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29/12

U.N. officials to leave N. Korea

VIENNA, (AUSTRIA), DEC. 28. Warning of a dangerous escalation in the nuclear standoff with North Korea, the U.N. Atomic Energy Agency said on Saturday that its inspectors would comply with the Communist country's expulsion order and leave by new year's eve.

Mohamed ElBaradei, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, decried the North's "defiance and impunity" in expelling the inspectors and reviving its nuclear programme.

In an interview with a news agency, Mr. ElBaradei, said he still held out hope that the reclusive nation's leadership would reverse course and avert a showdown with the U.N. Security Council.

The IAEA's Board of Governors will meet at the agency's Vienna headquarters on Jan. 6, when it will consider whether to refer the matter to the Security Council — a diplomatic manoeuvre that could lead to sanctions or other punitive actions against North Korea.

"The emerging consensus is that the board would like to give diplomacy — and North Korea — another chance to comply with its international obligations," Mr. ElBaradei told the AP by telephone from Sri Lanka, where he is vacationing.

"They are still pursuing their policy of defiance. They continue to escalate a crisis situation," Mr. ElBaradei warned. "This road they are embarking on is completely a dead end."

The agency's three inspectors in North Korea, who had been monitoring a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, north of the capital, Pyongyang, were preparing to leave by Dec. 31, the IAEA spokeswoman, Melissa Fleming, said.

The order to leave came a day after North Korea said the inspectors were no longer welcome.

Although the IAEA said on Friday that the inspectors were "staying put," Ms. Fleming said on Saturday they were given the order to withdraw after North Korean officials told the monitors directly "that they should leave the country immediately," after it became clear that the country had no intention of responding to a letter of protest from Mr. ElBaradei. — AP

29 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

N Korea to expel UN inspectors

Seoul, December 27

NORTH KOREA has announced it is expelling UN nuclear inspectors monitoring a reactor capable of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons and is pressing ahead with the construction of nuclear facilities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Thursday it had "serious non-proliferation concerns" after North Korea said it planned to restart a reactor whose use was frozen in 1994 after a crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear arms ambitions.

North Korea's state news agency said the IAEA inspectors were no longer needed.

"As our freeze on nuclear facilities has been lifted, the mission of IAEA inspectors, who have been in Yongbyon under the (1994) Agreed Framework between North Korea and the US, has naturally drawn to an end," the North's news agency said on Friday, quoting a letter to IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei.

"In a situation where there is no longer justification for the inspectors to stay in our country, our Government has decided to send them out," it said of a move that would escalate the North's two-month showdown with the international community.

"We will be completing construction on nuclear power plants and will start operating a radioactive chemical laboratory as part of preparation for the safe storage of used fuel rods that will be produced by the power plants when the plants begin opera-



South Korean President-elect Roh Moo-Hyun (centre) smiles as soldiers cheer during his visit to a military base in Inje, on Friday. North Korea on Friday began moving in banned machine guns into the border with South Korea.

tion," it said. The IAEA confirmed that North Korea had asked its inspection staff to leave.

N-bomb in 30 days

North Korea, which has begun work to reactivate a nuclear reactor capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, could have a nuclear weapon within 30 days, British expert John Large was quoted as saying by *The Times* on Friday.

Reuters

UN watchdog raises N. Korea nuclear alarm

PAUL ECKERI

Seoul, Dec. 26 (Reuters): The UN atomic watchdog today said North Korea's move to activate nuclear facilities was "very worrying," as South Korea vowed to play a leading role in stopping its communist neighbour's brinkmanship.

The Vienna-based UN inspection agency — the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — said North Korea had moved 1,000 fresh fuel rods to a nuclear reactor that produces plutonium used in nuclear warheads.

"The big worry (is) if they start to operate the reprocessing plant that will produce plutonium, which can be directly used to manufacture nuclear weapons

— and there again we have no way to verify the nature of the activity," IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei told CNN from Sri Lanka.

"So the situation is very worrying," he said.

IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky told the BBC the 1,000 fresh fuel rods moved to the reactor site had not yet been loaded into the reactor core.

He said they would need to move another 7,000 rods to reach the capacity of the reactor core.

"Moving toward restarting its nuclear facilities without appropriate safeguards, and toward producing plutonium raises serious non-proliferation concerns and is tantamount to nu-

clear brinkmanship," ElBaradei said in a statement.

South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung told his security and foreign policy ministers they should seek dialogue with the North through existing channels while working with the US, Japan and others to defuse the crisis over the facilities closed since 1994.

"South Korea must play a leading role in solving the North's nuclear issue, which is a critical problem for the Korean peninsula," he said, in remarks relayed by his office after the special strategy meeting.

Kim, who favours constructive engagement with the North over the current US approach of playing hard ball, did not

spell out specific new measures but his government has opened channels of communication while discussing aid and reunification.

Gwozdecky said North Korean technicians had broken most seals and disabled UN surveillance devices at all four nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, 90 km north of the capital, Pyongyang.

Cameras had been monitoring a 1994 oil-for-compliance deal that ended an earlier crisis over the North's nuclear ambitions.

South Korean defence minister Lee Jun said the North had made no unusual military moves during the dispute. Unification minister Jeong Se-hyun, echoing a George Bush administration official, said its nuclear moves

appeared largely aimed at forcing the US to talk.

But a US official, who accused the North of playing games to draw the US into normalisation talks, said Washington was unwilling to play the game and predicted diplomatic pressure would bring the North into line.

An influential US senator also stressed the importance of working with other nations including South Korea, China, Japan and Russia to bring the North into line. "Our strategy now has to be one of multilateral engagement," Senator Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican and incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told NBC's *Today* show.

The latest crisis erupted after the US said in October the North had admitted operating a secret nuclear weapons programme using highly enriched uranium. The US, South Korea and other states suspended the oil shipments in December.

The Bush administration, which has labelled the North a member of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran, says it appears to be pacing its provocations to draw a US response.

"It's like a strip-tease," said the administration official, who asked not to be named.

The North insists it has a right to possess nuclear weapons and says Washington must sign a non-aggression pact as a basis for talks on their differences.

U.K. assures help to U.N. team

By Hasan Suroor

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HD-14
21/12

LONDON, DEC. 23. Britain has assured the U.N. weapons inspectors that they would get all the help they need to unearth Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. This followed a stinging rebuke by the chief of weapons inspectors, Hans Blix, that Britain, and the U.S. were not sharing with him fully the intelligence they claimed to have about the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein's alleged arsenal.

But even as the Foreign Office promised full assistance to Mr. Blix and his team, doubts emerged whether Britain and the U.S. had any clinching evidence at all to back their claims.

"The British Government officials have privately admitted that they do not have any 'killer evidence' about weapons of mass destruction. If they had, they would have already passed it to the inspectors," *The Guardian* said today.

Mr. Blix said last week that if the U.K. and the U.S. were 'convinced' that they had enough evidence against Mr. Hussein "then one would expect they would be able to tell us where is this stuff."

Reports suggested that some 'sensitive' intelligence was being held back from weapons inspectors because of fears that it might get leaked. According to *The Sunday Telegraph*, Washington and London were "waiting for his (Mr. Blix's) team to establish a reliable track record before entrusting them with all the information they have." Meanwhile, Britain's leading clergymen, including the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, have joined MPs and peace activists to warn against a war in Iraq. Using their traditional Christmas messages, some of the Britain's senior Bishops have questioned the legitimacy of a war which is seen to lack international backing.

N. Korea defies UN, drops nuke scanner

SAMUELLEN

Seoul, Dec. 22 (Reuters): North Korea, defying world opinion, today said it was removing UN monitoring equipment from a nuclear reactor at the centre of the communist state's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang's announcement came after the International Atomic Energy Agency said

North Korea had disabled surveillance devices the agency had placed at the five-megawatt Yongbyon research reactor, which the UN believes was used to make plutonium capable of use in warheads. The US, Japan and South Korea urged North Korea to maintain the freeze on its nuclear facilities.

The Bush administration has lumped the reclusive communist

state as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran for developing weapons of mass destruction and backing terrorism.

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

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said it began removing the surveillance devices after the UN nuclear watchdog had not acted on Pyongyang's demand early this month to take the equipment away to allow the reactor to restart.

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

North Korea vowed to maintain a hardline stance, accusing the US and Japan of trying to isolate the communist state.

"It is the DPRK's invariable mode to react to the US imperialists' hard-line policy with the toughest stand," the North Korean news agency said. "To take a prudent stand and attitude rather than acting rashly by following the US in the Korean problem is more beneficial to Japan's existence and security."

North Korea needed to end the nuclear reactor freeze "because the US unilaterally abandoned its commitment to supply heavy oil in compensation for the loss of electricity", the news agency said. The US, South Korea, Japan and the European Union moved to halt the oil supplies in response to US revelations of a North Korean nuclear weapons programme using highly enriched uranium.

North Korea's move came days after South Koreans elected a new President who campaigned against using pressure and sanctions to press Pyongyang to resolve the nuclear crisis. Ruling party President-elect Roh Moo-hyun vowed to continue outgoing President Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine policy" of aid and dialogue with the North.

U.S. vetoes resolution condemning Israel

25/12
UN

UNITED NATIONS, DEC. 21. The United States vetoed an Arab-backed resolution that would have condemned Israel for the recent killings of three U.N. workers, saying it was 'inappropriate' to single out the Israelis.

Twelve other Council members — including close U.S. ally Britain — voted in favour of the resolution on Friday. Bulgaria and Cameroon abstained.

The resolution expressed "grave concern" at the killings by Israeli troops and demanded that Israel "refrain from the excessive and disproportionate use of force in the Occupied Palestinian territories."

It also demanded that Israel comply fully with its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which deals with the protection of civilians during war.

But the U.S. veto means that the resolution was not adopted. The last U.S. veto, in

December 2001, also was cast against a West Asia resolution and critics accused the Americans of being biased toward the Israelis.

"The proponents of this resolution appear more intent on condemning Israeli occupation than on ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel," said the U.S. Ambassador, John Negroponte, before the vote.

"Mixing these two issues is inappropriate and weakens the Council's voice on the need for both parties to take steps to avoid actions that endanger innocent civilians and United Nations staff," he added.

The Syrian U.N. Ambassador, Mikhail Wehbe, the only Arab member of the Council, rejected the U.S. attempts to amend the resolution to eliminate the reference to Israel's disproportionate use of force.

The U.S. would also have dropped the demand for Israel to comply with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"We ... do not believe that it is in any way permissible to give Israel the right to kill United Nations personnel without accountability or sanction," Mr. Wehbe said.

"If the Security Council is unable to put an end to such Israeli practices because of the protection given by one permanent member state to Israel, that will open the door wide to flouting international humanitarian law," he said.

