially detained in Jakarta for immigration offences.

He said police intelligence officials began questioning the man yesterday.



A US Special Forces soldier near Khost. (AP/PTI)

The war against global terrorism has no near solutions

Get going, Mr Annan

SHAM LAL

Kofi Annan has to get going to finish the troublesome Iraq business. The chief executive of the new global order has told him that the job has to be completed in a matter of "days and weeks, not months." There is no need for him to call a session of the security council. His task is to implement the old resolution and to tell Saddam Hussein that the United Nations has had enough of his tantrums and that he has not only to accept the return of the international team of inspectors to his country but also agree to leaving its members free to scour any place which they suspect of being used for storing or producing weapons of mass destruction.

So far as the Bush administration is concerned, it is not the United States of America which has to reconcile itself to the UN policy of endlessly waiting for the Iraqi leader to make up his mind but for the UN to fall in line with the US strategy which has made Iraq the main target in the second phase of the war against international terrorism. If the security council fails the test, the US will go it alone and will administer to Saddam Hussein a dose of the same bitter medicine it made the taliban swallow. It will oust the Iraqi dictator and replace him with someone more pliable.

It is the prospect of another Kuwait war which frightens France, Germany, China and Russia, together with much of the rest of the world. They know it can cause a new convulsion in the Arab world and make the pent-up resentment over the humiliation of the Palestinians explode in the face of the West. It will hurt badly the economy of every south Asian country by making drastic cuts in the remittances from their nationals working in the Gulf states. It is apt to jack up the already high oil prices. And ironically, it is likely to defeat the very objective of the current war by mobilizing more recruits for terrorist outfits.

All these fears may persuade even those who are puzzled over the intensity of US antagonism to Saddam Hussein to prevail upon the Iraqi dictator to avoid an armed confrontation with the only superpower since this is bound to inflict new wounds on his country already impoverished by 12 years of economic sanctions which have meant an annual loss of billions of dollars in revenues and caused the death of thousands of people because of widespread malnutrition and lack of adequate medicare facilities.

Saddam Hussein is not so dumb as not to see that what is at stake now is his own survival and that it is safer to lose face than risk a new defeat and suffer the fate of Osama bin Laden. The Americans may not have got hold of the man, "dead or alive", who masterminded the September 11 attacks which threw the US into panic, but have forced him to go into hiding. Surely, Saddam cannot hope to live down the shame of another crushing defeat nor relish the prospect of being

holed up in some obscure place, with both snoopers and commandos at his heels. This does not mean that he can be sure of escaping America's wrath even if he succumbs to international pressure. But he can at least buy some more time for himself and his country.

What is indeed most intriguing about the US strategy of making Iraq the main target of attack in the second phase of the war on international terrorism is that, for all his past sins, there is little credible evidence to establish any close links between Saddam Hussein and *jihadi* terrorist outfits. Yet, he looms almost as large as Osama bin Laden in the US dictionary of demonology. Perhaps the very idea of the remote possibility of his trying

brainwashed for years by religious bigots who motivate young people by convincing them that becoming martyrs in a holy war means buying a ticket to paradise. A young Palestinian suicide bomber, captured and interviewed by the Israeli police the other day, said he was pining to become a *shaheed*, despite the opposition of his family, because he was sure of winning eternal happiness after death as a reward for his act of self-sacrifice.

Pakistan had been responsible for putting the taliban in power. And the Inter-Services Intelligence worked for long in cahoots with the al Qaida. Ditching these old protégés and friends, who served as instruments of its Kashmir policy, was not easy for



‘ Saddam Hussein is not so dumb as not to see that it is safer to lose face than suffer the fate of Osama bin Laden ’

to grab the larger part of the oil wealth of the Gulf region one day makes the US administration go paranoid.

On the other hand, the US deliberately plays down the Saudi funding of terrorist outfits though it knows that the Wahabi regime, in a bid to keep the Saudi terrorists away from its territory which plays host to an American base, hands over large sums to them regularly as protection money. Perhaps the same logic applies to its cosy-ing up to the Musharraf government. The Bush administration is not so daft as not to be concerned at the way Pakistan has become the main refuge for outlawed international terrorist groups like al Qaida, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, and at the brazen manner in which the general has rigged the new constitution to make democracy a mere cover for a military dictatorship, giving a council packed with his cronies the right to sack any elected government which incurs its displeasure. But their reaction to all this chicanery is a studied silence.

How do US policy-makers justify all this cynicism to themselves, if not to the victims of terrorism outside America? Probably they say here is a society

It is no surprise therefore if, whenever the Americans' attention is drawn to Pervez Musharraf's failure to deliver on his promise to put an end to cross-border terrorism, the stock alibi is that, even after making due allowance for everything, he is still their best bet in Pakistan.

In any case, America itself is no angel of peace or rectitude. There has been only one marked change in recent years in its policy with regard to military intervention in conflicts where its strategic interests, real or imaginary, are involved. The trauma of the Vietnam war has made it increasingly reluctant to commit its ground forces in fighting because of the fear that heavy casualties are likely to be extremely unpopular at home. This has made it depend primarily on its hi-tech air force to achieve its war goals, with minimal loss of life.

This change has paid off to a large extent as shown by its experiences, first in the Kuwait war, then in Slovenia and more recently in Afghanistan. But this strategy has its limitations. In Afghanistan, for example, though the taliban regime has been ousted from power, the war-ravaged country has neither been rid of taliban elements, nor of local warlords whose writ still runs in the provinces under their control. Inter-ethnic conflicts continue to threaten both the unity of the country and the stability of the new government in Kabul. Nothing shows more clearly the fragile character of the Hamid Karzai regime than that its head should depend for his security not on local troops but on foreign soldiers. The measly investment in relief and rehabilitation work indeed makes the future look both bleak and uncertain.

As for the two hostile neighbours in south Asia, it is pathetic to see the heads of government of both India and Pakistan make vituperative speeches, with each appealing, at private meetings, to the US president to put pressure on the other in its favour. Indeed the way both hang on each word said by George W. Bush to find out if there is a tilt in the desired direction has by now become an embarrassing ritual. The ironical outcome, in so far as New Delhi is concerned, is to make the US willy-nilly a party to what the Indian government insists is a strictly bilateral issue.

Though officials here often talk about a further strengthening of the developing "strategic relationship" between the two big democracies, New Delhi ought to know by now that such a claim would carry much greater weight if India left it to the US to explain in public more precisely the character of the new relationship. The proposed removal of the ban on US exports of hi-tech equipment for nuclear power plants, space research, and other vital fields is most welcome. But it does not make "strategic" what is in fact a most unequal relationship.

Musharraf. Yet, he turned against them at the US's behest under duress. And though his country was seething with anti-American sentiments, he took the risk of ceding military bases in his territory to the US. What can the US administration do if the man has still some sneaking sympathy for those he not long ago hailed as "freedom fighters" or if the taliban and al Qaida have many fellow travellers in the army and its intelligence setup?

In these circumstances, there is bound to be frequent resort to double standards and doublespeak in explaining away the contradictions in US policy. It is quixotic to expect the Bush administration to resolve them to please India. The messy situation rules out both neat solutions and more cogent

Never mind UN, USA is going to war

It was Dag Hammarskjöld, the greatest of UN secretary-generals, practitioner and contemplator in one, who observed that the UN was not established to take humanity to heaven but to save it from hell. He would have been in his intellectual element wrestling with the present situation. Is it better if the USA does go to war against Iraq that the UN approve it?

It didn't do the UN any good to be left on the shelf when the USA and its main European allies bypassed it and decided to bomb Belgrade without a Security Council mandate. Or is it better that the USA goes ahead without the approval of the UN?

If things go wrong with the war which well they might – Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told the *Financial Times* on Tuesday that he despairs at a “racist” war that could spark communal violence across the globe – then the UN will at least be in a position to use its diplomatic influence, its aid machinery and even its peacekeeping forces to help quell these eruptions.

It was one of Hammarskjöld's appointees, Irish writer Conor Cruise O'Brien, who summed up the dilemma that confronts the UN

on these life and death occasions, “The feeling that the thing feared may be averted, and the thing hoped for won, by the solemn and collective use of words. This prayer still converges on the UN – as on a holy place – at times when, as in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, in the Middle Eastern crisis of the summer of 1967, the scourge of war seems once more about to descend. It is the prayer that makes the drama sacred.”

Though not much talked about these days, we went through a similar crisis in March 1998. There was plenty of talk of going to war and Secretary-General Kofi Annan rode off to Baghdad, to talk and talk and to pull Saddam Hussein's sting. On his return, he was treated like a hero and his friends likened him to Hammarskjöld. Well, he brought four and a half year's of peace, which is not bad.

But what is worrying is that a re-read of the debates of the time show that nothing has changed in substance. It was exactly the same fear of weapons of mass destruction that drove the USA to the brink of war and it was the promises to Mr Annan by Mr Hussein to allow more intrusive inspections that drove it back. But the inference then was that if Mr Hussein did not deliver on his part of the bargain that Mr Annan would use his influence to persuade the Security Council that it would have to vote to support armed

action. Professor Martin van Creveld of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem made perhaps the profoundest comment on the crisis: “Clinton's wrangling with the UN Security Council and its emissary, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, brings to mind the way in which medieval rulers once required the Pope's consent before going to war. Now even the world's sole remaining superpower finds it extraordinarily difficult to go to war without obtaining the sanction of international law. Thus the recent crisis may be remembered more as a stepping stone towards delegitimising war between nations.”

Remembering this, the French and the Saudis – with the connivance of Secretary of State Colin Powell who seems to have trumped Vice President Dick Cheney on the going-to-the-UN issue – are perhaps walking the USA into a trap. By acknowledging that they may change their own position on the need for a war, but only as long as the Security Council approves one, are they leading the Americans into what O'Brien called “the solemn and collective

use of appropriate words” as a substitute for war?

Probably not, because this time the USA appears determined to go to war to depose Mr Hussein, irrespective of whether Iraq does allow in unfettered inspection and whether it wins UN approval or not.

Nevertheless, Washington has consciously chosen to make things more difficult for itself, which is a brave or foolish position, depending upon the vantage point. On the other hand, given Mr Cheney's predilection for war, it is doubtful if President George Bush would have sanctioned this course if General Powell hadn't been able to assure him that he would go along with the larger American gameplan if the UN gambit – and it was never meant to be more than that – failed.

The perspective on Mr Hussein has evaporated before the determination of the one and only superpower. One can say that the invasion of Kuwait a decade ago was not the Anschluss. An invasion of the Saudi oil fields would not be the Sudetenland. The Republican Guard is not the 5th Panzer division.

The weapons of mass destruction that Iraq possesses are primitive and are to be used only if Mr Hussein fears that he is going to be toppled by an invading force. But all these arguments now seem to be blowing away in the wind. The USA has decided to go to war. The time for “the solemn and collective use of appropriate words” is probably almost over.

world view

JONATHAN POWER

TATESMAN

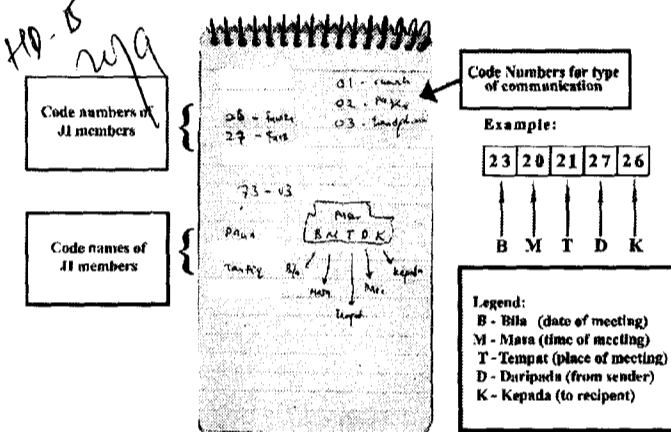
'Terrorists plotted to destabilise S-E Asia'

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 19. The Singapore Government today announced its findings after investigations that most of the suspected terrorists, who were arrested here last month, were engaged in activities designed to sow distrust and damage relations between the City-State and the neighbouring Malaysia. However, the latest anti-terror swoop had severely disrupted the planned activities of the Jemaah Islamiyah, a terrorist outfit, insofar as Singapore was concerned, it was stated.

The *modus operandi* of the 21 suspects, 18 of whom were served with two-year detention orders under Singapore's Internal Security Act a few days ago, consisted of drawing up plans for launching terrorist strikes in the City-State and portraying them as acts of aggression from the Malaysian side. Some of the

Notation of Recall Order / Codes in notebook recovered from Faiz Abdullah Ashblie



An undated photo shows a notebook detailing various codes, seized from a detained suspected Muslim militant in Singapore.— Reuters

targets, which the suspects had chosen, were water pipelines and the Ministry of Defence premises in Singapore.

Overall, the Singapore Government's investigations are said to have uncovered plans by the terrorist-suspects to try and

establish a greater Islamic state that might comprise Indonesia and Malaysia besides the Mindanao region of the southern Philippines. The more immediate plan of those arrested was to destabilise Malaysia's present system and disturb Singapore's ties with Malaysia, the City-State's investigators concluded.

Of the 21 Singaporeans arrested in an anti-terror swoop on August 16 this year, 19 were found to have been associated with the clandestine Jemaah Islamiyah, a South East Asian group, at some time or other. The two others were linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a separatist group in the Philippines. Three among the 21 were placed under restrictions without being detained under the Internal Security Act.

Some of the arrested had undergone training in militant activities at camps in Afghanistan in the past.

GEORGE VS SADDAM

- **Jan. 30, 2002:** George W. Bush says Iran, Iraq and North Korea form an "axis of evil" developing weapons of mass destruction
- **June 16:** Bush moves to let the CIA conduct covert operations to topple Saddam Hussein
- **July 5:** Iraq and the UN fail to reach an accord on return of arms inspectors
- **Aug. 5:** The White House dismisses an invitation from Iraq to be given free access to any site
- **Aug. 19:** Iraq's parliament unanimously backs the nomination of Saddam to run unopposed for another seven years
- **Sept. 6:** War rhetoric rises, oil prices leap
- **Sept. 9:** A report says Iraq could build a nuclear bomb within months if it obtained fissile material from abroad but lacks the ability to make its own nuclear material
- **Sept. 12:** Bush urges the UN to force Iraq to disarm and says action was inevitable if Baghdad failed to do so
- **Sept. 14:** Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says that UN inspectors can only return under a comprehensive deal preventing US attacks and lifting 12-year-old UN sanctions
- **Sept. 16:** UN chief Kofi Annan says he has received a letter from Iraq agreeing to allow the return of UN inspectors without conditions

Pakistan police link Pearl killer to al-Qaida

Karachi, September 17

AN AL-QAIDA militant arrested with alleged September 11 organisers Ramzi Binalshibh has been identified as one of the killers of *Wall Street Journal* correspondent Daniel Pearl, a senior police official said on Tuesday.

The identification was made by a Pakistani held but not charged in the kidnap-slaying of Pearl, the South Asian correspondent for the *Journal*, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

19/9/04

Jail frees student who threatened Bush

A PAKISTANI student who threatened to kill US President George W Bush a week after the September 11 terror attacks was mistakenly freed along with three others by the District of Columbia jail.

Khushal Khan was freed last month but Khan and one

PTI, Washington

house where 10 suspects, including Binalshibh, were held. Most of them were Yemenis, officials

have said. The official refused to identify the alleged Pearl killer by name but said he was not among the five people, including Binalshibh, who were handed over to US authorities on Monday and flown out of the country.