Mr. Negroponte, who called the Syrian draft "one-sided," said the U.S. reserved the right to resubmit its draft next week. — AP



The Hollywood actress and activist, Jane Fonda (left), with Israeli left wing anti-occupation demonstrators in Jerusalem on Friday. — AP

Arms search restarts amid war rumblings

G.A. UN G.A. 22/19

HUDA MAJEED SALEH

Baghdad, Dec. 21 (Reuters): UN arms inspectors hunted for banned weapons in Iraq today, but expectations of war grew across West Asia and the Gulf regions, stoked by sombre messages coming from Washington and London.

Iraqi officials said UN weapons experts had pounced on 10 sites across the country, including an oil refinery south of Baghdad and a communications centre near the Iranian border.

Washington and London, meanwhile, signalled that the prospect of a ground air war to be fought to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in early 2003 was now increasingly likely.

President George W. Bush cancelled a trip to Africa at a few weeks' notice while the US military forged ahead with a buildup that could have more than 100,000 troops in the Gulf region in January, February.

In London, in a Christmas message broadcast to British armed forces yesterday, Prime Minister Tony Blair told troops to prepare for war.

As fears of war rose, sirens rang for the first time in a decade in Saudi Arabia as the kingdom tested its emergency warning system, while in

Qatar delegates from Gulf Cooperation Council states held a meeting to set aside regional differences amid fears of war on Iraq.

At the meeting, Qatar urged Iraq to implement UN resolutions and called on UN weapons inspectors to remain objective. Iraq shares borders with two members of the council and an attack on Baghdad could destabilise the oil-rich region.

In Vatican City, Pope John Paul called for peace, expressing despair at the growing number of conflicts in the world. The face of Christ was marked by pain because of it and the future was bathed in blood. War and terrorism were creating increasing divisions in the world, he said.

In Baghdad, Saddam met his top advisers, according to the official news agency INA, which said they had discussed regional and international developments. Iraq also promised to return another batch of Kuwaiti property in an effort to improve ties with its Gulf War foe.

Iraqi newspapers taunted the US and Britain, with the daily owned by Saddam's eldest son, Uday, likening US and British leaders to ruthless Mongol conquerors. But a key Iraqi opposition leader said today he believed a US-led attack



US military vehicles take part in exercises in the Kuwaiti desert near the eastern border with Iraq. (AP/PTI)

ready to move to the Gulf, US officials said.

According to a German government source, the US has asked Germany to guard US bases in the country at the end of January to allow more troops to be moved to the Gulf.

Japan may also send troops to Iraq to help scrap any chemical and biological weapons following a possible attack on that country, Japanese media said.

The report came a day after Bush said Iraq's arms declaration was "not encouraging" for finding a peaceful solution to the standoff.

US officials yesterday offered more data to UN weapons inspectors after Hans Blix, who heads the team of UN inspectors, urged Washington and London to share intelligence. However, there was no indication today that the data had been provided. Officials said the information

would involve fewer than six sites where US intelligence believed Iraq has "suspicious chemical weapons or elements of production".

The UN Security Council asked the arms inspectors to provide a detailed assessment of Iraq's arms declaration on January 9, in another effort to evaluate Baghdad's claim it no longer has weapons of mass destruction, diplomats said.

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Blix calls for Intelligence data

21/12

Associated Press

LONDON, Dec. 20. — The USA and Britain should give UN weapons inspectors more intelligence about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, chief inspector Dr Hans Blix said today.

"If the UK and the USA ... have evidence, then one would expect that they will be able to tell us where this stuff is," Dr Blix told BBC radio.

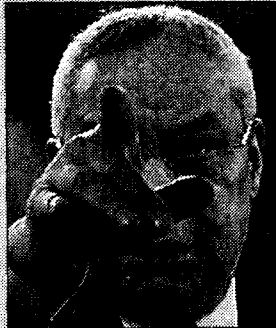
Yesterday, US secretary of state Gen. Colin Powell accused Iraq of "deception" and "lying" in the weapons inventory it handed to the UN.

He said there were "omissions that in our view constitute another material breach. We are disappointed but not deceived. Let there be no misunderstanding. Saddam has so far responded to this final opportunity with a new lie".

In his first appraisal of the dossier, Dr Blix noted that Iraq maintained it had no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons programs "and that none have been designed, procured, produced or stored" since the last inspections regime ended four years ago.

Dr Blix said western governments claimed to have evidence to the contrary, but that inspectors were currently not in a position "to confirm Iraq's state-

GET THE POINT?



'We are disappointed but not deceived. Let there be no misunderstanding. Saddam has so far responded to this final opportunity with a new lie'

ments, nor in possession of evidence to disprove it." He told the BBC that the inspectors "don't get all the support we need" from western governments.

"The most important thing that governments like the UK or the USA could give us would be to tell us sites where they are convinced that they keep weapons of mass destruction," he said. "This is what we want to have".

Experts inspect nuclear site: Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were working today at the al-Tuwaitha site, the former heart of Iraq's

nuclear programme, an Iraqi official said, adds AFP from Baghdad.

The complex, 25 km south-east of Baghdad, has been visited six times since UN arms experts resumed inspections in Iraq on 27 November after a four-year break.

All the earlier inspections were undertaken by the IAEA except the one on 14 December, which was by a biological team of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

During their previous visits, the IAEA teams inventoried nuclear material from Iraq's past nuclear programme.

Al-Tuwaitha was the location of the French-supplied Osirak nuclear reactor bombed by Israeli warplanes in 1981.

Germany: German defence minister Mr Peter Struck said today that Berlin expected Saddam to be allowed to "improve" his country's arms declaration to the UN, adds AFP from Berlin.

Russia: A top Russian official today said the threat of war against Iraq had not diminished following Dr Blix's briefing, a report from Moscow says.

"A threat of war against Iraq still exists," Interfax quoted Moscow's ambassador to the UN, Sergei Lavrov, as saying.

THE STATESMAN

21 DEC 2002

UN seeks Iraq scientists list

Saddam foes meet in London

Baghdad, December 14

THE UN pressed Baghdad for a list of scientists linked to arms programmes, and fractious Iraqi Opposition groups met in London on Saturday to plan roles in a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq.

UN experts, testing Iraq's assertion that it no longer has any banned weapons, pounced on 11 chemical, biological, nuclear and missile sites on Saturday, Iraqi officials said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said the Arab world should know that the US and Israel were making a fuss over weapons to mask their determination to destroy Iraq.

Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix has written to Iraqi presidential adviser Amir al-Saadi asking Iraq to name its arms scientists by the end of December, Blix's spokesman said on Friday. An Iraqi official has said the list is in the works.

Under Security Council resolution 1441 of November 8, the inspectors have the right to interview in private anyone who might know details of Iraq's weapons programmes, if necessary by taking them and their families out of the country.

The US wants Blix and his counterpart at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, to do just that. But some diplomats believe Washington is pushing the issue to provoke a clash between Baghdad and the UN arms experts that could provide a quick pretext for a war on Iraq.

"We are not going to abduct anybody, and we're not serving as a defection agency," Blix said last week.

Washington says it will topple Saddam and disarm Iraq by force if it fails to disarm voluntarily. But Aziz, opening a poetry festival in Baghdad, challenged the idea that disarmament was the real issue.

"The Arab nation should not

be deceived by false excuses by America and Zionist imperialism (Israel) that they are launching their aggression on Iraq to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction," he said.

"The US and its ally Israel are using all their means of deception to destroy Iraq."

Meanwhile, opponents of Saddam Hussein are meeting in London to map out a future for the country and called for a federal, tolerant Iraq in the event Saddam is ousted from power.

Up to 1,000 people, including 330 delegates and scores of reporters and security guards, gathered on Saturday at a plush hotel on the invitation of a committee representing six opposition groups recognised by the United States.

The meeting, which had been postponed three times due to arguments about who should control it, heard calls for a federal Iraq, liberated from Saddam's Ba'ath Party, and for an Iraq free of extremism.

"Federalism is practised in 70 countries worldwide," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan — one of two Kurdish parties which control northern Iraq. "It will foster unity in Iraq."

Dossier verdict in months

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Saturday that the UN would need a few months to reach a conclusion about Iraq's declaration on its weapons programme.

"By January, we should have a status report which should move us forward," said Mohamed ElBaradei. "We still need a few months before we come to a conclusion on the Iraqi declaration." ElBaradei and UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix are expected to give preliminary findings to the Security Council in New York on Thursday.

Reuters

UN quiz scientists, Prayers to the Devil for 'no war'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, Dec. 14. — UN weapons inspectors are preparing to interview former and current scientists associated with Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programmes. Chief inspector Mr Hans Blix sought a complete list of the scientists in a letter to Iraqi presidential adviser Mr Amir al-Saadi.

In the letter, Mr Blix has asked Iraq to provide a list of all personnel currently and formerly associated with its chemical, biological and ballistic missile programmes, and diplomats say it would not be long before they start quizzing them.

The USA is pressing the inspectors to interview the scientists as Washington fears that inspections would lead nowhere.

Information from scientists who know about the programmes and helped run them would reveal much more, it argues.

The USA has been pressing inspectors to whisk the key scientists out of the country along with their families to enable them to speak freely without fear of the Saddam Hussein government.

But Mr Blix appears to be undecided about this, as several issues would need to be resolved including what should be done with them if Iraq refuses to allow them back or they are not prepared to go back after they give the information and seek



UN inspectors confer with Iraqi officials after their inspection at the al-Fatah missile research compound in Baghdad on Saturday. — AFP

asylum in another country.

The USA, Russia and France have sent Mr Blix comments on the Iraqi dossier on the status of its weapons of mass destruction which the five permanent members of the Security Council received last Monday. The comments include which parts of the dossier they want to be deleted before it is given to the ten non-permanent members. Britain is expected to submit the comments on Monday. It was not known when China would do so. Mr Blix is expected to brief the Security Council on Thursday.

Prayers to the Devil for 'no war'

THE TIMES, LONDON

BASHIQA (Iraq), Dec. 14. — Barely 30 miles from Mosul, in a village at the base of Mount Maqlib, Sheikh Mirza Sulaman and his tribe are praying for a reprieve from war. But his people, an ancient sect called the Yezidis, are praying to the Devil.

The Yezidis worship the Peacock Angel, Malak Taus — Lucifer — as well as God. Their main religious text, *Meshaf i Resh* or the Black Book, forbids them to eat lettuce or butter beans, wear dark blue etc. They cannot utter the word "Satan" or indeed any other word that sounds like his name. Their religion is a blend of paganism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam. Whereas Christians believe that Lucifer fell from grace to hell, the Yezidis believe he was pardoned and reinstated as the angel closest to God.

There are about 750 Yezidis left in Iraq. They intermarry to keep their bloodlines pure, do not accept converts, and have managed to pass centuries in these remote mountain hamlets undisturbed. "We have resisted time, we have resisted everything," says an old man who has come to attend a funeral at Sheikh Mazar Temple.

The ritual involves the men gathering in the temple to prostrate themselves before the Peacock Angel and God. They leave Kurdish money near the centre of the room, converge in the courtyard to smoke, drink tea and gossip, mainly about the upcoming war.

The Yezidis are anxious about the possibility of war. At risk is the Yezidi temple at Ain Sifni near the Kurdish border, a place of great cultural heritage. Another potential casualty would be the isolation and harmony of these villages, seemingly far from the reach of the Saddam regime. War, they say, will destroy their land, their families, their way of life. "War destroys everything beautiful."

THE STATESMAN

15 DEC 2002

UN to censor Iraq dossier

The Times, London

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. — The UN will censor the names of Iraq's foreign suppliers from the public version of Baghdad's arms declaration, to spare countries embarrassment at the role their firms have played in its development of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Hans Blix, the UN's chief arms inspector, has promised to provide an edited version of the Iraqi declaration to all members of the 15-nation Security Council as early as Monday after receiving advice from the five nuclear powers on which sections to cut out.

The table of contents of Iraq's 11,807-page declaration suggests it contains a great deal of information about Baghdad's past efforts to procure nuclear, chemical and biological weapons components abroad and even lists "foreign technical assistance" in the chemical field.

British firms are already known to be among numerous Western companies that — wittingly or not — supplied weapons-related technology to Iraq before the Gulf War.

At a lunch with Security Council members on Tuesday, however, Mr Blix indicated that he would follow the practice of previous UN inspectors in keeping secret the names of foreign suppliers. "Foreign suppliers used to be something that they called sensitive, for the reason that they had sometimes been obtaining information through the foreign suppliers about the Iraqi programme, and if they were to give their names publicly, then they would never get another foreign supplier giving you information," he said. "There were also those who did not know: Suppliers might have exported things quite legally, and they were not aware of where they were going to." As UN analysts studied a key 500-page section of the Iraqi dec-



Iraqi workers build bunkers outside the Nida factory in Zaafaraniya on Thursday, near Baghdad, in preparation for possible US attacks. — AFP

laration written in Arabic, Mr Blix said that he hoped to provide a preliminary assessment of Baghdad's position on 19 December.

He has given the five nuclear powers until Friday to make recommendations to him on what should be removed from the published version of the dossier to prevent weapons proliferation.

US threat to use nukes: The USA is prepared to launch nuclear missiles against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein deploys chemical or biological weapons against American troops or allies, the White House said on Wednesday.

The explicit warning of a tactical strike, which echoes a similar declaration delivered before the 1991 Gulf War, is designed to persuade Mr Hussein not to consider resorting to his "arsenal of terror".

Rumsfeld tours military base: The USA won Qatari approval for major improvements to an air base in this Gulf nation that would play a central role if President George Bush ordered war against Iraq, adds AP from Doha. Upon his arrival in the Qatari capital last night, defence secretary Mr Donald Rumsfeld signed an agreement giving the go-ahead for several construction projects at al-Udeid air base.

The USA is prepared to launch nuclear missiles against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein deploys chemical or biological weapons

Al-Qaida got nerve gas from Iraq, says report

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. — In what could be a clinching evidence against Iraq's claims to the UN that it destroyed all its chemical weapons, the USA has received "credible reports" that Al-Qaida militants received in Iraq the nerve agent VX, used as a chemical weapon, which was smuggled through Turkey.

The Bush Administration has received "a credible report that Islamic extremists affiliated with Al-Qaida took possession of a chemical weapon in Iraq last month or late in October," a media report said quoting official sources. They said government analysts suspect that the transaction involved the nerve agent VX and that a courier managed to smuggle it overland through Turkey.

"If the report is true," *The Washington Post* said, "the transaction marks two significant milestones. It would be the first known acquisition of a non-conventional weapon other than cyanide by Al-Qaida or a member of its network. It also would be the most concrete evidence to justify war against Iraq."

Iraqi dossier in US hands irks Annan

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Dec. 11. — UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan has termed the handing over of the first unedited copy of Iraqi declaration to the USA as an “unfortunate development never to be repeated again” even as he rejected criticism that the world body had become a puppet of America.

“In substance, the decision was fine, but the approach and style was wrong as the Security Council had decided that all would get the same material”, Mr Annan said reacting to Security Council president Mr Alfonso Valdivieso’s decision.

Discussing the issue with Council members yesterday, he described it as an “unfortunate development” and expressed hope that it would not be repeated.

Speaking to reporters later, he agreed that some Council members had criticised the decision but rejected the suggestion that it showed that the world body had become a puppet in the hands of the USA.

Syria and Norway were among the members which openly expressed their unhappiness with the Norwegian foreign minister Mr Jan Petersen warning against some members being treated as “B class”. Baghdad said Mr Valdivieso’s decision proved that the UN had



FOUND ANY YET? Or so the laidback workers waiting outside Baghdad’s Al-Karama complex, which specialised before the 1991 Gulf War in producing guidance and control systems for Al-Hussein missiles, seem to ask during a visit by UN disarmament inspectors on Wednesday. — AFP

become a victim of “extortion” by Washington and expressed fear that the USA may use it to “manipulate the Council”. “This is unprecedented extortion in the history of the UN, when it (USA) forced the president of the Security Council to give it the original copy of Iraq’s declaration ... in contradiction with the agreement by all members of the Council”, the Iraqi foreign ministry said.

THE STATESMAN

1 2 DEC 2002

UN TEAM BEGINS SCRUTINY OF IRAQ DECLARATION

Permanent members get access to dossier

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Dec. 9. — As weapons inspectors began the arduous task of examining today the massive Iraqi dossier detailing Baghdad's chemical, biological and nuclear programmes, the UN Security Council in a surprise move permitted five permanent members uncensored access to the documents.

The head of the weapons inspection agency, UNMOVIC, Mr Hans Blix was on hand to receive the 12,000-page document, sealed in two black suitcases, as they were brought to the UN headquarters by his aide Mr Surya Sinha after being flown in from Baghdad.

The inspectors would access whether Iraq had complied with the UN resolutions on its weapons of mass destruction as claimed.

The Security Council in an unexpected move agreed to give the US, Russia, France, China and Britain uncensored access to the Iraqi declaration.

The other 10 council members, including Iraq's neighbour Syria, will only see the declaration once it is translated, analysed and gleaned of sensitive material.

The decision overrides one made on Friday to distribute censored copies to the council and means that Washington would not have to wait to begin its own analysis and translation of the document.

The nuclear component of the new declaration arrived earlier yesterday in Vienna where the International Atomic Energy Agency is based.

The IAEA director general, Mohammed El Baradei, said in Vienna that the experts would cross check the declaration with data from past and intelligence reports from other nations. He expects to give the Council a preliminary report within 10 days and a detailed analysis by January end.

Mr Blix said the inspectors would "immediately take a look" at the material and get an "overview of how many

pages are printed, how much did we get in CD-ROM and tomorrow we will get copies made of the declaration and we will start to work".

At a meeting later with the current president of the Council, Columbian ambassador Mr Alfonso Valdivieso, Mr Blix was told that the five perma-

USA to give sites list to inspectors

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. — The USA will soon provide UN weapons inspectors in Iraq with a list of priority sites it wants investigated immediately and has approved a list of hi-tech surveillance gear for them in the hope of gaining information to back their claims of Iraq possessing WMD.

Sometime in the next two weeks, the USA would provide Mr Hans Blix with a list of priority sites it wants investigated immediately, a media report said today.

Washington is also prepared to offer the weapons inspectors with high-tech surveillance gear, including unmanned aerial vehicles and a U-2 high altitude spy plane, a list of which has been approved by the Defence Secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld.

"We don't need any convincing based on the information we have," a top US official told the *Wall Street Journal*. US officials are concerned that they are losing the early public relations battle with Baghdad, and said the White House could offer a preliminary

rebuttal in the next few days, even before a full review of the declaration is completed. The administration has lined up a group of weapons experts to review the declaration for any hints about possible weapons sites and other discrepancies, the report said.

A US official said the White House's patience is driven by two factors. UK, the key US ally, is insisting that the inspections be given a chance to work. And US intelligence on Iraqi weapons programmes, while airtight in Washington's eyes, "may not be graphic enough to persuade other important allies, including Turkey," the official said. — PTI

What they say



'We don't need any convincing (that Iraq possesses WMD) based on the information we have'



'Iraq's good intention creates chances for resolving the problem through political and diplomatic means'



'The declaration should be assessed in a just and objective way through UN inspectors' on-the-spot inspections'



'Experts would cross check the declaration with data from past and intelligence reports from other nations'

ment-council members would get their own copies of the declaration for immediate review.

"After consultation with the members of Security Council, the presidency decided to allow access to the Iraqi declaration to those members with the expertise to assess the risk of proliferation and other sensitive information to begin its immediate review," he said.

Mr Blix is expected to give his first reaction to the Council members tomorrow when he attends Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan's monthly lunch with the Council members. He might also brief them at the closed door meeting.

The complete declaration, in Arabic and English with an 80-page summary, is contained in at least a dozen bound volumes accompanied by computer disks.

Editorial: International Brigand!, page 8

WEAPONS INSPECTIONS / INSPECTORS CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE

U.N. team on spying mission, says Iraq

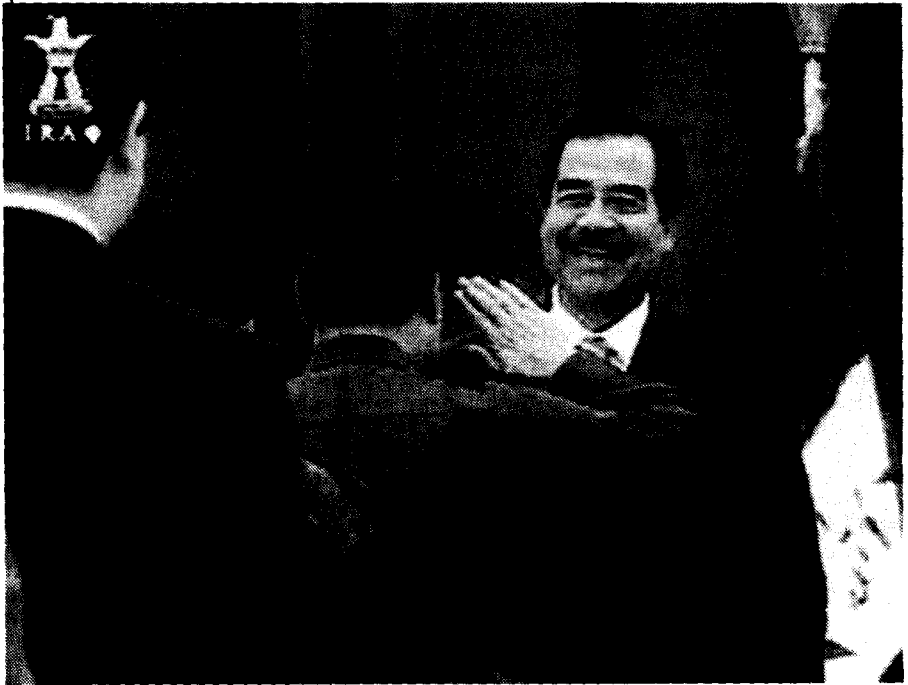
By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), DEC. 5. The U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq are caught in a cross-fire between the Iraqi establishment and the United States, with Baghdad accusing them of spying for an upcoming war and Washington saying that they are not exerting themselves enough. The Iraqi Vice-President, Taha Yassin Ramadan, on Wednesday told Egyptian journalists in Baghdad that the inspectors were gathering military intelligence for the U.S. and Israeli secret services as part of a preparation for war.