If true, Karim's statement would be the first evidence that al-Qaida may have been involved in Pearl's abduction and killing. Pearl was kidnapped in January while investigating links between Pakistani militants and Richard C Reid, who was arrested in December on a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives in his shoes.

Pearl's dismembered body was found in May in a shallow grave in Karachi. Police officials have said they were led to the grave by Karim and two others.

It was unclear what impact the revelation would have on the Government's case against four Pakistani militants who were convicted of Pearl's abduction in July. British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was sentenced to death by hanging and the others received life sentences. All have appealed.

Pearl's body was found after the trial of the four had already begun. AP



Kuwaiti citizen Hulam Al Blushi steps out of his chemical and biological warfare protection tent installed in the living room of his house in Kuwait City on Tuesday. Kuwaiti citizens, besides institutions and hotels, are buying the Finnish-made tent, which can accommodate 10 people. It is equipped with an isolation chamber and an air pump, which supplies filtered air to the occupants.

Fearing strike, Iraq allows UN inspectors in

AGENCIES

DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

IRAQI Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said on Tuesday that Baghdad had thwarted any justification for a US led attack by allowing the unconditional return of UN arms inspectors.

Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, under intense world pressure, and backed by the threat of US military action, agreed late on Monday to readmit UN inspectors without conditions after an absence of nearly four years.

The Iraqi decision drew a hostile response from Washington that has insisted there is still a need for a UN Security Council resolution requiring Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Aziz said the sceptical US and British response to Baghdad's decision to readmit the inspectors had revealed their "true (negative) intentions towards Baghdad." He said the two nations coveted Iraq's oil wealth and wanted to divide West Asia.

Washington said it would press on anyway to get a new UN resolution demanding Iraqi compliance. But Russia — a barometer of more moderate opinion on Iraq — said a looming military crisis had been steered back into politics.

Britain reacted sceptically to the decision, urging the world to be wary

of Saddam. Iraq's offer came as British public opposition to a war against Baghdad was shown to be ebbing in a new survey.

The ICM/Guardian poll published on Tuesday showed that outright opposition in Britain to military intervention in Iraq had shrunk to 40 per cent, from 50 per cent three weeks ago.

Australia cautiously welcomed the Iraqi decision but echoed Washington's scepticism about Baghdad backing its words with actions.

Prime Minister John Howard said the international community should not negotiate those arrangements with Baghdad and inspectors had to be given unhindered access to sites, documents and people.

Malaysia called for UN sanctions on Iraq to be lifted following Baghdad's decision to re-admit UN weapons inspectors. Malaysia, as the next chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), had urged

Iraq to let weapons inspectors return in order to get sanctions lifted and forestall US led military action.

Japan welcomed the news but said the real issue was whether Baghdad will live up to the promise. "The issue is what happens from here. Will Iraq carry out what they said in the letter? We will have to watch that carefully," government spokesman Yasuo Fukuda said.

WAR THREAT / IRAN, EGYPT HAIL BAGHDAD MOVE

Attack talk must stop: Iraq

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), SEPT. 17. After agreeing to allow United Nations weapon inspectors on its soil unconditionally, Iraq has asserted that there was now no justification for the U.S. to attack it.

"All the reasons for an attack have been eliminated", Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said in Baghdad today. Mr. Aziz reiterated that Iraq had agreed to readmit U.N. weapons inspectors and cooperate with them. "Yes, we agree on the return of weapons inspectors and are ready to work with the (U.N.) Secretary-General in order to put this (Iraqi) decision into effect", he observed.

In a related development, Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, has sent a letter to the U.N. General Assembly which will be read out by the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Naji Sabri, who is already in New York, the Iraq News Agency (INA) said.

Despite the Iraqi offer, the U.S. has expressed scepticism and described Baghdad's turnaround as a "tactical move." In fact, Washington has maintained that Iraq's stance has not obviated the need for a fresh U.N. Security Council resolution that would require it to destroy all its weapons of mass



SURPRISE MOVE: The Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein (centre) meets officials in Baghdad on Monday, following which Baghdad announced its decision to allow U.N. weapons inspectors into the country. — Reuters

destruction. U.N. inspections on chemical and biological weapons as well as their delivery systems, such as missiles, are steered by a U.N. office in New York. But inspections related to nuclear weapons is conducted by a special team on Iraq under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) based in Vienna.

Taking exception to the negative U.S. response that was also echoed by Britain, Mr. Aziz said this had revealed the "true intentions" of these countries towards Iraq, which was to exercise control over its oil. In the region, Israel, which has been an advocate of a military strike against Iraq, said the Iraqi position was extremely unlikely

to affect Washington's disposition towards Baghdad. The Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, who is at present in New York said, "The position of the United States is far-reaching, unequivocal, and I hardly see any way for them to step back from it." Other neighbouring countries that wish to avoid a war have begun to react positively to Baghdad's position. Egypt's Foreign Minister, Ahmed Maher, said that the Iraqi decision was "the beginning of a process of easing tensions." Iran described the Iraqi decision as "wise and sensible". Iran's spokesman hoped that the shift in Iraqi stance "will stop the drums of war" from beating.

18 SEP 2003

THE HINDU

Masood Azhar granted bail, arrested again

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

187a
ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 17. A judge in Punjab province has granted bail to Masood Azhar, chief of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad, on the ground that no charge had been made out against him. However, the Government issued an order for his re-arrest for 90 more days. The Government is faced with a delicate situation with regard to leaders and cadres of the outfits banned early this year as the investigative agencies have not been able to produce any evidence of criminal charges against them. As a result, it was forced to release most of them under an amnesty scheme.

In the wake of the charges by India that the Jaish and the Lashkar-e-Taiba were behind the December 13 Parliament attack, the Government had banned the two out-

fits and detained their leaders, Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar. Both of them were taken into custody under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO), which empowers the Government to arrest a person for three months without any specific charges.

At the end of the three-month period both were released. Pakistani media reported that they were once again detained under MPO in March-April. However, when Prof. Saeed's wife approached the Lahore High Court recently, the Government maintained that he was not under its custody.

Following the submission by the Government, followers of Prof. Saeed expressed apprehensions about his safety. Curiously, the web site maintained by the organisation headed by Prof. Saeed recently carried a long write-up by him on the constitutional

HD-12
Jinnah
changes made by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf. There is no explanation by either the organisation or the Government on how he managed to write for the web magazine.

The same kind of confusion has prevailed about the status of Masood Azhar, one of the three militants released by India in December 1999 in exchange for passengers on board the hijacked Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu.

A report from Dera Ghazi Khan on Monday said the Additional Sessions Judge had granted bail to him against a surety bond of Rs. 30,000 in a case under Section 16 MPO and Arms Ordinance 11 B 20/65..

Records showed that no law and order problem had been created as a result of the alleged speech by the petitioner nor any segment of the public put in fear.

18 SEP 2002

111100

Pak prepared to extradite 9/11 suspect to America

AGENCIES

KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 16

PAKISTAN said on Monday it was prepared to extradite key Al Qaeda suspect Ramzi Binalshibh to the United States after completing its own investigations and legal formalities.

Binalshibh is said to have been a prominent member of an Al Qaeda cell based in the German city of Hamburg and is accused of having played a key role in planning the Sept. 11 attacks along with another member of that cell, Mohamed Atta.

The German Government had issued an international arrest warrant for the Yemeni national, but said on Sunday it was prepared to stand aside in favour of Washington. German Interior Minister Otto Schily said in Berlin on Monday the government has decided not to pursue extradition of the former Hamburg resident. He said that given the



A man identified as Ramzi Binalshibh by FBI. AP/PTI

“terrible attacks of Sept. 11, it goes without saying that Americans have priority for his extradition.”

Germany has an arrest warrant for Binalshibh charging him with more than 3,000 counts of murder for allegedly conspiring in Hamburg with hijacker Mohamed Atta and other Sept. 11 plotters.

“Pakistan is obliged under international law to hand over the suspect to the country

Canada denied access to teen held by US

■ TORONTO: The US denied a Canadian request for consular access to a 15-year-old Canadian citizen captured in Afghanistan, an official said on Monday. The youth, identified as Omar Khadr by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, had been arrested on suspicion of killing a US soldier in Afghanistan, according to Canadian sources. — AFP

where they are wanted,” Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said. But Haider retracted an earlier Interior Ministry statement that Pakistan was holding a second high-profile Al Qaeda suspect after raids in Karachi last week. Binalshibh is one of the most important Al Qaeda members to be taken into custody over the past year. — Reuters

17 SEP 2003

NDIAN EXPRESS

U.S. attack on Iraq — at whose cost?

By Sudha Mahalingam

EVEN AS the United States and allied airplanes prepare to launch pre-emptive strikes on southern Iraq, the American strategic stockpile of petroleum is brimming over. The U.S. will have enough oil to see it through the impending war. Last November, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, had ordered the filling up of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its full capacity of 700 million barrels. Since January, the stockpile has been adding 150,000 barrels a day. But that was not the only smart move Mr. Bush made.

Even before the ghastly attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center last September, long before Iraq entered U.S. radar range as a possible target of attack, the U.S. had been fine-tuning its energy policy in an attempt to access new sources of oil and gas. On May 17, 2001, Mr. Bush announced his controversial new energy policy whose main thrust was to minimise American dependence on Gulf oil, even if it meant dumping the Kyoto Protocol and drilling in the pristine snows of Alaska. This resolve was reinforced by the events of 9/11. Outside the U.S. administration, there was some loud thinking about life without Saudi oil, especially after September 11. After all, 15 of the 18 hijackers who crashed their planes on U.S. civilian targets that day were Saudis.

Currently, the U.S. imports half of its hydrocarbon requirements from foreign sources and this figure is set to go up to two thirds by 2020. Only 30 per cent of American oil imports come from the Gulf region, the rest being supplied mostly by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and others, which means that just 15 per cent of the total U.S. energy requirements are supplied by the Gulf countries. Now, the U.S. has trained its sights on the Caspian Sea region, believed to be the next energy frontier. The Americans are sparing no efforts — military, economic or diplomatic — in their quest for new oil sources. The American administration has successfully stationed over 4,000

troops in the oil and gas-rich Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan and even Georgia, in the course of its war on terror. Direct American aid to the Central Asian Republics is on the rise and U.S. investments in the region are estimated to be upwards of \$20 billion.

On the one hand, the Americans

number of the OPEC, adding 2.2 million barrels a day to the global supply. However, during the first six months of this year, the conflict between the U.N. Sanctions Committee and Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation squeezed Iraqi exports to a mere 1.24 million barrels a day. Earlier this year, Mr. Bush's infamous "axis of evil" speech had left both

tripartite Rupee-Rouble agreement involving the then Soviet Union. The war threw a spanner into this mutually beneficial arrangement and India had to go scurrying for alternative financing arrangements to meet the hike in crude prices. At that time, crude price rose from \$16.3 a barrel in July to \$34.6 a barrel in October 1990.

For the next six months, India's petroleum import bill more than doubled. This time around, India is importing only a small proportion of Iraqi oil per se, but the bulk of our needs comes from the Gulf members of the OPEC. Already prices have hardened in the last few weeks. Any sustained price hike can play havoc with the Indian economy. It can slow down recovery and fuel inflation. Worse, it can disrupt remittances from the Gulf. NRI remittances in 2001 were \$2.75 billion, a third of our total capital inflows, and a substantial chunk of it is bound to have emanated from the Gulf.

But the war could do worse. The Straits of Hormuz through which 14 million barrels of oil pass everyday is just two miles wide at its narrowest. Either Iran or Iraq, or both, could block the Straits of Hormuz and choke off supplies from the entire region. The E.U. and the Americans can draw from their strategic reserves and stave off shortages, but that luxury is unavailable to India and China.

An energy-intensive development paradigm has rendered India extremely vulnerable to even modest increases in the price of petroleum products. That the price hikes will come at a time when the Indian petroleum sector is liberalised and integrated with the international market is even more unfortunate. The Government can theoretically shrug its shoulders and blame the markets and curse the U.S. for its cussedness, but can hardly escape the consequences of the impending war. By all indications, we are in for very rough times ahead.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi.)

The U.S. will suffer the least in terms of access to oil... Japan, China and India will be left holding the can when supplies get disrupted

are making elaborate and expensive plans to ensure that the oil pipelines from Central Asia do not pass through Russian territory, and on the other go to great lengths to woo Vladimir Putin as their energy ally. They see little contradiction in such moves. If there is one country that can single-handedly tip the scales against oil from the Gulf, it is Russia which is quietly increasing its annual production by half a million barrels a day.

All these measures will ensure that the U.S. will suffer the least in terms of access to oil during the impending war on Iraq. Even Europe imports only 35 per cent of its oil requirements from the Gulf and may get off relatively lightly, thanks to the common E.U. stockpile. Clearly, Japan, China and India will be left holding the can when supplies get disrupted. Japan imports 75 per cent of its oil and gas from the Middle East, but can draw from the E.U. stockpile in the event of an emergency. Asia as a whole imports 60 per cent of its oil from the Middle East, with China and India making up most of the demand.

Oil supply disruption is inevitable in the event of a sustained attack. Iraq is already on parole — the U.N. sanctions committee has devised the food-for-oil programme, ostensibly on humanitarian considerations, but equally to keep the global oil taps flowing at full force. After all, Baghdad is an important mem-

ber of the OPEC, adding 2.2 million barrels a day to the global supply. However, during the first six months of this year, the conflict between the U.N. Sanctions Committee and Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation squeezed Iraqi exports to a mere 1.24 million barrels a day. Earlier this year, Mr. Bush's infamous "axis of evil" speech had left both

Iran and Iraq bristling. They responded by threatening to use oil as a weapon against the U.S. and its allies. Between April 8 and May 7 this year, Iraq suspended its oil exports entirely as a protest against Israeli action against Palestine. Saddam Hussein had followed a scorched earth policy during the Gulf War, damaging oil installations in Kuwait. He might well repeat it now. Even if he destroys only Iraqi oil wells, the global oil supply will drop by at least a million barrels a day.

This time around, can the world depend on Saudi Arabia, the only OPEC country with spare oil capacity in the region, to oblige by increasing production and keeping prices in check? The Saudis have kept the OPEC on a tight leash these last six months so much so that the prices have been consistently within the OPEC price band. The best-case scenario is one of acute price volatility and the worst-case, sharp price hikes. By all indications, oil-importing countries are in for some nasty shocks.

Imagine what it can do to India which imports over 70 per cent of its hydrocarbons and pays a whopping Rs.70,000 crores annually at current consumption levels. During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war India was importing 70 per cent of its oil requirements from these two countries. In 1991, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, India was importing 2.25 million tonnes of crude from Iraq under a

Last Wednesday saw the first anniversary of September 11, a date like no other in the history of our times. Two leaders in their fields analyse the aftermath

Drain the swamp, mosquitoes will go

1619

BY NOAM CHOMSKY

HT-9

SEPTEMBER 11 shocked many Americans into an awareness that they had better pay much closer attention to what the US government does in the world and how it is perceived. Many issues have been opened for discussion that were not on the agenda before. That's all to the good.

It is also the merest sanity, if we hope to reduce the likelihood of future atrocities. It may be comforting to pretend that our enemies "hate our freedoms," as President Bush stated, but it is hardly wise to ignore the real world, which conveys different lessons.

Bush is not the first to ask: "Why do they hate us?" In a staff discussion 44 years ago, President Eisenhower described "the campaign of hatred against us (in the Arab world), not by the governments but by the people". His National Security Council outlined the basic reasons: the US supports corrupt and oppressive governments and is "opposing political or economic progress" because of its interest in controlling the oil resources of the region.

Post-September 11 surveys in the Arab world reveal that the same reasons hold today, compounded with resentment over specific policies. Strikingly, that is even true of privileged, western-oriented sectors in the region.

To cite one example. In the August 1 issue of *Far Eastern Economic Review*, Ahmed Rashid writes that in Pakistan "there is growing anger that US support is allowing (Musharraf's) military regime to delay the promise of democracy".

Today we do ourselves few favours by choosing to believe that "they hate us" and "hate our freedoms". On the contrary, these are attitudes of people who like Americans and admire much about the US, including its freedoms. What they hate is official policies that deny them the freedoms to which they too aspire.

For such reasons, the post-September 11 rantings of Osama bin Laden — for example, about US support for corrupt and brutal regimes, or about the US "invasion" of Saudi Arabia — have a certain resonance, even among those who despise and fear him. From resentment, anger and frustration, terrorist bands hope to draw support and recruits.

We should also be aware that much of the world regards Washington as a terrorist regime. In recent years, the US has taken or backed actions in Colombia, Nicaragua, Panama, Sudan and Turkey, to name a few, that meet official US definitions of "terrorism" — that is, when Americans apply the term to enemies.

In the most sober establishment journal, *Foreign Affairs*, Samuel Huntington wrote in 1999: "While the US regularly denounces various countries as 'rogue states,' in the eyes of many countries it is becoming the rogue superpower ... the single greatest external threat to their societies."

Such perceptions are not changed by the fact that, on September 11, for the first time, a western country was subjected on home soil to a horrendous terrorist attack of a kind all too familiar to victims of western power. The attack goes far beyond what's sometimes called the "retail terror" of the IRA, FLN or Red Brigades.

The September 11 terrorism elicited harsh con-

demnation throughout the world and an outpouring of sympathy for the innocent victims. But with qualifications.

An international Gallup poll in late September found little support for "a military attack" by the US in Afghanistan. In Latin America, the region with the most experience of US intervention, support ranged from 2 per cent in Mexico to 16 per cent in Panama.

The current "campaign of hatred" in the Arab world is, of course, also fuelled by US policies toward Israel-Palestine and Iraq. The US has provided the crucial support for Israel's harsh military occupation, now in its 35th year.

One way for the US to lessen Israeli-Palestinian tensions would be to stop refusing to join the longstanding international consensus that calls for recognition of the right of all states in the region to live in peace and security, including a Palestinian state in the currently occupied territories (perhaps with minor and mutual border adjustments).

In Iraq, a decade of harsh sanctions under US pressure has strengthened Saddam Hussein while leading to the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. Washington's present justifications to attack Iraq have far less credibility than when President Bush Sr was welcoming Saddam as an ally and a trading partner after he had committed his worst brutalities — as in Halabja, where Iraq attacked Kurds with poison gas in 1988. At the time, the murderer Saddam was more dangerous than he is today.

As for a US attack against Iraq, no one, including Donald

Rumsfeld, can realistically guess the possible costs and consequences. Radical Islamist extremists surely hope that an attack on Iraq will kill many people and destroy much of the country, providing recruits for terrorist actions. Threats are everywhere. The prescription for endless war poses a far greater danger to Americans than perceived enemies do, for reasons the terrorist organisations understand very well.

Twenty years ago, the former head of Israeli military intelligence, Yehoshaphat Harkabi, also a leading Arabist, made a point that still holds true. "To offer an honourable solution to the Palestinians respecting their right to self-determination: that is the solution of the problem of terrorism," he said. "When the swamp disappears, there will be no more mosquitoes."

At the time, Israel enjoyed the virtual immunity from retaliation within the occupied territories that lasted until very recently. But Harkabi's warning was apt, and the lesson applies more generally.

Well before September 11 it was understood that with modern technology, the rich and powerful will lose their near monopoly of the means of violence and can expect to suffer atrocities on home soil.

If we insist on creating more swamps, there will be more mosquitoes, with awesome capacity for destruction. If we devote our resources to draining the swamps, addressing the roots of the "campaigns of hatred", we can not only reduce the threats we face but also live up to ideals that we profess and that are not beyond reach if we choose to take them seriously.

The Guardian



George and Laura Bush at a wreath-laying ceremony to remember 9/11. The President has vowed that a balanced world will emerge from the ashes

Securing freedom's triumph

BY GEORGE W BUSH

THE SEPTEMBER 11 attacks moved Americans to grief and horror — and moved the US to war. They revealed the cruelty of our enemies, clarified grave threats to our country and demonstrated the character and decency of our people. At a moment of great testing, the spirit of men and women in New York City, at the Pentagon and aboard Flight 93 became the spirit of our country.

The terrible illumination of these events has also brought new clarity to America's role in the world. In great tragedy, we have also seen great opportunities. We must have the wisdom and courage to seize these opportunities.

America's greatest opportunity is to create a balance of world power that favours human freedom. We will use our position to build an atmosphere of international order and openness in which progress and liberty can flourish. A peaceful world of growing freedom serves American long-term interests, reflects enduring American ideals and unites America's allies. We defend this peace by opposing and preventing violence by terrorists and outlaw regimes. We preserve this peace by building good relations among the world's great powers and we extend this peace by encouraging free and open societies on every continent.

The defence of peace is a difficult struggle of uncertain duration. America, along with our allies, is relentlessly pursuing terrorist networks in every part of the world to disrupt their planning, training and financing. With our allies, we must also confront the growing threat of regimes that support terror, seek chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and build ballistic missiles. On this issue, the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic. We must deny terrorists and their allies the destructive means to match their hatred.

At the same time, we have the best opportunity in generations to build a world where great powers cooperate in peace instead of continually prepare for war. The 20th century, in particular, was dominated by a series of destructive national rivalries that left battlefields and graveyards across the earth. Competition between great nations is in-

evitable, but armed conflict in our world is not. September 11 revealed more clearly than ever that the world's great powers stand on the same side of a divide — united by common dangers of terrorist violence and chaos, and moving toward common values.

The US, Japan and our Pacific friends, our NATO allies and now all of Europe share a deep commitment to human freedom. Russia is now a nation in hopeful transition, a country reaching for a better future based on democracy and the free market and an important partner in the war on terror. Chinese leaders are discovering that economic freedom is the only source of national wealth.

Common interests and values among the great powers are also the basis for promoting peace and security around the globe. In the past, great-power rivals took sides in difficult regional problems, making divisions deeper and solutions more complicated and elusive. Today, from West Asia to South Asia, we are gathering broad international coalitions to increase the pressure for peace.

More than ever, we know that weak states, like Afghanistan, can pose a great danger to the peace of the world. Poverty does not transform poor people into terrorists and murderers. Yet poverty, corruption and repression are a toxic combination in many societies, leading to weak governments that are unable to enforce order or patrol their borders and are vulnerable to terrorist networks and drug cartels.

America is confronting global poverty. Free trade and free markets have proved their ability to lift whole societies out of poverty — so the US is working with the entire global trading community to build a world that trades in freedom and therefore grows in prosperity. Through the Millennium Challenge Account, the US will deliver greater development assistance to poor nations that govern justly, invest in their people and encourage economic freedom.

America will also take the side of brave men and women who advocate human rights and democratic values, from Africa to Latin America, Asia and the Islamic world. In our diplomatic efforts, development aid, international broadcasting and educational assis-

tance, the US will promote moderation, tolerance and the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity — the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, and respect for women, private property, free speech and equal justice.

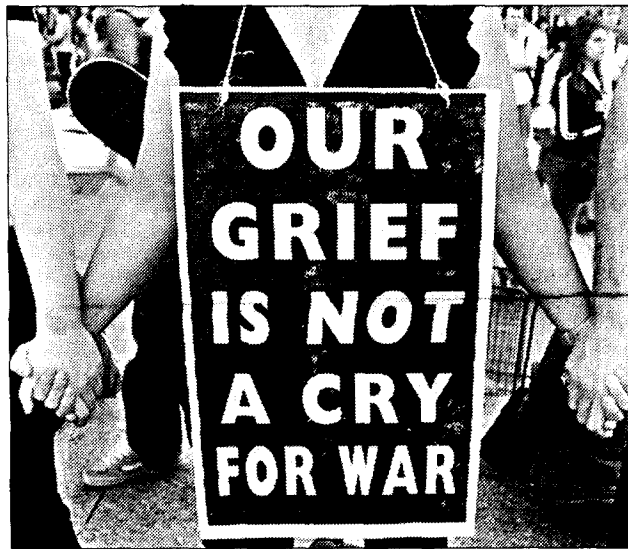
Terrorism has not only challenged the world, it has clarified some fundamental values. Every nation now faces a choice between lawful change and chaotic violence; between joyless conformity and an open, creative society; and between the celebration of death in suicide and murder and the defense of life and its dignity.

Many governments are being forced to re-examine their own tolerance for fanaticism and their sponsorship of hateful propaganda. Even free nations have been forced to re-examine the nature of their commitment to freedom — to determine if this commitment is a reflection of convention and culture or the universal demand of conscience and morality.

America's people and its government are responding decisively to the challenges of our changed world. We are committed to defending our society against current and emerging threats. And we are determined to stand for the values that gave our nation its birth. We believe that freedom and respect for human rights are owed to every human being, in every culture. We believe that the deliberate murder of innocent civilians and the oppression of women are everywhere and always wrong. And we refuse to ignore or appease the aggression and brutality of evil men.

Throughout history, freedom has been threatened by war and terror; it has been challenged by the clashing wills of powerful states and the designs of tyrants; and it has been tested by widespread poverty and disease. What has changed since Sept. 11 is our nation's appreciation of the urgency of these issues — and the new opportunities we have for progress. Today, humanity holds in its hands the opportunity to further freedom's triumph over all its age-old foes. The US welcomes its responsibility to lead in this great mission.

The New York Times



The answer to terror attacks is not more terror — in the guise of military action — but addressing the root cause of hatred

Operative's arrest may unravel Al-Qaeda secrets

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 14. The Pakistan police captured a gang of alleged Al-Qaeda members including Ramzi Binalshibh, wanted by the United States in connection with the September 11 attacks of last year, in a raid on an apartment in Karachi on Wednesday.

An official statement by the Interior Ministry said law enforcement agencies conducted raids in Karachi to apprehend suspected militants on clues from intelligence agencies. It said that on the nights between Sept. 9-10, and the morning of Sept. 11, the Sindh police conducted raids, as a result of which 12 foreigners had been apprehended and two were killed. "Two out of those arrested are suspected to be high-level Al-Qaeda men and their identity is being confirmed".

The capture of the high-profile Al-Qaeda member was certainly not a planned operation. This is evident from the fact that the initial raid on the apartment involved a small team of police and security agencies. It was only when a grenade was thrown at the party that reinforcements were called in and a three-hour battle ensued.

At least one of the security personnel was seriously injured in the operation. Pakistan had not disclosed the identity of the detained on Wednesday. Perhaps, the security agencies were not aware of the nature of their "catch".

As international television channels and wire agencies began flashing the news about the capture of Binalshibh, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, made it a point to issue a statement from New York, congratulating the "excellent work" by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Gen. Musharraf is on his way back at the end of his week-long visit to the U.S.

In his statement, Gen. Musharraf pointed out that the operation in Karachi was yet another proof of the nature of co-operation Pakistan was extending to the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against terrorism. He said the issue of terrorism was one of the prominent themes in his 35-minute interaction with the U.S. President, George W. Bush.

In Karachi, the Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, said the security agencies had detained 10 members of an international terrorist network and disclosed that they were being interrogated. He refuted reports that some

of them had been flown out of Pakistan. "Pakistan is a member of the international coalition against terrorism and is committed to fight against terrorists. If any one of the members are wanted in connection with crimes in another country, Pakistan is prepared to consider the request under the relevant international laws", he said.

Gen. Musharraf said in New York that one Egyptian, one Saudi and eight Yemenis were arrested in connection with the raid. Binalshibh (30), was born in Yemen. A correspondent for the Gulf-based *Al-Jazeera* television channel claimed last week to have interviewed him and another top suspect, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, in Karachi three months ago.

Reports from Karachi said nine more suspects were rounded up on Friday from two separate places in Karachi and they could be linked to those captured on Wednesday. The raid was the latest in a concerted manhunt by Pakistani authorities for Al-Qaeda members.

If Binalshibh is indeed among the 10 captured, he would be the second major Al-Qaeda leader to be arrested from the soil of Pakistan. A few months ago, in a joint raid with FBI,

Pakistan had detained Abu Zubaida from Punjab province.

The Interior Ministry has claimed that authorities have detained 402 Al-Qaeda suspects since early this year. It is not known how many of them have been handed over to the U.S.

The 20th hijacker?

New York Times reports:

Binalshibh is one of the few people alive who know the inside details of the Sept. 11 plot, according to investigators.

His capture, first reported by ABC News, is one of the most significant counter-terrorism successes since the attacks on the U.S., officials said. Binalshibh was a close associate of Mohamed Atta, the man who is considered the leader of the hijacking operation on Sept. 11 and his roommate in Hamburg, Germany. Binalshibh, also known as Ramzi Mohamed Abdullah Omar, is believed by many American investigators to have been the designated 20th hijacker in the attacks. But he was denied visa to enter the U.S. four times, even as other Al-Qaeda operatives slipped into the country and began planning the hijackings.

Many investigators believe that after

ter Binalshibh was prevented from entering the U.S., he was to be replaced in the hijacking crews by Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent. Moussaoui was arrested in August 2001, just weeks before the attacks, after an employee at a flight school in Minnesota where he had been taking lessons grew suspicious and notified the FBI.

Binalshibh, in an interview to *Al-Jazeera*, said he was meant to be the 20th hijacker and was disappointed that he failed to obtain a visa to enter the U.S. Binalshibh could prove to be an important source of information about the inner workings of the Sept. 11 plot and could answer many of the unresolved questions about how the attackers put together the operation.

Since he is believed to have served as an important link between the hijackers and Al-Qaeda, he may also be able to provide insight into how the group coordinated with the hijacker cells after they had moved to the U.S.

Just days before the Sept. 11 attacks, Binalshibh left Germany and dropped out of sight. On Sept. 5, he travelled from Düsseldorf to Madrid and did not return to Germany. He is believed to have eventually fled from Spain to Pakistan.

9/11 suspects held in Karachi

AFP & THE TIMES, LONDON

KARACHI/WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. — Top Al-Qaida terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, one of the masterminds of the 11 September attacks, was reportedly among nine suspects arrested during raids in Karachi on Thursday.

This followed the arrest of Ramzi bin al-Shaiba, suspected to be his aide and prime suspect in the strikes, on Wednesday after a three-hour shoot-out at a Karachi apartment.

Western Intelligence agencies are probing reports of the arrest of Khalid, who had a £ 16 million bounty on his head.

If confirmed, the arrest will be the biggest breakthrough yet in the hunt for Osama bin Laden. Khalid, one of Bin Laden's closest aides, had boasted in an interview to Al-Jazeera last week how he had planned the details of the 11 September attacks and how he had briefed Md Atta, who is suspected of planning to be the 20th hijacker in last year's attacks.