Pointing out that the U.S. was primarily focusing on the war option, he said, "The inspectors have come to provide better circumstances and more precise information for a coming aggression." "This is not an accusation, because the inspectors, from day one, their foremost work was spying. Their work was spying for the CIA and Mossad together", he added referring to the U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies.

Orchestrating a similar theme, the Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said in an interview to a U.S. television channel "Washington wants the war." "The whole issue of weapons of mass destruction is a hoax. When they find that there are no weapons of mass destruction, they would use another pretext to attack." Analysts point out that the Iraqi emphasis on the U.S. having pre-decided on waging war, maybe intended to counter an anticipated U.S. diplomatic offensive against it next week.

By Sunday, Iraq is expected to meet the U.N. mandated deadline of declaring its stockpiles and capability to produce mass destruction weapons. Iraq has already stated that it does not possess such weapons and is likely to pursue a similar line in its declaration. But there are concerns in Iraq that the U.S. could cite this response as an expression of "bad faith", and follow it up with an international campaign that would encourage the use of force. In Baghdad, the head of the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate, Hussam Mohammed



The Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, greets members of the ruling Baath Party leadership in this image taken from TV in Baghdad on Thursday. — AP

Amin, said that Iraq's arms dossier for the U.N. would be huge, but added that, "the declaration will repeat that in Iraq there are no weapons of mass destruction."

Elsewhere in the region, the Iranian English daily, *Teheran Times*, known to be close to the conservative establishment has also suggested that the U.N. weapons inspectors could be working to facilitate military operations against Iraq.

The newspaper points out that Israeli agents have in the past planted "homing devices" to structures such as Iraq's Osirak nuclear power plant, which was then, with the help of these devices, bombed by air with pin-pointed accuracy in 1982. According to the daily, "some also suggest that there is a possibility that some U.N. inspectors with dubious allegiances be able to sur-

reptitiously plant such homing devices in various places they visit, or even hide them in cameras they are entitled to install in sensitive places. Afterwards, the United States and its allies can use the homing devices for extremely effective targeting of Iraqi sites in case a good excuse is found."

The prominent buildings that the U.N. weapons inspectors have visited so far include one of the places of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, the Muthanna military site, some 75 km north of Baghdad where they said they found artillery shells that contained mustard gas that previous inspectors could not destroy before they left in 1998.

Besides, they have visited the Iraq's main nuclear plant al-Tuweitha, around 20 km south of Baghdad.

Kofi snubs Bush over inspection

S Rajagopalan & Reuters
Washington, December 4

IN SHARP contrast to the Bush administration's gloomy assessment, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has held that Iraq's cooperation with the weapons inspectors so far has been good.

A day after President George W Bush termed the Iraqi cooperation "not encouraging", Annan said on Tuesday that while it is too early to make a judgment, the UN inspectors have had no trouble so far in gaining access to the targeted sites, including a presidential palace.

"It's only been a week and obviously the cooperation seems to be good, but this is not a one-week wonder," Annan said, adding that Baghdad will have to sustain the cooperation and the effort and perform.

But the US indirectly sought to deflate Annan's optimistic projections, with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld saying the UN is going to be faced with a stark choice after the Sunday deadline for Iraq to make a declaration over its weapons of mass destruction.

Rumsfeld, alluding to the possibility of a false declaration by Iraq, said the UN will have to face up to its responsibilities. "When the Iraqis send in their declaration, if it is false, will the UN continue the pattern of the past of allowing Iraq to ig-

nore UN resolutions? Or will the member countries hold Iraq to its obligations?" he said.

Bush himself, continuing in the same vein, said in Shreveport, Louisiana said the fundamental question was not inspections, but whether Saddam Hussein will disarm. If he does not, the US will lead a coalition to disarm him, Bush said.

Media reports here, quoting senior officials, said the US will compare the Iraqi report to American Intelligence's own findings. They also hinted that the Bush administration might push for a more aggressive approach to the inspections — simultaneous inspections by a much larger team of inspectors.

Experts at nuclear site

United Nations experts searched Iraq's main nuclear research facility and a former chemical arms production centre on Wednesday. UN experts began a second week of inspections, with a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency swooping on the al-Tuweitha plant, 12 miles south of Baghdad.

They spent five hours examining buildings at the complex. An Iraqi official at the site said the inspection went smoothly.

Tuweitha Nuclear Research Centre, the main nuclear program site, has housed several research reactors.

UN team enters first Iraqi palace

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Dec. 3. — UN weapons inspectors made their first unannounced visit to one of Mr Saddam Hussein's palaces today in a test of new powers to inspect for weapons of mass destruction anywhere and anytime. The palace houses both living quarters and offices.

Iraq declaration

The palace search came a day after the UN announced that some equipment inspectors were interested in was missing when they visited a missile-related site.

When a speeding UN convoy rolled up to the gates of the Al-Sajoud palace in west Baghdad on the sixth day of inspections, it made the guards scramble and radio for instructions. The guards, no doubt aware they would one day get a visit from the inspectors even if the timing was a surprise, opened the huge gates and allowed the half-dozen UN vehicles inside with minimal delay.

Just two minutes later, Mr Hussein's secretary, Mr Abid Hamoud, arrived in a four-wheel drive vehicle and entered the sprawling grounds by the Tigris river. The Iraqi President's whereabouts were not known. Access to Mr Hussein's many presidential sites was an explosive

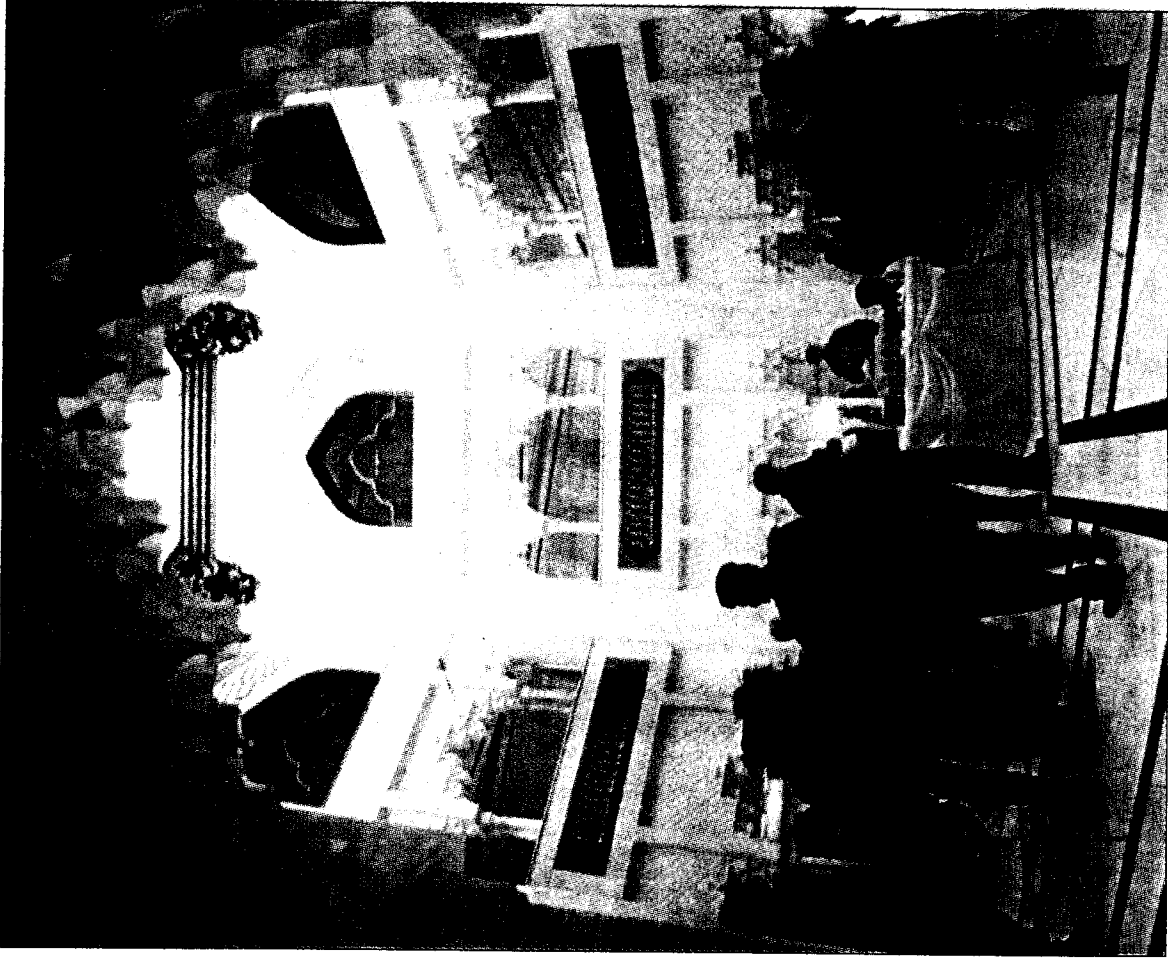
issue in the previous round of inspections in the 1990s. The Iraqis sought to bar those UN inspectors and it required personal negotiations between UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Hussein to reach an accommodation: Inspectors could visit with diplomatic escort and notice.

The international teams later inspected such presidential sites, finding nothing.

A new Security Council resolution adopted last month superseded such arrangements, mandating unrestricted free, unannounced access to all Iraqi sites. Yesterday, inspectors searched the Karama ballistic design plant, and conducted their longest search yet, looking for signs of outlawed Iraqi missile sites.

After six hours in the well-guarded Baghdad compound, they departed, and the plant's deputy director said all went well. "They didn't find anything," Brig. Mohammed Salah told reporters.