TERROR ALERT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. — President George Bush extended by one year the "basic terror alert" imposed three days after the 11 September strikes, citing the continuing threat of a terrorist attack.

White House press secretary Mr Ari Fleischer said the directive gives the departments of defence and transportation expanded authority to deal with the threat of terrorism, particularly the ability to call reserves to active duty. — AP

As the head of Al-Qaida's military committee, he is believed to have planned the attack on the USS Cole in Aden in October 2000, and is high on the FBI's most wanted list. Khalid is perhaps one of a handful of people who know where Bin Laden is.

By the early 1990s, he was plotting large-scale terrorist attacks with Ramzi Yousuf, his nephew. Yousuf, who was arrested in Islamabad and extradited

to the USA in 1995, was indicted in a bomb attack on the World Trade Centre in the early 1990s. US investigators said they had evidence linking Khalid to an attack on a synagogue in Tunis this April.

Pakistani security forces and the FBI arrested Al-Shaiba and other Al-Qaida operatives after tracing satellite phone calls, officials and sources said today. Pakistan's interior minister Mr Moinuddin Haider said: "They are not with the police but our Intelligence agencies are interrogating them." Officials in Washington had said earlier that Al-Shaiba was in US custody at an undisclosed location.

Al-Shaiba is a former roommate of Md Atta.

US consulate attack trial: A Pakistani court today adjourned the trial of three Islamic militants charged over June's car-bomb attack outside the US consulate in Karachi which killed 12 persons.

It was the fifth adjournment since 28 August due to security reasons.



GAME'S UP: Pakistani policemen take away one of the suspected militants in Karachi on Saturday. — AFP

WORLD DIGEST



AGE OF LEARNING: A girl waits with her mother for admission to a school in Kabul. — AFP

Pak Al-Qaida hub: Delhi

NILOVA ROY CHAUDHURY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 14. — The arrest in Pakistan of two Al Qaida suspects and the killing of two more in Karachi merely proves, according to Indian officials, how Pakistan has become the new hub of the terrorist group's activities.

There is an increasing body of evidence to suggest that after being ousted from Afghanistan, the top leadership of the al-Qaida has now regrouped inside Pakistan, senior officials said here.

Despite denials by Islamabad, Pakistan is emerging as a "new centre" for development of chemical and nuclear weapons for various terrorist outfits, raising concerns in the international community (read United States) on the need to focus critical scrutiny on that country to curb the menace.

One of the reasons General Farvez

Musharraf, has received what was termed a 'lukewarm' welcome, although a 'stalwart ally' in the war against terrorism, was because of the mounting evidence of the al-Qaida's pervasive presence in Pakistan.

Wednesday's shootout in a Karachi building led to the killing of two militants and the arrest of five others, of whom four were Arabs and one a Pakistani, reports said. These men were involved in arranging the safe exit of al-Qaida activists trapped within Pakistan.

Bearing out these claims, Italian police, working with US naval intelligence, on Thursday arrested 15 men they said were Pakistani members of the al-Qaida network, infiltrating into Europe through Sicily.

Stacks of documents and computer records found with the men were being scrutinised by authorities to understand their modus operandi and trace their Pakistani and foreign contacts. Their contacts with

Saud Memon, a Pakistani financier of al-Qaida (recently arrested) were also being investigated.

According to reports, officials said, the al-Qaida is currently using Pakistan as a transit base. International drug and human smuggling cartels are trying to shuttle Taliban and al-Qaida renegades to destinations around the world.

Other reports suggest that al Qaida's nuclear programme in Pakistan was only "half way to the point of acquiring a workable device, before the collapse of the Taliban brought it to a halt. The project probably still survives along with the most active of the organisation's assets and personnel," a report in the Hong Kong-based *Asia Times* web newspaper said.

A series of recent arrests of members of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi in Karachi "revealed a makeshift chemical laboratory that contained several toxins."

'Pak a nuke base for Al-Qaida'

Press Trust of India

14/9 5-3
NEW DELHI, Sept. 13.

— Pakistan, where a large number of Al-Qaida operatives have been hiding since the US-led offensive against Afghanistan, was becoming a "centre" for development of chemical and nuclear weapons for terrorist outfits, according to media reports.

"It is believed Al-Qaida's nuclear programme in Pakistan was almost complete when the collapse of the Taliban brought it to a halt. The project probably survives with the group's assets," a report in the Hong Kong-based *Asia Times* online news said.

"Pakistan would serve as a new centre for the development of chemical... weapons," it said, adding that Pakistani authorities were aware that "Al-Qaida was acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

14 SEP 2003

THE STATESMAN

Bush tells Pak to stop terrorism

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Sept. 13. — President Mr George Bush has told Gen. Musharraf in categorical terms to put an end to incursion of militants into J&K to help resume the Indo-Pak dialogue, US officials said today. During a half-hour meeting between the two leaders yesterday, Mr Bush also conveyed to Gen. Musharraf that democracy was the key to Pakistan's future, the official said.

The meeting took place shortly after Prime Minister Mr Vajpayee had met Mr Bush, who assured India that US would use its leverage

with Pakistan to curb terror in J&K. It also came in the backdrop of the general's vitriolic attack on India in his UN General Assembly address yesterday.

"He (Bush) does look forward to some resolution of the underlined problems in Kashmir," the US officials told reporters, adding the President was "telling both sides".

Mr Bush "pushed the Pakistanis hard" to end violence across the LoC and said doing so was "basically the precursor" to progress on resolving underlying disputes, the official said. Mr Bush also stressed that Washington hoped to defuse tensions over the Kashmir issue.

In another development, Pakistan's ambassador to the US Mr Ashraf Jehangir Qazi said Washington has approved \$700m as charges for services provided by Pakistan in the campaign against terror.

Bush told to skip Pak trip

The US Secret Service has told Mr Bush that if he wants to visit South Asia next year he should make it only to India and not Pakistan because of terrorist threats, the *India Abroad* reported. An official said: "Mr Bush is unlikely to visit India soon — and maybe not at all — and all because of Pakistan."

More reports on pages 3, 5

1 4 SEP 2001

THE STATESMAN

Zawahri invited to Cairo meet, via Net

Cairo, Sept. 2 (Reuters): The right-hand man of suspected September 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden has been invited to take part in a Cairo conference this weekend on the future of Islamic movements — by telephone or the Internet.

Islamist lawyer Montasser al-Zayat said he issued an invitation this week on Islamic websites to top bin Laden aide Ayman al-Zawahri to join in yesterday's seminar in a Cairo hotel. The US says bin Laden's al Qaida was behind last year's attacks on New York and Washington which killed around 3,000 people.

Zawahri, an Egyptian former surgeon, made an anti-US pact with bin Laden in Afghanistan in 1998. Their whereabouts remain unknown after a US military campaign destroyed al Qaida's operations in Afghanistan. Zawahri's family has said he lost his wife and three children in the US campaign. Reports have said the two men are



Ayman al-Zawahri

together and planning new attacks on the US.

"He should take part by any means. We said he could send a message by the Net — the telephone could be difficult," said Zayat, a former acquaintance of Zawahri.

Zawahri is the founder of the Jihad group which, alongside the militant group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, fought a 1992-7 campaign to topple the government

of President Hosni Mubarak. Zayat was considered an unofficial Gamaa spokesman from 1990-94.

"We told him (Zawahri) he should speak. He should write his reasons, his view on September 11 and the way out of the crisis the Islamist movement is now in," said Zayat, who condemns violence and says militants should make peace with the state.

"Do we stay with the same methods, do we only shout and curse the US? Is that the only thing that will realise our objectives?" Zayat said, adding he had little doubt al Qaida was behind the September 11 attacks.

"We don't want just to criticise. We want an objective evaluation of the way out. I hope there will be a response (from Zawahri)," he said.

Zayat said the seminar would be attended by writers and politicians covering the whole gamut of Islamic politics, including Zawahri's uncle Mahfouz Azzam, an Islamist lawyer.

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3 SEP 2001

Bush vows unrelenting war on terrorism

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT 12. The President, George W Bush, again reiterated on Wednesday that the United States would not relent in the ongoing war against terror "until justice is done and our nation is secure".

On a day that was emotion charged, Mr. Bush addressed the nation from Ellis Island, stressing that America will win against "history's latest gang of fanatics". "This nation has defeated tyrants, liberated death camps and raised this lamp of liberty to every captive land. We have no intention of ignoring or

appeasing history's latest gang of fanatics trying to murder their way to power. They are discovering, as others before them, the resolve of a great democracy," Mr. Bush said. "In the ruins of two towers, under a flag unfurled at the Pentagon, at the funerals of the lost, we have made a second promise to ourselves and to the world. We will not relent until justice is done and our nation is secure. What our enemies have begun, we will finish," the President said.

It was a difficult day yesterday for Mr. Bush and he made no attempt to fight back the emotions at every one of the

three sites that he visited — the Pentagon, Shanksville, Pennsylvania and the World Trade Centre here. The President spent nearly two hours at the World Trade Centre talking to hundreds of relatives of victims who died last year when terrorist hijackers crashed two commercial airliners into the north and south towers killing more than 2,800 people.

"America has entered a great struggle that tests our strength, and even more, our resolve," Mr. Bush said at Ellis Island. Mr. Bush did not refer to Iraq by name but did have a message for that country and its leader,

Saddam Hussein. "... we will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilisation with weapons of mass murder. Now and in the future Americans will live as free people, not in fear, and never at the mercy of any foreign plot or power," Mr. Bush said. "I believe there is a reason that history has matched this nation with this time. America strives to be tolerant and just. We respect the faith of Islam, even as we fight those whose actions defile that faith. We fight not to impose our will but to defend ourselves and extend the blessings of freedom," Mr. Bush said.

Terrorists target J&K polls, kill minister, 13 others

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

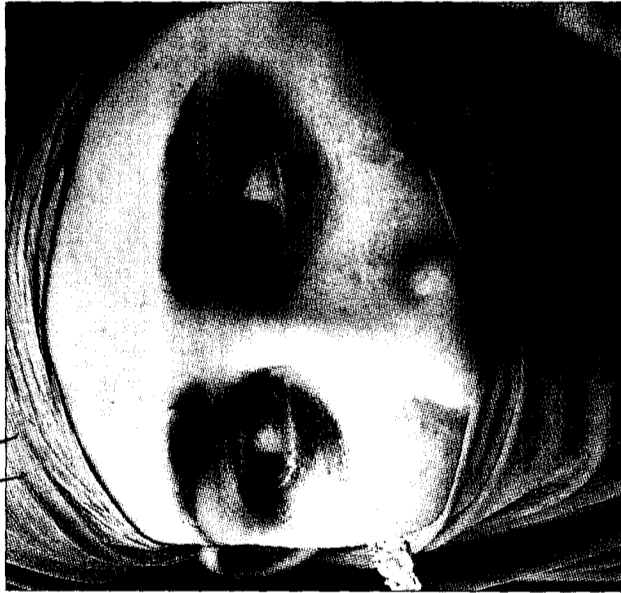
Srinagar \ Rajouri: Stepping up their offensive to disrupt the forthcoming elections, militants struck in a big way on Wednesday, killing state law minister Mushtaq Ahmad Lone and at least 13 others in two separate attacks in Kupwara and Poonch districts.

Defence minister George Fernandes, accompanied by BSF director-general Ajai Raj Sharma and senior home ministry officials, flew to Srinagar to review the situation. The Hurriyat Conference, meanwhile, asked the people of the state to boycott the polls "to show the world that we will settle for nothing less than independence". It also denounced several independent candidates, formerly associated with Hurriyat constituents, for asking for votes in its name.

Lone and six other persons, including five policemen, were killed when militants opened fire on an election rally at Tikkipora in the border district of Kupwara, 130 km from Srinagar. Ten National Conference workers were injured in the attack. A burqa-clad militant sitting in an enclosure for women fired a hail of bullets at Lone. His accomplices then opened indiscriminate fire, killing five policemen and a civilian. The incident took place at about 12.30 p.m. Lone was the National Conference candidate from Lolab constituency which was scheduled to go to the polls on September 16. The elections are likely to be countermanded.

Two militant outfits—the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the little known Al-Afreen—have claimed responsibility for the at-

AP



A relative of Mushtaq Lone receives news of his murder at his home in Lalpora, near Srinagar, on Wednesday.

tack. The Lashkar-e-Toiba claimed that its group Abul-Qasim, formed to sabotage the elections, killed Lone. "The attack was carried out by our Abul-Qasim group, comprising local Kashmiri militants," a Lashkar spokesman told a local news agency. Abu Vikas, a 15-year-old Kashmiri boy, carried out the attack with the help of other members of the group, the spokesman said.

A senior BSF officer said the Khabir Station, a militant radio station based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, had complimented Lashkar militants for killing the minister.

In the other major attack, militants opened indiscriminate fire at a bus stand at Surankote town in Poonch district at about 1.15 p.m. Seven persons—four BSF jawans, a jawan of the India Reserve Police, a special police officer and a civilian—were killed. The attack took place close to the venue of a Congress election rally, which was being attended by Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, Congress leader Ambika Soni and Ghulam Nabi Azad. Immediately, the Congress leaders were whisked away and the entire area was cordoned off. Militants also killed a district president of the National Conference's women's wing at Baramulla. The 60-year-old Mehra Begum was gunned down at her home on Tuesday night.

The residence of state tourism minister Sakina Itoo at Damhal Hajipora in Anantnag district was also attacked, but no one was injured. Militants also lobbed two grenades at the house of National Conference worker Abdul Hameed Bhat at Safapora in Baramulla district on Tuesday night. No one was hurt in the attack.

These incidents of violence are in the same category as the attack on parliament on December 13. They are an attack on democracy and are intended to subvert the will of the people who would like to exercise their right to elect an assembly.

— Deputy PM L.K. Advani

We unreservedly condemn the assassination of Lone. We also strongly condemn all acts of violence directed at other election participants. The UK continues to support the holding of free, fair and inclusive elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

— British foreign minister Mike O'Brien

It is an act of cowardice and an effort by the enemies of the country to thwart the electoral process in the state.

— National Conference president Omar Abdullah

Al Qaida in Karachi shootout

AAMIRASHRAF

Karachi, Sept. 11 (Reuters): Pakistani police said they had killed two suspected al Qaida members and arrested five others after a three-hour shootout today in the southern city of Karachi in which a young girl was shot dead in the crossfire.

A police source said the men were thought to be members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network, although provincial police chief Syed Kamal Shah declined to comment, describing the men only as "not ordinary criminals".

Police in Karachi had intensified land and aerial patrols today to head off possible attacks on the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the US which Washington has blamed on al Qaida.

Security and intelligence agents raided a three-storey building in an upmarket district of Karachi this morning and arrested two men, but had to call in police support after other people in the building threw a hand-grenade at them.

"There was a shootout which lasted over three hours in which six policemen were injured, one of them seriously," Shah told reporters at the scene.

Witnesses said police had fired teargas and thousands of rounds at the building before the gunmen, armed with Kalashnikovs, grenades and sub-machine guns, finally surrendered.

"Two criminals were killed



A plainclothes policeman arrests a militant during an encounter in Karachi on Wednesday. (AFP)

and we have arrested a total of five criminals," Shah said. "We have also found the body of a four-year-old girl in that apartment. She was also hit by a bullet."

Another detective said the girl and her mother lived in another apartment in the same building, which was newly built and largely unoccupied. The mother was unhurt, he said.

One of the men shouted "Allah-u-Akbar (God is greatest)" as he was led away under arrest, while another was speaking Ara-

bic, witnesses said. The Kalma, the Muslim declaration of faith, was written in blood on the wall of the apartment's kitchen, a policeman said.

Police, who had been stationed on the roofs of surrounding buildings, inside apartments and on the roads, fired in the air in celebration as the men were led away, most of the suspects bearded and blindfolded.

Shah refused to say who the men were.

"They are not ordinary criminals," he said. "I cannot say who

they are or why they were there. Investigations will prove who they are."

The police source said they had recovered a laptop, some CDs and several thick books from the apartment.

A man living in the building opposite said the young men had been living there for some time, but had been away for about a month before returning last night.

"We used to see them playing cards," he said. "We don't know their nationalities but some of them appeared to be foreigners."

At least 2,000 policemen have been deployed around diplomatic missions and residences, luxury hotels and offices of foreign companies in Karachi, where three attacks on Western targets in recent months have killed dozens of people.

In Islamabad, diplomats were taking few chances. Both the American and British embassies were closed to the public as a precaution, although officials said they were not aware of any specific threats.

Police said they had recovered three grenades in Islamabad yesterday that could possibly have been used for attacks on September 11.

Pakistan has seen a rise in Islamic militancy since President Pervez Musharraf abandoned support for the Taliban rulers in neighbouring Afghanistan in the wake of the September 11 attacks and threw his weight behind the US-led war on terror.

Say No To Bush

The World Must Stand By Iraq

By Siddharth Varadarajan

Here's a simple quiz to mark the anniversary of 9/11. (a) Who is threatening to use aeroplanes to attack civilians and civilian installations like water treatment plants and power stations? (b) Who is refusing to rule out using nuclear weapons in his 'holy war'? (c) Who is using television for a messianic propaganda campaign justifying this planned terrorism? (d) Who is saying his *fatwas* count for more than international law?

The correct answer to all these questions is not Osama bin Laden but George W Bush and the US administration.

One year after terrorists killed more than 3,000 innocent people in New York and Washington, the world is waiting nervously not for another murderous strike by Al-Qaida but for the bombs the US plans to drop on the equally innocent people of Iraq.

Regardless of the scripted dissension within, the Bush administration's drive to open the Iraqi front in what is wrongly called the 'War on Terrorism' has crossed the point of no return. Massive US-UK air attacks have already taken place at al-Nukhaib, al-Baghdadi and the 'H-3' air defences in western Iraq. The war is already on.

And if you don't believe the nukes threat, consider the August 27 interview given by the ranking US official on 'arms control', John Bolton, to Fuji-TV. Question: Is it possible that nuclear weapons will be used against Iraq? Bolton: Since there's no decision on the use of military force, there's no decision on exactly how it would be carried out."

Washington says the 'crisis' has been provoked by Saddam Hussein's failure to allow UN inspectors to certify Iraq has rid itself of all proscribed weapons. 'News' is leaked to scare the world into believing Iraq has nuclear arms. At the same time, Mr Bush openly talks about 'regime change' as if it were the God-given right of the US to decide how the Iraqi people are to be governed.

Even on the weapons issue, the dishonesty of the US stand is self-evident. UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 687 mandates Iraqi disarmament, and for more than six years the UN Special Commission (Unscm) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited suspected weapons sites in Iraq to ensure compliance. On April 13, 1998, the IAEA certified that Iraq had compiled a "full, final and complete" account of its previous nuclear projects and that there was no evidence of any prohibited activity. In December 1998, Unscm voluntarily pulled out of Iraq on the eve of the US attack codenamed 'Operation Desert Fox'. In its last month of inspections, according to Unscm head Richard Butler, the commission carried out as many as 427 inspections and reported Iraqi non-

cooperation in only five of these.

The truth is the US has never been interested in an objective, UN-run disarmament programme for Iraq. Washington deliberately pushed the limits of Iraqi tolerance by using Unscm inspections for espionage. Rolf Ekeus, a former head of Unscm, told Swedish Radio in July 2002 that at times, intrusive inspections were deliberately used by the US to create a crisis that could possibly form the basis for military action. Scott Ritter — a US marine who was part of Unscm and later admitted the CIA used him to spy against Iraq — has written that Iraq no longer has chemical and biological weapons programmes. "In all of their inspections, the (Unscm) monitors could find no meaningful evidence of Iraqi circumvention of its commitment not to reconstitute its biological weapons program", he wrote in *Arms Control Today* in June 2000.

Eleven years after Iraq was evicted from Kuwait, the country is subject to the tightest regime of economic sanctions ever imposed on any country. Despite the so-called 'smart sanctions' introduced by UNSC resolution 1409 in May this year, Iraq's capacity to provide clean drinking water, electricity and sanitation is hampered by US objections to machinery imports. If food imports and the public distribution system are disrupted by a full-scale US attack, there will be a massive food shortage in Iraq.

Every UN resolution mandating Iraqi compliance with disarmament also explicitly states that Iraq's sovereignty has to be respected. The US flouted these resolutions to establish illegal 'no-fly zones' over Iraqi airspace and has bombed the country hundreds of times in the past decade. In March this year, Iraq submitted a list of 19 questions to UN secretary-general Kofi Annan. Among these were (i) Can the UN guarantee the elimination of the two no-fly zones? (ii) How do you explain the stance of a permanent member of the Security Council which openly calls for the invasion of Iraq? Baghdad has yet to receive an answer.

The world has a right to demand that Iraq comply with its disarmament obligations but it must not legitimise US contempt for international law. Iraq has said it will allow UN weapons inspectors back provided they do not indulge in espionage and work according to a time-bound plan, and also provided there is synchronicity between the degree of Iraqi compliance and the phased elimination of sanctions. This is a reasonable proposal. The US, for its own domestic economic and political reasons, wants to press-gang the world into war. The UN must not allow its mandate of ensuring peace and security to be subverted by Washington. Under no circumstances must it be pushed into providing a 'multilateral' cover for US aggression.

IN BRIEF

- The world must resist the US drive to attack Iraq
- UN weapons inspections must be accompanied by the lifting of sanctions

Scribe traces al Qaida to Pak

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 10: An Al Jazeera journalist has claimed that al Qaida has established a formidable network in Karachi where top aides of Osama bin Laden have been hiding since the Taliban regime was thrown out of power from Kabul by the US-initiated armed action last year.

The report, which was front-paged in the Pakistani newspaper, *Dawn*, quoted Yosri Fouda of the Al Jazeera TV channel in London as saying he was given interviews by two top aides of Osama in Karachi recently as the al Qaida wanted to deliver a message to the world on the first anniversary of September 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

The report vindicates India's charge that important members of the al Qaida are hiding in Pakistan and pose a serious threat to the joint operation launched by the US and the Pervez Musharraf regime against global terror.

Doubts have been raised in the US over Musharraf's intention and ability to fight the al Qaida and other terrorist groups based on its soil.

There are indications that the presence of al Qaida leaders, not only in the tribal areas bordering Pakistan and Afghanist-

an but in other cities of Pakistan, and the way to fight them will be on the agenda when the Pakistan President and his US counterpart George W. Bush meet in New York later this week.

The Pakistani foreign office, however, brushed the report aside, calling it "totally speculative".

On fixing a timeframe for the crackdown on the al Qaida in Pakistan, the spokesman of the foreign office pointed out that Islamabad has to remain vigilant. "It cannot allow any terrorist activity on or from its soil," the spokesman said.

Fouda has said he met Khalid Shaikh and Ramzi Binalshibh — top leaders of the al Qaida's military wing and two of the most wanted men in the FBI's list.

In their interview, the duo described in detail how the al Qaida had carried out the strikes on what they called a "Holy Tuesday" known to the rest of the world as "Terror Tuesday" — when they attacked the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington a year ago.

There are signs that the US officials who want to have "conclusive talks" with Pakistani officials on al Qaida and Taliban fighters hiding in areas bordering Afghanistan hoped Islamabad would be able to "weed out" the fugitives believed to be there.

The Ides of September

A war on all forms of terrorist violence can be the only memorial to its victims

LOOKING back at the tragic attacks on the financial-economic centre and the military headquarters of the world's only super power last September 11, it is clear that the cancer of terrorism that draws its strength from extremist religious ideologies is going to take a long time to eradicate. The growth of this phenomenon can be traced to the early seventies, when there was a revival and resurgence of religious movements, worldwide. The rise of Islamism had transformed itself by the 1980s into Mujahideen violence when the US reacted to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan by supporting a covert war in the name of religion. Pakistan, which had been moving toward intensified Islamisation under General Zia-ul-Haq, partly to legitimise his martial law rule, crafted its own agenda by becoming a 'frontline state' in that war. The belief that the Mujahideen had defeated the super power which also led to its collapse gave tremendous impetus to the ideology of exporting violence in the name of religion.

Unchecked by any coordinated international response, the region quickly transformed itself into the epicentre of global terrorism by the 1990s, when Pakistan was able to replace the Mujahideen rulers of Afghanistan by the Taliban with its narrow and fundamentalist world view. The economies of both nations also got derailed through gross mismanagement, creating a sharp rise in the levels of poverty and illiteracy.

The socio-economic neglect of the weaker sections of society added to the growth of a sense of relative deprivation in many countries. Mad-rassas started to become the main source of education and also of extremism. The choice facing the youth in Pakistan was jobs or jihad; and since few job opportunities were available in a grossly mismanaged country, many opted for jihad.

After Afghanistan, the greatest impact of 9/11 has been on Pakistan, transforming it from a pariah state to a partner in the war against terrorism. General Pervez Musharraf has subsequently promised that no terrorist violence will be undertaken from Pakistani soil. But his attempts at reforming the economy and the education system have not brought discernible results so far. His own credibility has suffered seriously in the process of the political changes seeking to legitimise the army rule in the country. It is not clear at this stage whether Pakistan will emerge credibly, or get sucked into the earlier downward spiral with disastrous consequences for the region. But it also needs to be remembered that the growth of jihadi terrorism took more than a quarter century. It would be unrealistic to expect it to go away within a short time. The war against terrorism involves changing the mindsets of a whole generation. A sustained international coalition against all forms of terrorist violence would remain the only true memorial to the victims of transnational terrorism.

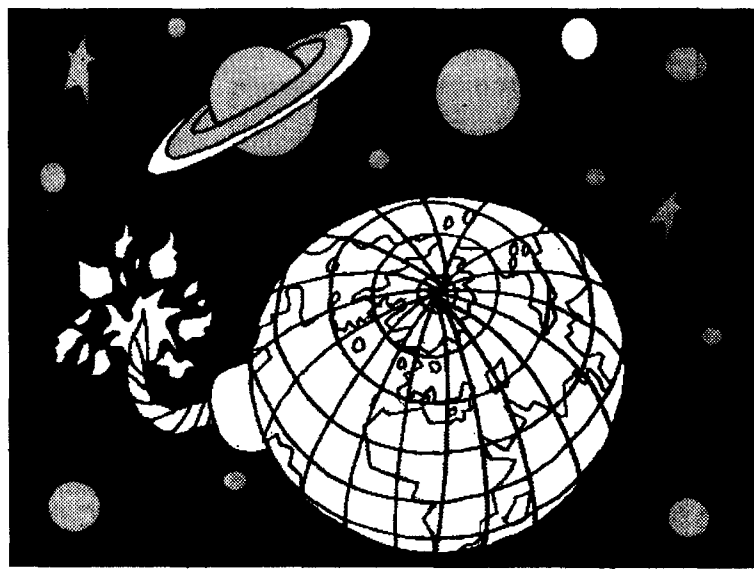
The aftershocks of 9/11

Terrorists
6-1-6
As terrorists regroup outside the blinkered vision of the superpower, India could find itself becoming the next target of these groups, warns Narendar Pani

THE spectacular brutality of 9/11 appeared to have shattered a number of myths in contemporary thinking. The belief that security was all a matter of building larger, and more destructive, arsenals was challenged by the civilian aircraft that crashed into the Pentagon. The belief that war is only conducted between nation states was destroyed by a Saudi exile and his multinational group of terrorists. The expectation that wars lead to unity within countries and divisions between them, proved to be misplaced when Americans became suspicious of other Americans of different races. The rather quaint faith that globalisation unifies the world into a global village was challenged by the use of global financial, information and other networks to attack the very heart of American capitalism. And yet, a year later, many of these false beliefs continue to dominate the thinking of the policy makers who matter.

The faith in military power over all other instruments of combating terrorism remains unshaken. Over the last year whenever a choice has emerged between avoiding killing innocents and the use of military power in targeting suspected terrorist hideouts, the use of military force has won every time. That the killing of innocents creates more suicide bombers has been ignored as much in Afghanistan as in Israel. Again, the distinction that was first made between the war against terrorism and the war against nation states has rapidly faded. The war against terrorism has been converted into a war against specific states. This may have been understandable in Afghanistan where the Taliban actively, and openly, supported the al Qaeda. But this faith has now taken paradoxical dimensions. The consensus even in the United States is that a major section of the al Qaeda, perhaps even bin Laden himself, is in Pakistan. But the next military target for the US is Iraq.

The insistence on looking at a global crisis through national blinkers is perhaps most evident in the approach of the sole



BONNY THOMAS

superpower to global institutions. Soon after 9/11 there was some recognition of the need to strengthen global economic institutions to create widely accepted global economic norms. This was expected to, over time, reduce the economic space available to terrorists. This thinking provided the momentum for the launch of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations within the WTO. But within a matter of months the US developed strong protectionist tendencies. And in the political sphere, the tendency to ignore the United Nations often borders on contempt. President Bush has left little room for doubt that it is he and not the UN that will decide if and when Iraq is to be attacked.

The unwillingness of the US to learn the lessons brought out with such brutal clarity by 9/11 is not a matter of a minor intellectual failure. The lessons of 9/11 all point to the weakness of each of the major instruments of American power. American military power has been challenged by civilian aircraft. Its economic system has been used to finance terrorist activi-

ties. Its melting pot culture, that allowed it to attract the best minds in the world, is now being threatened by a suspicion of some races. For the US to learn these lessons of 9/11 it would have to accept that even superpowers have their limitations. And that is one reality America's leadership, and perhaps even its people, are unwilling to accept.

THE main beneficiaries of this blinkered view are of course the terrorists. Bin Laden, if he is still alive, and his followers can rebuild the terrorist network from their hideouts in Pakistan, while the US keeps world attention on Iraq. Despite American efforts, another Gulf war could easily result in higher oil prices. This would help the coffers of at least some of the financiers of al Qaeda and similar organisations. And the killing of Iraqi civilians — an inevitable consequence of war — will provide a fresh batch of recruits to those seeking young suicide bombers.

As terrorists regroup outside the blinkered vision of the superpower, India could find itself becoming the next target of

11/9
these groups. When regrouping in Pakistan, terrorists will use an aggressive anti-India posture to gain local support. If they succeed in gaining popular support, President Musharraf will find it difficult to stop them from moving into Kashmir, even if he wants to. And as the pressure on President Musharraf increases from within Pakistan, America's focus on national governments may compel it to support to its ally in Islamabad, rather than help curb cross-border terrorism.

At the same time, American insistence on undermining the United Nations would force it to seek allies by offering economic concessions. And the easiest concessions to offer are those that come at the cost of other countries. The foremost among such concessions is duty free access to products of selected countries. Such access gives the products of the countries that are being wooed an advantage at the cost of competing exporters to the US market. The US could easily use the Doha Development Round to build allies through duty-free access, which will be at the cost of countries like India.