Until yesterday, the longest inspections had been running about four hours. The inspectors had no immediate comment. But a UN report late yesterday said some equipment of interest at Karama was missing. The Iraqis said some of the missing equipment had been destroyed in US air raids.



OPEN HOUSE: Journalists and Iraqi officials at Mr Saddam Hussein's Al-Sajoud palace in Baghdad on Tuesday. — AFP

INSPECTION TIME

It remains to be seen if the latest mission by United Nations arms inspectors to Iraq can prevent war from breaking out in the region. Although there is hope that the inspection team's visit will stabilize the environment, it is too early to assert that the possibility of an American attack against Iraq is over. This is the first visit by a UN arms inspection team to Iraq in four years, and the visit is mandated by the UN security council resolution 1441, passed in early November. Most of the inspectors are drawn from the UN monitoring, verification and inspection commission, while the rest belong to the International Atomic Energy Agency. UNMOVIC inspectors will seek to find evidence of any Iraqi development of chemical or biological weapons while the IAEA personnel will focus on nuclear weapons. The team is expected to submit its first report by the end of January.

There are two aspects of the UNSC resolution 1441 which are noteworthy. First, the inspection regime is probably the most intrusive ever faced by any sovereign country in recent history. No site, including Mr Saddam Hussein's palaces, is out of bounds for the inspectors. Indeed, there are reports to suggest that the inspectors may specifically target these "presidential sites". Second, Iraq is bound by the resolution to submit by December 8 a list of non-conventional weapons and related infrastructure in its possession. Any false declaration by Baghdad will be taken as a material breach of the resolution. Iraq has so far denied that it has any such weapons in its arsenal. But if Iraq continues the policy of denial, and the inspectors find evidence to the contrary, it will be seen to have violated the UNSC resolution. Past experience suggests that Mr Hussein's government is unlikely to submit gently to the wishes of the UN inspection team. Although at present, Iraq has few diplomatic options left, it will probably count on the growing resentment against the unilateralist trends in American foreign policy, even amongst the United States of America's traditional allies. The Bush administration is more determined than ever before to ensure that it achieves success in Iraq. And success, it must be clear, is not measured merely in terms of achieving Iraqi compliance with the UNSC resolution 1441. The real aim is to ensure a regime change in Iraq. Paradoxically, therefore, the US may not be particularly unhappy if the UN mission fails. Once this happens, the US will hope to have demonstrated to its allies that all diplomatic options have been exhausted, and only the use of force can lead to stability in the region.

UN inspectors tipped Iraq on sites

Agence France Presse

BAGHDAD, Dec. 1. — UN arms experts made fresh inspections today after sparking controversy by admitting they gave Iraq prior notice of two visits, as US envoys headed to Europe to bolster support for Washington's tough policy on Baghdad.

Hundreds of US military personnel began setting up a hi-tech command centre in Qatar as part of war games in the Emirate, as the Pentagon stepped up its deployments in the Gulf amid press reports a war against Iraq might cost \$200 billion.

A UN disarmament team visited an agriculture ministry crop-spraying facility south-east of Baghdad and a military complex in the capital on the fourth day of renewed inspections, but it was not immediately clear if the visit was a no-notice inspection.

Two of the facilities visited by the experts on Saturday were given advance warning of their coming, a UN spokesman eventually acknowledged late in the day.

Managers of the Um al-Maarik and Al-Qa Qaa companies visited by a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency had both been forewarned because the inspectors wanted their assistance in renovating monitoring equipment untouched since the suspension of

the last UN inspections in 1998.

The UN spokesman, Mr Hiro Ueki from Japan, had sparked confusion by earlier insisting all the inspectors' visits were carried out on a no-notice basis.

"The inspectors arrive unannounced," he said at a press briefing about the days' operations when challenged about an Iraqi official's claim that he had known about the inspection in advance. Later Mr Ueki issued a clarification.

Raids kill eight

BAGHDAD, Dec. 1. — At least eight people were killed and 20 injured when Western warplanes bombed the premises of the Southern Oil Company in Basra at 11 a.m. today, residents said. Between 600 to 700 employees were in the premises at the time of the raid. — AFP

"Um al-Maarik Company, which the IAEA team visited on Saturday was notified by the IAEA team in advance that two of their technicians would review the status of the remaining video surveillance. Al-Qa Qaa Company, which the

IAEA team visited, was also requested on Thursday afternoon to provide assistance to facilitate removal of sampler. This type of advance notification is sometimes given to facilitate their work on monitoring equipment." But the UN spokesman insisted that the generality of the inspectors' work remained on a notice basis.

"Except for these types of cases, our inspection teams do not provide advance warning to the Iraqi side."

The inspectors have so far reported nothing untoward, leaving the Baghdad media to say that "the UN teams have found nothing in recent days and will find nothing in coming days".

? DEC 2002

THE STATESMAN

UN arms inspectors arrive in Iraq

Baghdad, November 25

THE FIRST group of UN arms inspectors have arrived in Baghdad to relaunch a search for weapons of mass destruction after a four-year absence, a mission that could trigger a US-led war.

Seventeen inspectors were aboard the flight from Larnaca, Cyprus, which touched down in Baghdad at 13.55 GMT on Monday. Eleven are from the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UN-MOVIC), charged with searching for missiles and biological and chemical weapons.

The remaining six, from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will investigate any nuclear weapons capability Iraq may have. The inspections are set to start on Wednesday. The last UN inspections team left Baghdad in December 1998, just before a US military strike on Iraq.

The inspectors are armed with a tough UN resolution that demands Iraq disarm or face "serious consequences". Baghdad has vowed to meet a December 8 deadline to produce a full account of its weapons pro-

gramme and said UN inspectors will be given free access to all sites. The inspectors must give their first report to the UN Security Council by January 27.

In the first detailed response since Iraq accepted the resolution on November 13, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri gave an item by item reply.

"The real motive was to create pretexts to attack Iraq under an international cover," Sabri wrote in the letter.

Resolution 1441 obliges Baghdad to allow the inspectors to peer into every corner of the country. Iraq denies it has any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

In Cairo on Monday, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei told reporters: "If we can give a positive report, the inspections will be an alternative to war, not a precursor to war. The next wave of inspectors will be on December 8, a significant number of 30 to 35 will be heading down."

Twenty tons of equipment have already been flown to Baghdad from Larnaca, including communications gear, computers, furniture and medicine.

Reuters



An Iraqi soldier stands guard as a plane carrying United Nations weapons inspectors arrives at Saddam Airport in Baghdad on Monday.

U.N. inspections to begin tomorrow

HD-4 **BAGHDAD, NOV. 25.** The first team of U.N. inspectors landed in Iraq on Monday afternoon to take up the hunt for chemical, biological or nuclear arms programs, a search whose outcome could help determine the future of peace in West Asia. *287 u*

A white C-130 transport, emblazoned with a simple "U.N.," touched down at Saddam International Airport carrying a contingent of 18 international arms monitors and their cargo of high-tech sensors, computers and other gear. They had assembled earlier at a U.N. rear base on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

The team comprised six nuclear experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and 12 inspectors from the New York-based U.N. commission charged with searching for other weapons of mass destruction. The inspectors left the airport without speaking to reporters.

After a four-year suspension, their crucial new round of surprise inspections will begin on Wednesday morning, when they will likely revisit an unidentified site. Among other things, they may check on cameras and other monitoring equipment left behind by earlier inspectors. Later, the inspectors will branch out to new or rebuilt sites — including suspected storage places for chemical weapons. — AP

THE HINDU

26 NOV 2002

Talks constructive, say UN arms inspectors

Agence France Presse

LARNACA (Cyprus), Nov. 20. — Top UN weapons inspectors today said their talks with Iraqi officials had been constructive and Baghdad had promised "total cooperation" to resume the disarmament process.

The UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission chief, Mr Hans Blix, accompanied by the International Atomic Energy Agency director, Mohammed El Baradei, arrived in Cyprus today. Mr Blix said he and Mr El Baradei had "good discussions with representatives of the Iraqi government, and we were assured they will fully implement" the recently adopted UN Security Council resolution on disarmament.

He said the talks were "businesslike and professional." Mr Blix, however, said he did not want to "pre judge what Iraq will say", when it submits a report on 8 December in which it is re-

quired to give a full report on its alleged programmes for weapons of mass destruction.

The chief weapons inspector said he was confident that "war can be averted". Asked if he was more hopeful than when he arrived in Iraq on Monday, Mr Blix said: "We have come some part of the way; we look forward to continuing." The UN Security Council "wants assurances" that Iraq is free of weapons of mass destruction, "and we have to get those assurances".

Mr El Baradei said the UN team had impressed on the Iraqis that inspectors want "an accurate and complete report" on 8 December and "they made it clear they will do everything possible to cooperate with us". Baghdad's verbal commitment "has to be translated on the ground".

Mr Blix said the Iraqis "were somewhat concerned about the short time for presenting such a big report, and they had particular concern on reporting on

the peaceful industries, like the chemical industry, which are devoted to peaceful purposes. They have quite a lot of that, and they were quite concerned about it. "They assured us they will do everything possible to make sure the declaration would cover all activities."

Mr El Baradei said he and Mr Blix would be returning to Iraq periodically "if things go normally, but obviously we would have to if there is a crisis".

Mr Blix is scheduled to pay a courtesy call to Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides today and will leave Cyprus later in the day. Mr El Baradei said he will remain in Cyprus until tomorrow but did not say what his plans were.

Larnaca is the logistics and support base for the inspectors entering and leaving Iraq.

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

THE STATESMAN

2 1 NOV 2002

U.N. RESOLUTION / FOCUS SHIFTS TO INSPECTIONS

Iraq's neighbours hope war will be averted

By Atul Aneja

DAMASCUS, NOV. 14. Desperate to avoid a war but keen that Iraq is disarmed, most neighbouring countries are hoping that the U.N. weapon inspections to which Baghdad has agreed on Wednesday take place without a major hitch. The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa said soon after Iraq had conceded allowing inspectors under a new stringent inspections regime that the focus should now be entirely on a successful probe and references to a war against Iraq need to be avoided.

Under the U.N. Security Council resolution 1441 that Iraq has accepted, it has a 30-day time frame within which to declare its weapons of mass destruction. After this period inspectors will scout for its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and are armed with the mandate that they can scan every inch of Iraqi soil to fulfil their mission. Iraq's obstruction to inspections will not automatically result in the use of force against it, but will trigger a fresh debate within the Security Council on this subject.