The quality of India's response to this challenge will depend on its ability to tap international opinion even when it goes against the proclivities of the US. It should be able to mobilise international opinion against cross-border terrorism even when it does not suit Washington. This would involve strengthening the United Nations. India should also be able to mobilise international economic opinion against the offer of trade concessions to chosen countries, which goes against the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle of the WTO. But India's commitment to global institutions has not been particularly encouraging. It is, arguably, the most vocal opponent of providing the WTO a more prominent role.

As the world pays the price for the beliefs of the terrorists and the belief of the sole superpower in its own invincibility, India too has not shown the vision that is needed to deal with the aftershocks of September 11.

1 1 SEP 2001

HINDUSTAN TIMES

From Hiroshima to 9/11

FEW ANNIVERSARIES are as bleak as the one recalling the attacks on US targets on September 11 last year by Islamic fundamentalists. Even the word, anniversary, with its usual connotation of a happy occasion, seems inappropriate while referring to the suicide missions of demented terrorists. In recent times, only Hiroshima Day, observed on August 6, remembers an even more ghastly event. However, the significance of Hiroshima Day lies in telling the world about the horrors of a nuclear war. But the only meaning which September 11 carries is that of unvarnished terror. Hiroshima ended a war. The perpetrators of the September 11 massacres wanted to begin one. What is frightening is that, inspired by a perverted fascination with the medieval concept of a holy war against infidels, the terrorists represent nihilism of a kind rarely seen before.

The US might be their immediate target if only because it is the only country capable of offering them the most determined of challenges. Besides, the US, with its ever-growing influence in virtually all the fields of human activity — economics, technology, pop culture and even eating habits — can arouse resentment solely

because of its overwhelming presence. In reality, however, it is the entire democratic world, with its focus on individual liberty, which is the enemy of the medievalists. Even the Muslim countries, which they believe are not Islamic enough according to their distorted vision, do not escape their wrath.

While remembering the massacres of last year, therefore, it is necessary for every country to rededicate themselves to the cause of freedom so that no one will be scared to board a plane or go to office or the market or the children's playground. India has lived with terrorism long enough to know that only an untrammelled expression of the popular will is the best antidote to terror. Unfortunately, the countries which are the breeding grounds of disaffection — Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries — are virtual dictatorships. As long as they remain so, it will not be easy to eliminate the *jehadis*. Along with the democratisation of the Islamic world, a wider appreciation of the aspirations of oppressed people like the Palestinians will undermine their resolve. In the end, however, it is the spirit of freedom which is bound to triumph over terror.

Al-Qaida still deadly

Washington, September 10

A YEAR into the war on terror, Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network appears weakened but still capable of carrying out attacks, say US Intelligence officials.

AL-QAIDA HAS been forced out from its stronghold in Afghanistan and the fate of its leader is unknown, but al-Qaida's operatives are regrouping, recruiting, changing their tactics and planning more terror missions, the officials say.

For the first time, al-Qaida has begun recruiting Afghan and West Asian women to distribute money and messages to its operatives around the world and offer other logistical help, US law enforcement officials say. The action breaks a long-standing taboo by the group. In its training manual, it had urged male members not to use women in "jihad business".

Al-Qaida members from West Asia and Asia are trying to hack into American computers that control water, electrical and communication facilities, US law enforcement officials say. They believe the group is gathering data for a future cyber-terrorist attack.

In Britain, Germany and

Osama owns responsibility for Sept 11



Osama bin Laden
The mastermind

AL-QAIDA FORMALLY claimed responsibility on Tuesday night for the September 11 attacks on the US, with a video showing some of the hijackers making preparations in Afghanistan. A male voice — apparently that of Osama bin Laden — praised the hijackers as "great men". "As we talk about the conquests of Washington and New York," the voice said, "we talk about those men who changed the course of history and cleaned the records of the nation from the dirt of the treasonous rulers and their followers".

The Guardian

Spain, al-Qaida recruiters are combing mosques for disenfranchised Americans who might be eager to become suicide bombers, European officials say.

In Pakistan, al-Qaida operatives, identifying themselves as Saudi refugee workers, are teaching anti-American doctrine at religious schools in Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar and are soliciting contributions from shop owners for "the next 9/11", Pakistani officials say.

"We are proving the *kuffar* (infidels) in Washington wrong,"

says Jamal Waheeb, 32, a Saudi refugee official in Quetta who Pakistani officials suspect is an al-Qaida operative. "They said al-Qaida would be finished. But we are emerging stronger and will hit America's shopping malls, stadiums and kindergartens. This is our promise."

That could be bluster: FBI documents show there are only 200 hard-core al-Qaida operatives still active in the group worldwide, down from several hundred before the attacks last September. The attacks on the

WTC and Pentagon failed to mobilise other Muslim extremists to attack the US in the "clash of civilisations" bin Laden had wanted. Still, just 19 hijackers carried out the September 11 attacks, and officials remain concerned that small numbers can cause huge damage.

The war on terror has not destroyed al-Qaida but dispersed it around the world, making it harder for law enforcement officials to track the group's activities and capture its members.

Though the number of hard-core fanatics appears to be in the hundreds, officials fear that up to 20,000 men who have attended Osama's training camps since the 1990s are still potential martyrs in his crusade.

One year into the US-led war on terror, here is what al-Qaida looks like, according to US Intelligence:

■ The group still operates terror cells in 65 countries, with some of the largest cells in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

■ At least four al-Qaida cells are operating in the US, possibly in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, and Seattle, FBI officials say.

■ Mosques in nine US cities are under surveillance by the FBI for possible links to those cells.

USA Today

11 SEP 2003

AFGHANISTAN TIMES

The after-effects

In one respect at least, Osama bin Laden must feel satisfied as he surveys the world on the anniversary of his coup.

The damage he did in 90 minutes to the world economy – the tens of thousands of workers he has condemned to unemployment, the once-mighty companies he has driven into bankruptcy, the trillions of dollars worth of wealth he has expropriated from the world's pensioners and investors – all of these consequences of his destruction have far exceeded the costs of any previous disaster, whether act of man or of God.

When the history of the early 21st century is eventually written, 11 September may turn out to be a clearer watershed in global economics than in diplomacy, American politics or the future of the Atlantic alliance and the Middle East.

11 September could turn out to be the tragic coda of another long era of rising prosperity, full employment and over-optimism about the global capitalist system. But first, the short-term economic consequences. The direct damage – the physical destruction, the bankruptcy of Swiss Air, Sabena and US Airways, the trillions of dollars wiped off the value of personal savings and pension funds – was enormous. But these costs pale beside the indirect losses from the slowdown of world economic growth that came after the collapse of consumer and business confidence.

The scale of the short-term damage can be gauged by the downgrading of forecasts for this year's economic growth. The economic forecasts surveyed just before 11 September by *Consensus Economics* showed that the world economy was expected to grow by 1.5 per cent in 2001 and 2.5 per cent in 2002. The growth rate for last year was only 0.7 per cent and the forecast for this is 1.7 per cent. The cumulative difference between the two sets of forecasts is 1.6 per cent of global GDP, equivalent to \$700 billion, or half the annual output of the British economy.

It is impossible to disentangle the effects of 11 September from the accounting scandals on Wall Street, the oil price rises that came after the breakdown of the Camp David peace process and the wider collapse of computer, telecom and dot-com shares. But what can be said with certainty is that Al Qaida struck the world economy and financial system at a vulnerable time. With stock markets suffering from the after-effects of the millennium bubble and the US economy struggling to escape recession, the terrorists' economic timing was as inspired as the stage management of their atrocity.

While it may be impossible to disentangle 11 September from the other blows that have hit the world economy in the past 12 months, we can draw some conclusions about the international impact of these shocks. The most significant is that America has not been the biggest loser from last year's economic upheavals. The main casualty has been continental Europe.

That can be seen in the growth forecasts mentioned above. Expected growth in the eurozone has been slashed from 2.4 per cent in August to 1.1 per cent today. By contrast,

The damage that the Al Qaida inflicted on the world economy by its attacks on 11 September far exceeds the costs of any previous disaster, whether natural or manmade, writes ANATOLE KALETSKY



Hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 is shown in a flight path for the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York on 11 September, 2001. – AP

American growth prospects have deteriorated only slightly, from 2.7 per cent just before the attacks to 2.4 per cent now. Britain, as usual, falls between America and Europe, with growth forecasts downgraded from 2.6 to 1.7 per cent. The stock markets have also suffered bigger falls in Europe than in the USA.

The three reasons for Europe's vulnerability, and America's relative robustness, are clear enough, though policy-makers in Frankfurt or Brussels do not seem to understand them. First, America has much more flexible economic arrangements than Europe. American businesses cut their costs quickly in response to deteriorating conditions, as evidenced by the huge and ruthless layoffs within days of 11 September, and are then freer to expand when conditions stabilise. Second, the fact that America is a high-growth, full-employment economy makes it inherently more stable than Europe. Third, American economists believe that interest rates should be used aggressively to sustain economic growth and minimise unemployment. European policymakers take the opposite approach.

The most important of the long-term consequences is a matter of psychology rather than statistics: a steady downgrading of expectations about the long-term growth rates that the world economy and global financial markets can achieve. Estimates of America's trend rate of growth are falling steadily, from almost four per cent to three per cent or less. Europe's trend growth rate is now put by many economists at only two per cent.

Small changes can make the difference between prosperity and stagnation, between full employment and mass joblessness, between swelling public coffers and fiscal crisis.

In Europe, the chilling political effect of this year's slowdown could set back by years the prospects for economic reform. The complacency and incompetence of politicians and

central bankers has brought back to Europe the nightmare of mass unemployment. This, in turn, now threatens to paralyse the conservative politicians who have swept to power.

These new European governments are now condemned to manage economic and fiscal crises instead of implementing labour-market and tax reforms that voters had been promised and that held out the prospects of major improvements in long-term economic performance. The pressure from the European Central Bank and the European Commission for more deflationary policies is making unemployment and budget deficits worse. To blame the terrorists directly for this sad prospect would be to give them too much credit. The ECB and the Commission have done much more to damage the European economy in the past 12 months than Al Qaida ever could.

But in the absence of the terrorist attacks, Europe might by now have been enjoying a strong cyclical recovery. Turning to America, since 11 September, the Bush administration has encouraged paranoia. Whether he has whipped up this hysteria out of genuine fear, or to retain his popularity, to gain support for military spending or distract attention from regressive tax cuts, is uncertain.

The war fever has damaged confidence, discouraged investment and contributed to the collapse of share prices. That, in turn, has raised the cost of capital, discouraged investment and reduced prospects for long-term productivity growth. The US President's sabre-rattling against Iraq and the failure of his Middle East policies are making matters worse. That has sent oil prices soaring, inflicting direct damage on the US and world economies. His vacillation is undermining international confidence in US leadership.

It is no coincidence that the dollar peaked against the euro on the night Mr Bush delivered his speech on the

“axis of evil” and has been falling ever since. The Bush administration has also used the political cover from 11 September to damage the US economy more directly. By showering Republican industrial interests with subsidies and protectionist favours, Mr Bush has broken with a free market philosophy of economic management that has served America well.

By procrastinating in response to the Wall Street accounting scandals, he has undermined confidence in US business practices. By frittering away the budget surpluses he inherited from Bill Clinton he has reduced the government's capacity to offer short-term fiscal stimulus if required.

And by reneging on his promises that the government would bear the direct economic costs of 11 September, he has left most US airlines on the verge of bankruptcy, crippled the global insurance industry and damaged the local economy of New York.

The loss of financial and business confidence has led to a weakening of investment and that in turn will imply lower productivity growth. The long-term tax cuts and huge defence programmes threaten an uncontrollable expansion of the budget deficit that will become a burden on the economy for decades.

The abandonment of free trade and the refusal to deal promptly with Wall Street's accounting scandals have led businessmen and investors everywhere to start wondering whether the American economic model works, and indeed whether the spectacular economic statistics of the 1990s might have been as fictitious as the profits of Enron. Over time, such questions corrode US self-confidence, undermine financial markets, damage investment and productivity, and threaten to set off a vicious circle that could drag America back into a 1970s-type period of economic malaise.

It is not too late to reverse these errors, to restore financial and business confidence and return the world economy to the prosperity, full employment and rapid growth that seemed on the cards before last year. But these things will not happen of their own accord.

They will not happen if the ECB and the Bank of Japan balk at their responsibility to sustain growth by managing demand; if European governments fail to deregulate their economies and reintroduce free labour contracts; if the Bush administration wrecks US fiscal policy with ideological tax cuts, protects and subsidises inefficient industries to buy votes and irresponsibly disrupts the world economy by waging unnecessary wars, and cripples US fiscal policy with ideologically inspired tax handouts for its rich supporters.

If the world's leading governments continue to behave like this, they will be doing Bin Laden's work for him. If the world economy is still stagnant next year, voters will not blame Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden.

They will blame Mr Bush, Mr Prodi, Mr Duisenberg, Mr Koizumi and all the rest. And they will be right.

– *The Times, London.*

10-10
10/9

Remembering Sept. 11

Guinness

By Pratap Bhanu Mehta

The West was guilty, less of anti-Islamism, but more of propping up, through its patronage and arms flows, the very regimes that could spawn Al-Qaeda.

THE MEANING of the astonishing events of September 11, 2001, remains profoundly indeterminate. The attack on the most glaringly conspicuous symbol of American capitalism, the twin towers of the World Trade Center, and on the most potent emblem of the impenetrable recesses of its military might, the Pentagon, seemed replete with meaning: a foreboding of a new world at work. Non-state actors could unleash such massive violence, with such great precision to make even a superpower vulnerable. A world, comfortable with the idea that all that was left after 1989 was a mere clash of interests and the end of history, was awakened to a shock by the power of apocalyptic fundamentalisms. The event unfolded live around the world: bodies falling from the towers, trapped men and women frantically calling relatives on cell phones before they plunged to their horrible deaths, the spectacular collapse of the towers themselves, all seemed to make life itself at once puny and helpless.

September 11 seems to escape each attempt to fix its meaning. If this was an assault on America, the victims came from over 70 countries. If this was rage against American power, the presence of these victims only testified to the attraction of American ideals. For a moment, at least, many in the rest of the world did become Americans. If the idea was to diminish human agency by unleashing the will of god, the event only showed how powerful human beings are. A few determined men, who admittedly thought god was on their side, could produce a disaster of such massive proportions. And passengers in the fourth plane, heading towards an uncertain target in Washington, showed the potential of human action even in the face of disaster by causing their plane to crash before it inflicted more damage. If the intent was to bring a clash of civilisations to fruition it hardly succeeded. Yes, for a moment, there were glimpses of pan-Islamic solidarity. But soon the realisation dawned that the claim that Al-Qaeda

was driven to its actions by some deep sense of empathy with the plight of the suffering Palestinians and Iraqis was the kind of ridiculous thinking that only those in the grip of fantasy could conjure up.

If anything, the real conflict that emerged in the aftermath of September 11 was not the conflict between the West and Islam. It was rather the realisation that authoritarian regimes and failing states, such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan, were propitious grounds for breeding chiliastic fantasies. The West was guilty, less of anti-Islamism, but more of propping up, through its patronage and arms flows, the very regimes that could spawn Al-Qaeda. The astonishing thing in retrospect was not how much pan-Islamic solidarity there was with Al-Qaeda, but how little effect it had.

But still we struggle to define the meaning of those events. We face a dilemma that we have not quite overcome. To keep calling the events of September 11 simply evil seemed to shed little light on them. Worse still, a single-minded focus on the collapsed twin towers seemed to many to risk removing from view the many complex forms of suffering which the application of American power itself had often produced. Yet, not to call the events evil, not to acknowledge without reservation that the attacks were a form of mass murder, prompted by hatred of a way of life, risked relativising them. In the guise of "explaining" the events we risked justifying them. Both impulses were tempting. On the one hand we wanted to resist seeing the world as being neatly divided between forces of darkness and beacons of light. On the other, we were trying to "explain" the events so that we could better understand the world. But both impulses could easily turn into

ways of denying that what happened was evil. That other evils exist as well did nothing to detract from the fact that this was mass murder. And while injustice around the world may have provided a propitious ground for breeding terrorists, that injustice did not justify this attack; indeed, it scarcely explained it.

The trends that September 11 crystallised are old and familiar. The discourse of sovereignty remerged with a vengeance. The application of state power in matters of defence acquired new intensity. From the United States to Russia, "reason of state" became the rallying cry against assorted fundamentalisms and movements for self-determination alike. This is why the fight against terrorism could never quite take on the universal dimensions many hoped it would. The terrorists one named and defined were still largely governed by national imperatives as India rapidly found out. The Americans, with world approval, got rid of the Taliban inflicting serious and yet unaccounted for casualties in the process. And the Americans will, soon enough, turn their attention to Osama bin Laden's real target: Saudi Arabia. Pakistan had to overnight change its stripes, but the net result was familiar: a military dictatorship propped up by American dollars to suit American ends. But it is important not to over-attribute power to September 11.

The war on Afghanistan may have given the green light to Israel's unconscionable conduct in Palestine, but Ariel Sharon was entirely a home-grown phenomenon. India sought to gain recognition for its own war on terrorism but both its causes and consequences are decidedly sub-continental in origin.

Ironically, the event that was supposed to have changed the world changed America the most. Its care-free conduct of internal security

gave way to a methodical anxiety that is still palpable. The land where civil liberty was a religion began to have departments such as "homeland security". Its Attorney-General began to act more as a commandant fighting a war than as a custodian of the liberties enshrined in the Constitution. In a comparative perspective, this means mostly that America is catching up with the rest of the world. But how enduring these changes will be remain to be seen. In the short run, however, the Bush Administration is making exactly the mistake that most genuine admirers of American ideals hoped it would not. It is trying to compensate for America's vulnerability by trying to reassert the myth of American invincibility. This means unilateral policing of the entire globe, a deep suspicion of multilateral institutions and a great belief in America's power to control the world. To conduct a foreign policy on this premise is to re-inscribe the one illusion that September 11 effectively shattered forever. This was the illusion that any power could make itself militarily invulnerable to the ravages of a determined, but possessed small group of people.

If, in the name of combating terrorism, America overreaches its power to the point where its mere being becomes a threat, a self-defeating cycle of violence will no longer be far away. If September 11 was meant to be an assault on civilisation, an assault on a way of life, it is all the more important for the civilised to preserve the distinction between civilisation and barbarism in their responses. The real meaning of September 11 will become apparent only when it becomes clear whether America will live up to its ideals, or whether it will let the arrogance of power, as has happened in the past, get the better of both an enlarged prudence and its finest aspirations. The signs are not good. But then, as Chou -En-Lai said of the French Revolution, it might still be too soon to tell.

(The writer is Professor of Philosophy and of Law and Governance, JNU.)

Pakistan, not Iraq

Reports from the US suggest that a warning issued by the then Taliban foreign minister Wakil Muttavakil about the possibility of Al-Qaida attacks, did not receive the attention it deserved. Nor has there been much concern expressed about recent interviews aired on Al-Jazeera TV which reveal that the terrorists had originally planned to attack nuclear power plants and these plans were subsequently shelved. Equally, many of those who masterminded the September 11 attacks are using Pakistan as a safe haven, having escaped the American military campaign in Afghanistan. Strategic logic as well as the safety of the American population demands that the highest priority be given to countering this danger. Yet, the Bush administration is guilty of seeking to divert attention away from the core issue by resurrecting the dead ghost of Saddam Hussein. It's not just the dubious legality of the threatened American strike against Iraq that is in question, it's also the misplaced sense of priority and lack of military wisdom in the decision. The former marine colonel who led the inspection team to Iraq up to 1998, Scott Ritter, was not thrown out of the country, as is widely believed, but withdrew in anticipation of imminent American air strikes. Mr Ritter has said that Iraq did not have the capability of using weapons of mass destruction in 1998 and could not have developed it in four years. He advocates the return of inspectors to ensure that Washington is deprived of any excuse for launching military operations. Even the hawks who justify a pre-emptive military campaign have spoken of Iraq attaining such a capability only three years from now.

On its part, Baghdad is prepared to accept weapons inspection provided American-led sanctions against the country — which have caused enormous civilian suffering — are lifted. The American failure to capture Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar, not to mention the Serbian leaders, Radovan Karadjic and Vlado Mladic, highlights the problem that faces any attempt to change the political regime in Iraq. Given the loyalty of the Takriti clan and the Iraqi army to Mr Hussein, it is improbable that any special force operations can be launched against him without causing enormous collateral damage. What's more, the diversionary misadventure in Iraq might well give the Al-Qaida an opportunity to unleash fresh terror attacks. Finally, it is bound to make the US even more unpopular in the Islamic world. Mr Bush is not known for his perspicacity, but even he should be able to count the huge costs of his proposed mission in Baghdad.

Did Sept. 11 really change the world?

LONDON, SEPT. 9. Rarely has history unfolded so dramatically and with such stunning impact on live television.

The enormity of the attacks on America was shockingly and immediately clear to millions of people watching around the world, transfixed by the image of New York's twin towers buckling and crumbling into dust.

It has become a cliché, repeated in countless headlines, to describe September 11 as the Day that Changed the World. But for some historians the jury is still out as to whether the events of a year ago, devastating and traumatic as they were, represented a one-off episode in history or a decisive turning point.

"Everybody is saying that this changed America for ever, and that just seems to me a kind of nonsensical statement. It's not clear in what sense anyone means that, other than that they're going to remember this for a long time," said Francis Fukuyama of Johns Hopkins University in the United States.

"I can't see how this fits into any historical context. It's an isolated act, perpetrated by what is in effect a secret society," said British historian Lord Robert Blake.

Certainly the public statements of the leading September 11 protagonists have been charged with a sense of historic mission, with the President, George W. Bush, casting America as the champion of the free world and defender of civilisation. The U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, recently compared Mr. Bush's pursuit of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, whom Washington accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction, with Winston Churchill's dogged stand against Hitler.

Historians typically are wary of such analogies, but some do see parallels between current events and past world crises. British professor Eric Hobsbawm compared the catalysing effect of the September 11 attacks with that of the 1914 assassination of Austrian



Two children hold part of a continuous 8-km-long American flag banner on a beach in remembrance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, in San Francisco on Sunday. — AP

Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, the spark that ignited World War I. In the same way that the great powers chose Sarajevo as the occasion for a European war that had long been expected, Mr. Hobsbawm said

This was not a sudden im-

pulse, he said, but the expression of a doctrine that began to take shape under the first Bush administration to combat insurgency, terrorism and drug trafficking. "I think in this respect the 11th of September was the occasion for the Americans to say: well, we've been preparing it, this proves that we need it: we're going ahead," Mr. Hobsbawm said. "What made it a turning point was that the U.S. chose to make it one."

The other often drawn analogy has been with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour that prompted America to enter World War II. But here again, some historians see crucial differences as well as parallels. "It's very different from Pearl Harbour. Pearl Harbour instilled an idea that the United States was caught up in a worldwide crisis... It declared war on Japan and Germany immediately as part of the same threat," said Lord Kenneth Morgan, a specialist in 19th and 20th century British and American history.

In contrast with the collaborative Allied effort against Hitler, the current crisis would promote a "Fortress America" mindset. Faced with "a more impenetrable and unknowable adversary who might crop up anywhere", the United States would look to its own resources and pursue a more self-sufficient and quasi-isolationist stance, he said.

In telephone interviews with Reuters, Mr. Fukuyama, Mr. Hobsbawm, Lord Morgan and Lord Blake all agreed there was no sign that the September 11 attacks had weakened the United States or undermined its global pre-eminence. On the contrary, they saw a stronger America emerging, more purposeful and assertive in its foreign policy.

To Mr. Hobsbawm, a Marxist historian who says he has "an old-fashioned prejudice against empires," America's current international domination is without precedent, outstripping even British imperial supremacy. — Reuters

CONFIDENTIAL

Bush, Blair urge the world to confront Saddam

9/19
9/19
 By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 8. The United States President, George W. Bush, and the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, argued that the world must act against the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, for he has flouted all United Nations Resolutions over the past 11 years.

In a hastily put together meeting at the Presidential Retreat of Camp David in the Catoctin Mountains, the two leaders huddled not only over the policy options on Iraq but also on how to go about "selling" the idea to an international community which is quite wary of a military strike against Iraq. "A lot of people understand that this man has defied every U.N. Resolution. Sixteen U.N. Resolutions he's ignored", Mr. Bush argued, referring to Mr. Hussein. And for his part, the British Prime Minister argued that a policy of inaction "is not a policy we can responsibly subscribe to".

The Bush-Blair meeting in Camp David comes barely five days before the former is due to give his address to the United Nations where the singular focus is expected to be on Iraq. According to one version doing the rounds, Mr. Bush will be giving the U.N. one final chance vis-à-vis Iraq, that will include a time-frame. The President, according to one draft, refers to Iraq as a "ticking time bomb" and hence little time to waste.



The U.S. President, George W. Bush (right) and the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, speak to mediapersons at Camp David, Maryland, on Saturday. — AFP

Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair spent four hours in a one-to-one session and the White House has said that the meeting was an excellent one that focussed on rallying the international community. In the end, neither of the two leaders divulged what precise course of action they had agreed on. One impression is that Mr. Blair is trying to position himself between the approaches of the U.S. and the E.U., the latter preferring a continued and useful role for the United Nations. But the British Prime Minister argued that a broad international coalition must achieve results, not preserving the status quo. "The U.N. has got to be the way of

dealing with this issue, no the way avoiding dealing with", Mr. Blair said. "The threat from Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction...that threat is real", he noted.

The high pitched discussions in Washington on Iraq comes at a time when the President's ratings on foreign policy is sliding steadily with the latest poll of

CBS News/*New York Times* finding a majority of Americans of the view that Mr. Bush lacks a clear plan to carry out his war on terror.

For a President who had nearly 80 per cent support on foreign policy in the aftermath of Sept. 11, the latest poll places the figure closer to 55 per cent. But on Iraq, the attitude was different. Even though two out of three opined that the President has not explained his position on Iraq sufficiently, there is general support for a pre-emptive policy against that country. Sixty per cent believed that the U.S. should attack Iraq if it thinks that Baghdad has plans for attack, even if none has occurred.

Collective anxiety as anniversary nears

New York, Sept. 8 (Reuters): After a year of mourning, New Yorkers arrive at Wednesday's anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks feeling anxious and surrounded by reminders of the death and horror they wish never happened and would forget if they could.

From the 6.5 hectare hole where the twin towers once stood to parks in every corner of the city, scores of cultural events, funeral ceremonies and candlelight vigils will reflect on the loss of more than 2,800 people when two hijacked civilian planes destroyed the skyscrapers last September 11.

"I sense that there is a collective anxiety in New York City, and this happened and it is still shocking ... the buildings are gone," said Dr Arthur Caliendo, a Christian minister who helped organize an interfaith service of Christians, Muslims and Jews for Tuesday evening.

"Whereas in the fall and winter there was depression, now there is anxiety knowing of the likelihood of another strike and

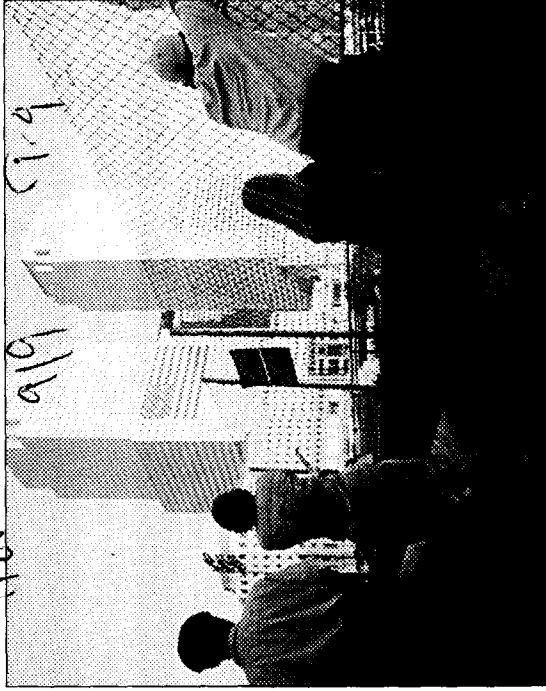
that we're vulnerable," Calliano said.

The attacks on the 110-story towers were arguably the most chronicled event in history, forcing relatives of the victims to share their grief with the world. More than 150 books, countless newspapers and magazines, websites and scores of documentaries and TV specials are replaying images of the infernos in the towers before their catastrophic collapse into a giant heap of rubble that burned for months.

The life stories of the victims, most of them office workers, and those of the 343 firefighters, 23 New York police officers and 37 Port Authority officers killed in the rescue effort are being told and retold.

Some New Yorkers will find the one-year commemorations emotionally helpful, while others will avoid official events and live TV and radio broadcasts, psychologists and social workers said.

"Even though people to a large degree stopped talking about what they were experienc-



People look through a fence at the former site of the World Trade Center in New York. (Reuters)

ing, for most people it did live on in them and the anniversary gives an opportunity for working out feelings people still have of anxiety, depression, helplessness and rage," said social worker Dr Alan Siskind.

"I don't know that the full story will be told on 9/11 ... I suspect that because there is so much coverage of it that in some ways it will delay anniversary response in some people,"

Siskind said.

A survey last week by The Polling Co found that 47 per cent of New Yorkers wanted the anniversary to be about "moving forward" rather than "looking back." A separate poll by *Newsday* newspaper revealed almost half of New Yorkers think of September 11 every day and 73 per cent fear another attack.

Workers have toiled ceaselessly to revive business in lower Manhattan, reopening streets and subways, connecting telephone circuits and laying electrical cable. The pile of melted steel, crushed concrete, broken glass and debris that stood almost 10 stories high, was cleared in just nine months.

The economic cost of the attacks was enormous. The city comptroller said New York lost between \$83 billion and \$95 billion, depending on how many jobs are moved out of the city.

For some residents, Wednesday's anniversary will be another day of being unable to return to homes still coated in dust and contaminated with asbestos and other dangerous minerals.

Was Muttawakil's warning ignored?

LONDON, SEPT. 7. In a massive failure of intelligence described by diplomatic sources as "warning fatigue", the U.S. and United Nations ignored warnings from a secret Taliban emissary that Osama bin Laden was planning a huge attack on America weeks before the horrific strikes that actually brought down the twin WTC towers last year.

The warnings were delivered by an aide of Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, the then Taliban Foreign Minister, who was known to be deeply unhappy with foreign militants, including the Arabs, in Afghanistan, *The Independent*, reported today.