The United States, however, has already declared that it will not be bound by the U.N. deliberations and would be free to use military force against Iraq unilaterally, if, in its judgment, the use of force was necessary. Most of Iraq's neighbours who have apprehended that they could, at some point of time, themselves become targets of Iraq's non-conventional weapons, would not mind if Baghdad



Peace activists light candles in front of the U.S. embassy in Santiago, Chile, recently in protest against Washington's policy towards Iraq.

is disarmed. But most countries do not want military force to achieve this objective, because a war with Iraq can threaten their own political survival. Among Iraq's neighbours, Syria and Iran fall in separate category and maybe most affected by a war. The Bush administration has declared the two countries as part of the "axis of evil" because of their alleged support to international terrorism. Consequently, they apprehend that they could be next on Washington's firing line after "regime change" in Baghdad was accomplished. Both countries are, therefore, exerting themselves to ensure that either the war does not take place, or, if it

does, they are not necessarily on Washington's wrong side.

Syria, not surprisingly, has decided to back the U.S. sponsored resolution 1441 on Iraq, while it was expected to abstain from the U.N. vote earlier. Syria, Iran and Turkey want to avoid a war on yet another count. All three countries have sizeable minority of ethnic Kurds who also reside in large numbers in Northern Iraq. A war they fear can result in the creation of an independent Kurdish State in northern Iraq. This State, they feel, could, in turn, become the nucleus for a larger Kurdish entity that includes parts of their own border territories where the Kurds reside in strength.

THE HINDU

15 NOV 2002

Tough road ahead for UN arms inspectors in Iraq

Washington, November 14

UN ARMS inspectors are likely to face major logistical and practical problems in their drive to uncover Iraqi chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, from Iraqi officials who have had years of experience in frustrating past inspections.

Former inspectors and other experts said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might feel he has no choice other than to allow the inspectors back into his country to avert the threat of a US-led military attack. But he would still make every effort to hide as many of his weapons programs as possible.

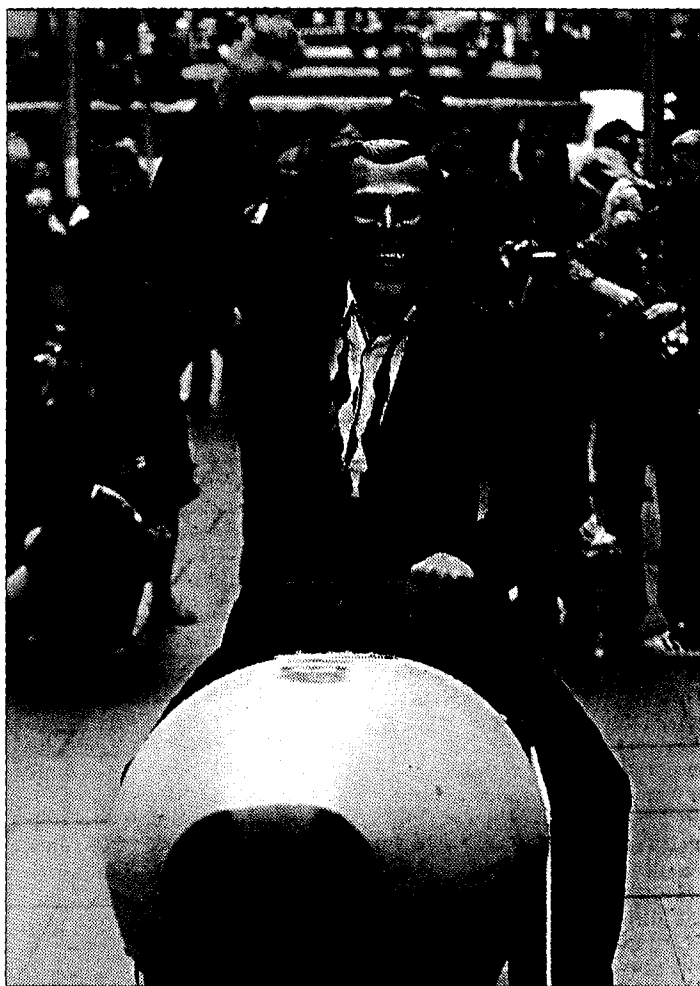
President Bush has described Saddam's previous tactics as "cheat and retreat" and has said he would not tolerate them in the future. "There are a million ways the Iraqis could try to frustrate the inspectors. The most worrying scenario is the accumulation of small obstacles and deceptions, each of which taken alone is too small to justify a war, but which collectively could add up to a serious problem," said Jessica Mathews, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who recently edited a book on how to make inspections work.

She said the key to success was maintaining unity among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and maintaining a credible threat of war if Iraq did not comply.

"As soon as one of those two conditions disappears, the inspections efforts will start to fail," said Mathews.

Armed with new technology

Iraq has had four years since the last inspectors withdrew in which to build underground sites and mobile facilities. But



AFF
A protester wears a George Bush mask and sits on the nose of a mock nuclear warhead in central Sydney on Thursday.

inspectors will be armed with new tools, including more accurate aerial and satellite surveillance data, portable X-ray devices and hand-held sensors that can instantly identify biological agents such as anthrax.

Unlike in the past, the inspectors will have the right to interview witnesses without Iraqi minders being present. They

could also take scientists and their families out of the country, though several experts believe that would be unworkable in practice. Terence Taylor, who was a senior nuclear inspector in Iraq from 1993 to 1997, said he was worried there would be too few inspectors and that they would be too inexperienced.

Reuters

Iraqi MPs reject UN step, leave final say to Saddam

11-12
13/14

Baghdad: Iraq's parliament unanimously rejected on Tuesday a new UN resolution calling on Baghdad to disarm, but said President Saddam Hussein had the final word.

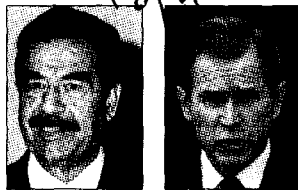
The rejection is a show of anti-American defiance but Mr Hussein has till Friday to accept it in full or to face "serious consequences" under a deadline set by the UN security council.

His trusted son Uday, a member of parliament, earlier in the day urged the assembly to accept the resolution at its emergency session, which began on Monday.

But speaker Saadoun Hammadi said Parliament had unanimously voted to reject the UN demands, approving a motion which a senior deputy read out at the session's end.

"Parliament recommendations are to reject the UN resolution in accordance with the opinion of our people, who put their confidence in us, and authorise the political leadership to take the appropriate decision to defend Iraq's independence, sovereignty and dignity," the deputy said.

"Parliament authorises President Saddam Hussein to take the appropriate decision and will stand by our leader-



S. Hussein George Bush

ship in any decision it takes."

The final say on Iraq's acceptance of the resolution rested all along with the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest authority led by Mr Hussein.

The speaker Hammadi had denounced the tough UN text on Monday as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty.

Parliament was called after the 15-member UN security council voted unanimously on Friday in favour of a US-drafted resolution, demanding Baghdad allow UN weapons experts unhindered access to any site suspected of producing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, or face the consequences.

In the US eyes the consequences mean a war to oust Mr Hussein and on Monday President George W. Bush made clear he would use the full force of US military might to make Iraq comply with the resolution.

"The dictator of Iraq will fully disarm, or the US will

lead a coalition and disarm him," Mr Bush said.

The resolution gives UN arms experts sweeping new rights and Iraq 30 days to submit a detailed list of its weapons.

Mr Bush described the disarmament campaign against Iraq as part of the US war on terrorism launched after the hijacked airliner attacks on the United States on September 11 last year. No link between Iraq and the Al Qaida group held responsible for the September 11 attacks has been established.

US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Mr Bush reserved the right to use force without security council approval if Iraq violated the resolution. But Washington would initially discuss with the Council the consequences of a breach.

Ms Rice said a tough new UN disarmament resolution on Iraq does not bring war closer, but that the threat of violence is needed to cow Baghdad.

"This resolution does not put US closer to war," Ms Rice said on Monday, adding: "We have to keep in a sense a gun pointed to the head of the Iraqi regime because that's the only way that they cooperate."

Mr Hussein must now comply "unequivocally and without any reservation" or face possible military action to end this regime, she told NPR Radio's "Tavis Smiley Show" in an interview to be broadcast on Tuesday.

Disarmament inspections first started after Iraqi forces were expelled from neighbouring Kuwait by a US-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf War. Inspectors withdrew in 1998 in a wrangle over access to Mr Hussein's palaces. Reuters

13 NOV 2002

Iraqi MPs to discuss UN resolution

SAMIA NAKHOUL
BAGHDAD, NOVEMBER 11

926
12/11

IRAQ'S parliament will convene in an emergency session on Monday to decide on a tough new UN resolution calling on Baghdad to disarm or face possible military action. Iraq has until November 15 to agree to a Security Council resolution passed unanimously on Friday demanding Baghdad allow UN arms experts unhindered access to sites suspected of producing weapons of mass destruction or face "serious consequences". The US warned Iraq on Sunday that any false step would result in military action.

Due to meet at 7 pm under the orders of President Saddam Hussein, Iraq's 250-seat Parliament looked poised to accept the text. But the official press predicted that Washington would try to use the resolution to inflict "more harm and suffering on the people of Iraq". In a front-page editorial, the ruling Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* said the US and its ally Britain had inserted "vague, vicious and misleading texts that give them room for manoeuvre to use them as pretext to attack".

Nevertheless, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said on Monday he thought Iraq would "cooperate positively"



with the new resolution. Arab foreign ministers on Sunday welcomed the resolution and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher also said Baghdad appeared inclined towards accepting the text.

"The indications are positive and there was a general feeling during the meeting that the cooperation of Iraq with the inspectors will be instrumental in avoiding any military operation," he said when asked about Iraq's likely response.

Russia, which with France and China fought hard for amendments to an original US Draft resolution, said on Monday it hoped the Iraq's parliament would vote to

comply. "In the first place, it would serve the interests of the Iraqi people, and also it would help strengthen peace and security in the whole Gulf region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said in a statement.

Iraq's Parliament will refer its decision to Iraq's highest leadership authority — the so-called Revolutionary Command Council led by Saddam and chaired by his top aides.

The Parliament was to hold closed-door consultations on Monday morning ahead of the plenary session in the evening, a Parliamentary source said. —Reuters

'UN arms experts to be tough but tactful'

Agence France Presse

DUBAI, Nov. 10. — UN disarmament inspectors will be firm but tactful and refrain from provoking Iraq, their boss said in an interview published today.

"I do not think we are going to kick down doors," said Mr Hans Blix, chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, in remarks to the Arabic-language daily *Al-Hayat*.

"We will behave firmly, seriously and with tact," said the 74-year-old former foreign minister of Sweden.

Mr Blix said that checking "presidential sites", which caused major trouble during previous inspections, "will not be the most difficult" part of the job.