At the same time, the FBI and the CIA failed to take seriously warnings that Islamic fundamentalist students had enrolled in flight schools across the U.S., it said.

Muttawakil learnt of the planned attacks on America

not from other Taliban leaders, but from the leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Tahir Yildash. The organisation was one of the fundamentalist groups that had found refuge on Afghan soil, lending fighters for the Taliban's war with the Northern Alliance and benefiting from good relations with the al-Qaeda in its fight against the Uzbek Government.

Muttawakil, now in American custody, believed Taliban's protection of Bin Laden and other al-Qaeda elements would lead to the destruction of Afghanistan by the U.S. military.

He told his aide: "The guests are going to destroy the guesthouse."

The Minister then ordered him to alert the U.S. and U.N. about what was going to happen.

But in a massive failure of intelligence, the message was disregarded because of what sources described as "warning fatigue".

Muttawakil's aide, who stayed on in Kabul and requested anonymity, told the newspaper how he had been despatched by Muttawakil to alert first the Americans and then the U.N. about the coming calamity of September 11.

The Minister learnt in July last year that Bin Laden was planning a "huge attack" on targets inside America, he said.

According to the emissary, Muttawakil emerged from a one-to-one meeting with Yildash looking shocked and troubled.

Until then, the Foreign Minister, who had disapproved of the destruction of the Buddhist statues in Bamiyan earlier in the year, had no inkling from others in the Taliban leadership of what Bin Laden was planning.

"At first Muttawakil wouldn't say why he was so upset," said the aide.

"Then it all came out. Yildash had revealed that

Osama bin Laden was going to launch an attack on the U.S."

At the same time, 19 al-Qaeda were in the U.S. waiting to launch what would be the deadliest foreign attack on American mainland.

The emissary went first to the Americans, travelling across the border to meet the consul-general, David Katz, in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar, in the third week of July 2001, the newspaper said.

Another U.S. official was also present possibly from the intelligence services.

Mr. Katz, who now works at the American Embassy in Eritrea, declined to talk about the meeting. But other U.S. sources said the warning was not passed on.

A diplomatic source said that the Afghan aide did not reveal that the warning was from Muttawakil, a factor that might have led the Americans to downgrade it.

— PTI

US, UK warplanes raid Iraq defence base

AGENCIES
LONDON/WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 6

BRITAIN confirmed on Friday an air raid by US and British warplanes against an Iraqi air defence base, but refused to confirm reports that some 100 aircraft took part.

"I'm afraid we are not giving out particular details on the size of the package," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

"But coalition aircraft did use precision guided weapons to hit at an air defence and control facility," he said, adding that it had been carried out "in response to threats to coalition aircraft."

The *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said on Friday that some 100 US and British aircraft took part in what it called the biggest single operation in Iraqi skies for four years.

It said the raid — involving a large number of support planes — appeared to be a prelude to possible special forces operations before any US-led war on Iraq, which is reputed to be developing weapons of mass destruction.

In a statement on Thursday, the US Armed Forces' Central Command said US and British warplanes bombed "an air defence command and control facility at a military airfield 380 km west and slightly south of Baghdad" in response to "recent Iraqi hostile acts."

Meanwhile, Bush on Friday sought to



Five US Air Force F-16 jets fly in echelon formation over the US en route to an exercise. The *Daily Telegraph* reported on Friday that 100 US and British warplanes were involved in a strike over Iraq's no-fly zone on Thursday. Reuters

sway the leaders of France, Russia and China to back his drive to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Bush is to meet Blair on Saturday at his Camp David, Maryland, presidential retreat. A show of solidarity against Iraq was expected by the two close allies.

Blair said it was vital Americans knew they could count on Britain for more than words, according to advance excerpts from

a BBC documentary to be shown on Sunday. Bush said on Wednesday he would offer some ideas on how to deal with Saddam when he addresses the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 12.

One idea that US officials have been considering is whether to impose "coercive inspections" on Iraq, with foreign troops shooting their way into suspected sites of weapons of mass destruction.

Congress is left asking for proof

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 6

US CONGRESSIONAL leaders on Friday said President George W. Bush had to present more evidence to support his claim that Iraq presented an immediate threat to the country before they could agree to any attack.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, told NBC television's *Today* show that the first closed-door briefing for lawmakers with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld this week was only a start.

"Some of our questions were answered but there are a lot more out there that need to be addressed before we can make any conclusive decision on what needs to be done," Daschle said.

Daschle, Minority Leader Sen. Trent Lott, House of

Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert, and House Minority Leader Rep. Dick Gephardt appeared on morning news shows before joining colleagues for a special joint session of Congress in New York marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Gephardt and Hastert told CNN that Thursday's briefing presented some new information but did not fundamentally change the threatening picture they already had of the situation. Lawmakers said making a detailed case and strategy for an attack and building support for it both at home and abroad would be the key to the success of any military mission.

"We know they have weapons of mass destruction... We need to make that case to the Americans and our friends around the world," Hastert said. "The bottomline is that we have to have this debate."

Bush consults Russia, China, France

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPT 6

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Friday sought to sway the leaders of France, Russia and China to back his drive to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Bush called French President Jacques Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who all have questions about a preemptive military strike on Iraq. The three nations, along with the US and Britain, form the permanent five members of the UN Security Council.

"It's the beginning of the process that the President outlined on Wednesday to consult with friends and allies on how to remove the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his relentless acquisition of weapons of mass destruction," said a White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Russia appeared unconvinced. The Kremlin said Putin told British Prime Minister Tony Blair he had "deep doubts that there are grounds for the use of force in connection with Iraq," Russia's RIA news agency said.

Bush said on Wednesday he would offer some ideas on how to deal with Saddam when he addresses the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 12. There is much speculation that Bush will call for an ultimatum for Iraq to allow UN weapons inspectors unfettered weapons inspections or face military attack.

INDIAN EXPRESS

17 SEP 2003

Rhetoric rises after raid on Iraq no-fly zone

War alarm as Bush on hotline

Gen. Lomin
7/1
3/9

Washington/London, Sept. 6 (Reuters): As ally Britain warned Iraq that the clock had started ticking on a possible war, President George W. Bush today sought to sway the leaders of France, Russia and China to back his drive to oust Saddam Hussein.

Bush called French President Jacques Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who all have questions about a pre-emptive military strike on Iraq. The three nations, along with the US and Britain, form the permanent five members of the UN Security Council.

Oil prices leapt to one-year highs after an unconfirmed report that 100 warplanes had been involved in their latest strike over Iraq's southern "no-fly" zone yesterday.

The US military said its warplanes had attacked an air defence target in the latest of a series of escalating exchanges. Iraq said US and British warplanes had attacked civilian targets.

Blair, due to meet Bush tomorrow in what British media are already calling a "war summit", threw his weight behind

the Americans. "They need to know, 'Are you prepared to commit, are you prepared to be there, and when the shooting starts, are you prepared to be there,'" he told the BBC.

Referring to Bush's talks with world leaders, a White House official said: "It's the beginning of the process that the President outlined on Wednesday to consult with friends and allies on how to remove the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and his relentless acquisition of weapons of mass destruction."

Russia appeared unconvinced. The Kremlin said Putin told Blair he had "deep doubts that there are grounds for the use of force in connection with Iraq".

The Kremlin statement quoted Putin as saying that the use of force could have "serious, negative consequences for the situation in the Gulf region, West Asia and for the future of the US-led anti-terrorism coalition".

Bush this week began a concerted effort to convince members of the US Congress and foreign allies on the threat posed by Saddam. Some members of Congress said Bush had to present more evidence.

■ See Page 4

LTTE to remain internationally ostracised

AD 12
By V.S.Sambandan

COLOMBO, SEPT. 6. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which was de-proscribed by Colombo on Thursday, would continue to remain internationally ostracised till it renounces terror completely.

India, the U.S. and the U.K., which along with several other countries outlawed the rebels, have made it clear that there is no change in their positions after Colombo's move to lift the ban ahead of the September 16 talks in Thailand.

The U.S. said today the Tigers would remain on Washington's list as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), until it renounced "terrorism in word and deed."

"The U.S. understands and supports the Sri Lankan Government's decision to lift its

ban on the Tigers in the context of moving forward with negotiations to end the conflict," the U.S. embassy here said.

The LTTE was one of the 30 groups listed as FTOs by Washington on October 8, 1997 under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996. As a result of the branding it became a crime in the U.S. to fund, provide weapons or other tangible support for the groups designated as FTOs; their members and representatives were ineligible for visas to enter the U.S. and their existing funds, if any, were blocked. Washington further tightened the noose around the designated terrorist organisations in the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

In addition, the Tigers are listed as terrorist organisations in Canada and Australia as well. In February 1996, Malaysia made it a

crime to support the LTTE, under which foreigners backing pro-LTTE rallies would face deportation. While the domestic ban in Sri Lanka was largely symbolic, the international ostracism hurt the Tigers the most. Its image took a beating and there was a squeeze of inflows into its war chest. No figures are readily available on the funds that have been blocked because of the international exclusion of the Tigers, but indications are that they run into millions of dollars.

The Tigers, who set a condition that the domestic ban should be lifted before talks begin, also made the point that they would subsequently work towards getting other countries to revoke their positions. However, this remains a distant destination.

China pledges proactive role against terrorism

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By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 6. Pledging a proactive role in the ongoing international campaign against terrorism, China has called for the formulation of "a comprehensive strategy based on the U.N. Charter" to address the political dimension of the crisis.

More specifically, Beijing prefers a consultative mechanism, covering a select group of countries, to try and prevent the money-laundering and terrorist-financing activities.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Beijing will continue to promote anti-terror cooperation in the multilateral sphere and in bilateral cooperation with a number of coun-

tries. China, according to its official spokesman, "has formed a consultation mechanism with quite a few countries including the United States, Britain, Russia, France, India and Pakistan".

The reference to India in a bilateral mode acquires importance in the light of the security dialogue that Beijing and New Delhi had initiated some time ago and in the context of the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee's planned visit to China in a near-term future.

China's present dialogue with Islamabad has much to do with the terror-related concerns of the international community as regards both Afghanistan and Pakistan itself.

Bush in bid to win over Iraq war sceptics

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Washington, Sept. 5 (Reuters): US President George W. Bush announced a campaign yesterday to convince sceptics at home and abroad that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "outlaw regime" was developing weapons of mass destruction and needed to be disarmed.

Bush, who briefed leading US lawmakers, said he would lay out his plans to deal with the Iraqi leader in a speech at the UN next week and in consultations with the leaders of Britain, Russia, China, France and Canada.

Amid growing concerns from world capitals of a US war with Iraq, the White House reiterated that Bush had made no decision on whether to use military force to overthrow Saddam, accused by Washington of developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Saddam appeared unbowed by threats of war and pressure for him to let weapons inspectors in, vowing his nation would defeat any military action and repeating that Iraq wanted

an overall solution to the crisis based on UN resolutions.

Oil prices rallied on growing signs Washington was stepping up preparations for an attack on major producer Iraq, with benchmark Brent crude closing 53 cents firmer at \$27.10 a barrel on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

At a meeting with congressional leaders, some of whom have voiced fears of a protracted military engagement, Bush said that at the appropriate time he would ask Congress to approve any action on Iraq "necessary to deal with the threat."

"Doing nothing about that serious threat is not an option," declared the President, whom aides said may seek approval from Congress before mid-term elections in early November.

"We must not allow an outlaw regime that incites and uses terror at home and abroad to threaten the world by developing the ultimate weapons of terror," Bush added.

In a letter to leading lawmakers, Bush said the decision was "how to disarm an outlaw regime that continues to possess and develop weapons of mass destruction," and that he remained committed to "regime change" in Iraq. Bush said he would meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Saturday at Camp David to discuss the threat posed by Iraq and would phone leaders of China, Russia and France, all key members of the UN Security Council.

He will meet Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien on Monday and said he would also make his case in an address to the UN General Assembly in New York on September 12, a year and a day since the attacks that prompted his "war on terror."

"I will first remind the United Nations that for 11 long years Saddam Hussein has sidestepped, crawled, wheedled out of any agreement he made not to develop weapons of mass destruction," Bush said.

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Lawsuit alleges Iraq role

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By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 5. At a time when even the American intelligence agencies are not sure of the role played by Iraq in the terror attacks of Sept. 11 last year, a law suit filed in New York claims that Baghdad had a specific link to the terror attack against the United States.

The law suit filed on behalf of 1,400 victims of the attacks and the families alleges that Iraqi officials were aware before that fateful day last year of plans by Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda to strike at targets in New York and Washington. The law suit also claims that Baghdad resorted to terror attacks against the United States to avenge its defeat in the Persian Gulf War.

"Since Iraq could not defeat the U.S. military, it resorted to terror attacks on U.S. citizens", the suit says. Osama bin Laden,

Al-Qaeda and Iraq have been named as defendants who are being sued for damages in excess of \$1 trillion.

The case is being handled by a New York law firm that specialises in aviation disaster litigation.

The Iraq angle comes in part from an article written by an Iraqi columnist — said to have close ties to the intelligence apparatus in that country — saying that Osama was seriously thinking about the way he will bomb the Pentagon after destroying the White House. The columnist is also said to have written of Osama contemplating to strike the "arm" of America that was already hurting — said to be a possible reference to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre.

According to a lawyer representing the firm, the columnist had advance knowledge of Al-

Qaeda's specific targets on Sept. 11 and that Iraqi officials were aware of the plans to hit landmarks in the United States.

Iraqi intelligence officials had numerous meetings with Al-Qaeda for about a decade, the law suit alleges.

It is no secret that there are some within the Bush administration who are desperately trying to establish a link between Baghdad and the terror attacks; but both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency have said that no conclusive link has been established.

The Bush administration, in particular, has been looking for evidence on whether one of the hijacker-terrorists — Mohammad Atta — had met Iraqi intelligence agents in West Asia or Europe in the months prior to the horrific events of last September.

Chinese Muslim group planned terror: U.S.

BEIJING, SEPT. 3. A little-known Muslim group from western China that the United States recently branded as terrorist had planned attacks on Western embassies in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, an American official has said.

During a visit to Beijing, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, disclosed that his country had placed the group, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, on the American terror list, freezing any United States-based assets it might hold.

The group has killed civilians, he said.

The group is one of several that have emerged among the Uighur Muslims of Xinjiang province to seek an independent Muslim state or to challenge China's social and economic domination.

The group's leader abroad, Hasan Mahsum, has admitted to using violence, contending that the movement has no choice because peaceful opposition is outlawed. But the group is also accused by China's Government of having close ties to Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden's terrorism network.

In an interview last January, the leader denied this, though

he acknowledged that some individual followers may have trained or fought with Al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan.

The American condemnation of the group was a propaganda coup for China, which had sought to blunt criticism of its repressive tactics in Xinjiang, saying that it faces an organised, global terrorist threat.

Human rights groups say that much of the unrest in Xinjiang is more spontaneous, and they charge that China is using the post-Sept. 11 climate to justify suppression of the Uighur identity and violations of civil rights.

Just before Mr. Armitage's visit, China met a long-time American demand, issuing rules to control export of missile technologies.

Stung by questions about the timing of the terrorism listing of the Chinese group, American officials provided new details this week in support of the charges.

In May, Kyrgyzstan deported two Chinese Uighur members of the group to China because they were "planning attacks against embassies, trade centres and public gathering places in Kyrgyzstan," an American embassy spokesman said. — *New York Times*