"I think what matters most is to know if the Iraqis will, within the 30-day deadline, make the requested statements about their weapons of mass destruction and outline their civilian industries." Mr Blix said the WMD deadline was "realistic" but "could cause some difficulties" in the civilian sector because of the scale of Iraq's petro-chemical industry." He repeated that he expected to go to Baghdad on 18 November with a first team of inspectors and Mohamed El-Baradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"A week later a team of 12 people will go there to carry out preliminary inspections and will be followed by a larger team. Within 45 days, and depending on what the

UN Security Council decides, there will be between 80 and 100 inspectors in Iraq", he added.

Mr Blix said the list of Iraqi officials who would be questioned had not yet been finalised and didn't rule out President Saddam Hussein himself. "We don't know if we are going to meet him. I am ruling out nothing but I'm not confirming anything either." Mr Baradei, also interviewed by *Al-Hayat*, said questioning of Iraqis would be "limited to scientists who took part in the nuclear, chemical and biological programmes." "It should not be forgotten that the IAEA announced having dismantled Iraq's nuclear programme before inspectors left Iraq in 1998", he said.

Mr Baradei said the ins-

pectors would use "common sense". "That means it is useless carrying out inspections in the middle of the night, unless it is necessary." "If we have to go into a house, we will knock on the door and wait until someone allows us to go in. That means that our demand for immediate access does not include breaking into houses." "If for example we are going into a church and a mass is taking place we will wait until it is over before going in and that will also apply to mosques during prayer times." He said inspectors would show "objectivity, professionalism and total neutrality" in Iraq.

"I call on Iraq to cooperate and tell it that we will carry out our work in such a way as to preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

1 1 NOV 2002

THE STATESMAN

IRAQ / 'INSPECTORS WELCOME' ✓

Baghdad weighs response to U.N. (10) 11

By Atul Aneja 10-19

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), NOV. 9. Declining to outrightly reject Friday's United Nations Security Council decision seeking to disarm Iraq, Baghdad has said that it would react to the Resolution in the next few days.

"Despite that the Resolution 1441 adopted by the Security Council is bad and unjust, the leadership of Iraq is studying it calmly and will take the necessary decision in the next few days," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said, quoting an official. The 15-member Security Council on Friday unanimously approved the Resolution, giving Iraq a last chance to give up its mass destruction weapons or face severe consequences. Baghdad has been asked to declare its response to the U.N. decision within a week.

Signalling that Iraq may not reject the demand, the newspaper *Babel*, run by Uday, son of the President, Saddam Hussein, said the Resolution gave the Bush administration an opening to interfere in the work of the weapons inspectors, adding that Washington was still seeking "an excuse to launch its aggression against Iraq." However, it added that Iraq would permit inspectors to en-

ter the country. "Iraq has nothing to conceal and U.N. weapons inspectors are welcome", the newspaper added. Elaborating, *Babel* observed, "Our wise leadership, known for its shrewdness, would make President Bush's administration miss the opportunity to exploit any situation to attack and would eventually change the bad and evil intentions of America."

Under the Resolution, co-sponsored by the United States and Britain, U.N. arms inspectors will have "immediate, unimpeded and unconditional" rights to scout for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, including Mr. Hussein's presidential compounds.

Babel also strongly criticised Syria that had earlier appeared to be siding with Iraq, for joining the U.N. bandwagon. The Iraqi Government, over the last week, had indicated that it would be ready to accept a tough new U.N. Resolution seeking intrusive inspections, provided it was not attacked. According to the State-run *Iraq Daily* newspaper, Mr. Hussein had said on Monday that he would "take into consideration" a U.N. Resolution as long as it did not serve as an excuse for a U.S. military strike.

THE HINDU

10 NOV 2002

UN adopts new Iraq resolution unanimously

Associated Press

UNHQ, Nov. 8 — The UN Security Council unanimously approved a tough new Iraq resolution Friday, forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm or face "serious consequences" that would almost certainly mean war. The 15-0 vote came after eight weeks of tumultuous negotiations and was seen as a victory for the USA, which drafted the resolution together with Britain. "This resolution is designed to test Iraq's intentions," US Ambassador to the UN Mr John Negroponte, said after the vote. The broad support sends a strong message to Baghdad that the Security Council — divided for years over Iraq — expects full compliance with all UN resolutions. "Iraq has a new opportunity to

comply with all these relevant resolutions. I urge the Iraqi leadership for sake of its own people...to seize this opportunity and thereby begin to end the suffering of the Iraqi people," said UN secretary general Mr Kofi Annan. Iraqi television did not broadcast the Security Council meeting live and there was no immediate reaction from Baghdad.

A breakthrough in negotiations came yesterday when France and the USA reached a critical agreement to address French concerns that the resolution could automatically trigger an attack on Iraq. "This resolution is a success for the Security Council and the UN," said France's UN ambassador Mr Jean-David Levitte. "This success must now become a success for peace."

Mr Negroponte said the resolution gives international inspectors broad authority to look for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — to check "anyone, anywhere, anytime."

There are "no hidden triggers" for automatic use of force against Iraq if it does not comply with the resolution, Mr Negroponte said. But he warned that: "One way or another... Iraq will be disarmed."

"If the Security Council fails to act decisively in the event of further Iraqi violations, this resolution does not constrain any member state from acting to defend itself against the threat posed by Iraq," the ambassador said.

Mr George W Bush, who spurred the council to action with a 12 September speech to the UN General Assembly, said it was up to Saddam to cooperate with inspectors.

Chief UN weapons inspector,

Mr Hans Blix, was preparing to send an advance team to Iraq within two weeks, after a nearly four-year absence.

While the USA made some major concessions to critics, the final draft still meets the Bush administration's key demands: toughening UN weapons inspections and leaving USA free to take military action if inspectors say Baghdad isn't complying.

At the same time, it gives Saddam "a final opportunity" to cooperate with weapons inspectors, holds out the possibility of lifting 12-year-old sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and reaffirms the country's sovereignty.

Washington and London spent eight weeks trying to get all 15 Security Council members to approve the resolution.

But Syria, Iraq's Arab neigh-

bour, had been out of reach until Friday. Syria had wanted the vote delayed until after an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo this weekend. But the USA won Syria's support with the help of France. Russia too had remained a holdout, but only in an effort to obtain USA concessions. Russia is Iraq's most important ally on the council.

The USA had tweaked its draft several times to account for French and Russian concerns over hidden triggers that could automatically launch an attack on Iraq.

In a key provision that would declare Iraq in "material breach" of its UN obligations, the USA changed wording that would have let Washington determine on its own if Iraq had committed an infraction. The new wording requires UN weapons inspectors to make an assessment of any Iraqi violations.

A day earlier, Iraqi state media called the draft resolution a pretext for war and urged the Security Council not to bow to USA's demands.

According to a strict timeline in the resolution, Iraq will have seven days to accept the resolution's terms and 30 days to declare its chemical, biological and nuclear programs. Mr Blix, the chief weapons inspector, said Iraq may have difficulty making a declaration of its large petrochemical industry in that time, but the USA decided against giving Baghdad more time.

Inspectors would have up to 45 days to actually begin work, and must report to the council 60 days later on Iraq's performance. Inspectors will have "unconditional and unrestricted access" to all sites, including eight presidential compounds where surprise inspections have been barred.

Advance U.N. team to visit Baghdad on Nov. 18

10-14
UNITED NATIONS, NOV. 8. An advance team of U.N. weapons inspectors will go to Baghdad on November 18 after about a four-year absence, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix, said after the U.N. Security Council on Friday unanimously passed a new resolution on Iraq.

He said the unanimous council vote "strengthens our mandate very much."

Iraqi television did not broadcast the Security Council meeting live and there was no immediate reaction from Baghdad.

In remarks after the vote, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., John Negroponte, said: "This resolution is designed to test Iraq's intentions."

Russia said that the new resolution deflected the "direct threat of war" and opened the road to "a political diplomatic settlement."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador, Sergey Lavrov, whose country has been Iraq's strongest Council ally, said Moscow's goal during the negotiations was "not to allow for any military scenario" and it received assurances from the U.S.

and Britain that the resolution did not allow the automatic use of force against Iraq.

For weeks, Russia had held out for concessions, while Syria insisted no new resolution was necessary. But after intense lobbying, especially by France, Syria said on Thursday for the first time that it could accept the resolution if its proposals were included.

Syria's deputy U.N. Ambassador, Fayssal Mekdad, said it voted "yes" after receiving assurances from key nations "that this resolution would not be used as a pretext to strike Iraq" and "reaffirms the central role of the Security Council."

The U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, said Baghdad should comply for the sake of the Iraqi people. "Iraq has a new opportunity to comply with all these relevant resolutions of the Security Council. I urge the Iraqi leadership for the sake of its own people... to seize this opportunity and thereby begin to end the isolation and suffering of the Iraqi people."

A breakthrough in negotiations came on Thursday when France and

the U.S. reached a critical agreement to address French concerns that the resolution could automatically trigger an attack on Iraq. "This resolution is a success for the Security Council and the United Nations," France's U.N. Ambassador, Jean-David Levitte, said. "This success must now become a success for peace." But Iraq "must understand that this opportunity is the final one," he said. -- AP

Britain to back military action

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, NOV. 8. Britain has said that it would back any U.S. military action against Iraq if the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, does not cooperate with the new proposed tough U.N. Security Council resolution even if such a move is opposed by other permanent Security Council members like France and Russia.

The Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, told Parliament that in the event of a breach of the first resolution by Iraq

there would be no need for a fresh U.N. authorisation for military intervention. "We would prefer a decision to be taken in the Security Council. But we have always made it clear that we have reserved our own right to take action within the existing body of the U.N. Security Council resolution, if a subsequent resolution were vetoed," he said as Labour MPs attacked the Blair Government for its unreserved support to American moves.

One Labour MP, Alice Mahon, called it a "war resolution" while a former Labour Defence Minister, Peter Kilfoyle, wanted to know how Britain's national interests were served by such "diplomatic tactics".

Critics warned that a military attack without specific U.N. authorisation would not be acceptable to the international community, particularly the Arabs. Mr. Straw's strong support for U.S. position came as the Home Office issued a fresh warning of a potential terrorist attack on Britain.

In a nationwide alert, it said that the Al-Qaeda was still active and though it

was not possible to say where or when it would strike "but we can be certain they will try". Intelligence agencies however were quoted as saying that the alert was not related to any specific threat. Critics dismissed the warning as "scare-mongering" and an attempt by the Government to justify assuming more powers.

The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, was accused of "talking up" the threat after he warned of the possibility of terrorists targeting Britain with "a so-called dirty bomb or some kind of poison gas." But in a controversial turn, the warning was hastily withdrawn and a milder version which did not mention dirty bomb or poison gas was put out.

Observers noted that Mr. Blunkett's statement coincided with a speech here by the director of U.S. homeland security Tom Ridge in which he drew a frightening terror scenario.

The Guardian said it was likely to fuel suspicions that "the US and possibly Britain want to play up the terrorist threat ahead of a possible military attack against Iraq."

US mounts pressure on UN for resolution against Iraq

United Nations: The US, in what it sees as a last chance for Iraq to disarm or face war, is pressing the UN Security Council to adopt a tough resolution by Friday, but veto-holders France and Russia have still to agree to the proposal.

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

The draft resolution declares Iraq "in material breach" of its UN disarmament obligations, a term that has been invoked by the US to allow a military strike. It also says Iraq has "a final opportunity" to scrap arms of mass destruction and or will face "serious consequences".

US ambassador John Negroponte said he wanted a vote on Friday. But secretary of state Colin Powell, the key negotiator on the resolution, cancelled travel plans next week so he could deal with any last-minute hitch. However, France and Russia have held back their endorsement despite several concessions in the revised US-British text that gives the Security Council a limited role in determining whether war can be waged against Iraq.

Meanwhile, French foreign minister Dominique de Villepin on Thursday said France was almost satisfied with the text and expressed

hope that the remaining reservations could be addressed this week. Speaking a day after President Jacques Chirac expressed reservations about ambiguities on the issue of military action in the text, Mr De Villepin said Paris was working to clarify the clauses. "We think we are very close to an agreement. We think a vote could take place by the end of this week or the beginning of next week."

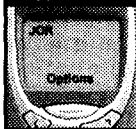
France has opposed any "hidden triggers" that would give the US the right to attack Iraq, topple Mr Hussein and claim that the UN had authorised it. In a concession to France, the latest draft resolution calls for a new round of Security Council deliberations if Iraq fails to comply with UN arms inspections.

Although China said the revised US draft resolution had eased some of the concerns of the member states, it declined to announce its support for it. China holds a veto as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, along with the US, Britain, France and Russia, and is this month's president of the 15-member body. Reuters

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- You receive a joke as a message

8 NOV 2002

U.N. closer to agreement on Iraq resolution

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

117-14

WASHINGTON, NOV. 1. The Bush administration is of the view that a resolution on Iraq without going back on any of its core principles will pass the United Nations Security Council. The vote, according to one view, could come by the middle or the end of next week. Hectic discussions are taking place in New York between the permanent members of the Security Council to come to terms with a new resolution that takes into account the views of Russia and France.

A successful vote in the Security Council means that nine out of 15 members would have to say yes; and none of the five permanent members can cast a veto. In terms of the Iraq resolution now being debated only Syria is said to be totally against and is expected to vote against the resolution in whatever shape it may emerge finally. Media reports have it that the United States is confident that it has now the backing of most of the non-permanent members. Leaving Syria aside, Mexico too has problems with the position of the United States and Britain; and the expectation is that it will support a resolution once after the changes are made.

Mexico's position is more closer to that of France. A thinking in Washington in official circles is that the more number of nations that sign on to the Iraq resolution, the better off the situation is.

It is to this effect that the administration is looking for the 'perfect' language that will address the concerns of Russia and France — and

perhaps China as well — and at the same time not giving the impression of the United States backing down.

The news from Russia is that the Council members are making progress. "We have converged on a whole series of positions", the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, has been quoted. Some permanent members have voiced concern with many aspects of the U.S. draft resolution, notably two. These relate to the reference of Iraq being in "material breach"; and warning Baghdad of "serious consequences" if it backed away during the implementation of the weapons inspections. The United States, Russia and France are seeing how the language could be worked as to avoid the impression of an automatic resort to the use of force.

Also it is being pointed out here and in New York that the United States and others are also trying to come to terms with what the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix has had to say. Apparently Mr. Blix wants a tough resolution from the United Nations, but does not wish to have the Security Council to get into minute details of how the weapons inspections would have to be carried out.

In the final analysis, the view of the weapons inspections team will be critical to the Security Council and to Iraq. Back in the campaign trail and in the home stretch, the U.S. President, George W Bush, is continuing to make the point that if the United Nations did not act on Iraq, the United States will. "You need to do your job", Mr. Bush said in South Dakota.

2 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

Is the United Nations relevant?

By C. Raja Mohan

Any review of New Delhi's policy towards the U.N. must deal with the basic reality that India is a revisionist power, not in territorial terms but for improving its role in global decision-making.

UN 10-10 24/10
AMIDST A messy power-wrangling in New York over disarming Iraq and threats of unilateral action from the Bush Administration if the United Nations does not act, the world today marks the founding of the U.N. 57 years ago. This is a good moment for India to ask itself whether the U.N. has much of a future in the maintenance of international peace and security. For, the debate at the U.N. Security Council is not just about dealing with the threat of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq; it is, in essence, about defining the contours of a new global order.

At the formal level, India says it prefers U.N. multilateralism to American unilateralism in dealing with the issues at stake in Iraq. Given its interests in Iraq, its reluctance to annoy Baghdad and a desire to stay with the broad line adopted by the states in and around the Persian Gulf, New Delhi has chosen the easy option of supporting the multilateral route. India would wait and watch rather than reveal its political interests.

This is a safe position for New Delhi; but it may not be based on any serious assessment of where the U.N. is headed and what kind of a global security order India would want to construct in the new millennium.

The comfort of India's diplomatic cover is unlikely to last too long. It will blow up shortly. Whichever way the debate in New York concludes, either towards a new and impossible resolution on Iraq or a unilateral American military action in the Persian Gulf, India's own dilemmas about the U.N. are likely to get starker.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, a new resolution on Iraq will not be a triumph of the U.N. over the American bullyboy. The arguments in New York are not between contending ideas of multilateralism and unilateralism. They are about a bargain of interests between the United States and Britain on the one side and Russia and France on the other,

with China watching from the sidelines. The Bush Administration has convinced itself that ending the regime of Saddam Hussein is the key to its long-term political strategy towards the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. London, if only reluctantly, has opted to go along with Washington. Moscow and Paris, which have made heavy investments on Mr. Hussein, however, have no desire to roll over and play dead. It is not that Russia and France are totally committed to the political future of the current regime in Baghdad. Moscow and Paris demand that their massive economic and political interests in Iraq be protected, if the U.N. is to back the ouster of Mr. Hussein. This no-holds-barred political trade, even if it comes to a successful conclusion this week, by no means edifies the U.N. and multilateralism.

If the U.N. fails to come up with a resolution, the Bush Administration has threatened again this week that it will act on its own in a coalition of willing states. And that could mark the beginning of the end of the U.N. as we know it.

Addressing the U.N. last month, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, had warned that the world body would go the way of the League of Nations if it did not back Washington.

The League, the first worldwide effort to build global collective security, collapsed in the 1930s amidst the great power rivalry and the impending Second World War. The U.N. too is at the crossroads today, and its relevance and future are being tested as never before.

That the UNSC has become a bazaar for the trading of interests between major powers should come as no surprise to India. That indeed

was its purpose. Contrary to India's rhetoric about multilateralism over the decades, the world body was conceived as a concert of five great powers. All the authority of the U.N. was concentrated in the UNSC, with a veto to each of the five permanent members who also turned out to be the five recognised nuclear weapons powers. Kept out of the high table at the end of the Second World War, India nurtured a fond hope that the U.N. system could be democratised by a trade union of the decolonised nations. That effort was doomed from the start.

Any illusions that the U.N. would become a genuine collective security system should have been shattered by the early 1990s. But having drafted countless resolutions on transforming the world during the 1970s and 1980s at the U.N., and mesmerised by its own sense of leading the Third World, New Delhi remains reluctant to face up to facts. India's own experience with the U.N. stands in utter contrast to its continuing enthusiasm for multilateralism at New York.

India is still paying a price for having gone to the U.N. on the Kashmir question after the Partition and Independence. India rushed again to the U.N. seeking a disarmament treaty following China's first nuclear test in 1964; it got, instead, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that targeted New Delhi. As it tried to end one of the world's biggest genocides in East Pakistan in 1971, India got little support at the U.N. When it rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the U.N. in 1996, India found itself in virtual isolation. After testing nuclear weapons in 1998 and declaring itself a nuclear weapons power, India became the

subject of the unanimous UNSC Resolution 1172 (June 1998) that calls on New Delhi to give up its nuclear and missile programmes.

The contradiction between India's eager support to multilateralism and its immediate security requirements can no longer be hidden. India is all for a stronger U.N. role in Iraq. But the very moment the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, mentions the word "Kashmir", the Foreign Office in New Delhi begins to froth at the mouth. India wants Baghdad to implement all U.N. resolutions. But New Delhi will not touch UNSC resolution 1172 with a barge pole.

All Governments when faced with a difficult problem want to fudge the issues and duck for cover. India's current position on the U.N. and Iraq is no exception. The foreign policy establishment, however, owes the nation a serious review of India's traditional premises about multilateralism in the context of the impending American war against Iraq, with or without the sanction of the U.N.

At stake are key questions on the nature of power in the international system and the optimal ways of managing global security. Mouthing old slogans about the U.N. will no longer carry political conviction either at home or abroad.

Any review of New Delhi's policy towards the U.N. must deal with the basic reality that India is a revisionist power, not in territorial terms but for improving its role in global decision-making. The U.N. has been at odds with India on its core security concerns in the past; its structures and instruments are incapable of accommodating India's aspirations in the future.

India should be the last one mourning for the U.N. if it stumbles or collapses in Iraq. New Delhi must, however, quickly come to terms with the nature of new threats to international security and the kind of political coalitions that must be created to address them. After all, revisionist powers are expected to think boldly at defining moments in world affairs.

23 OCT 2002

OFFICIAL

Security Council opposes US draft

UNF 502
24/10
Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Oct. 23. — The new US draft resolution on Iraq faced stiff opposition from Russia, France and China with diplomats stating that “messy negotiations” that lay ahead could drag on into the week or even early next week.

The major problem with the new draft, prepared in consultation with Britain, is that the three believe the way it is written, it could be interpreted by the US to mean that it authorises military action against Iraq if Baghdad obstructs inspectors without another Security Council resolution.

The resolution provides that if inspectors report obstruction, the Security Council would convene immediately but does not explicitly state that a second resolution would be necessary for military action.

The USA backed by Britain is pushing a single resolution that it states would allow force to be used against Iraq if it doesn't meet its UN disarmament obligations.

Paris, Moscow and Beijing still want a two-state approach giving Iraq another chance to comply with UN weapons inspectors and only authorising force in a second resolution if Baghdad obstructed inspections.

At two meetings yesterday lasting several hours, the five permanent Security Council members went over the draft line by line and diplomats said Russia was most vocal in opposing some its controversial provisions.

No date has been set for the next meeting as the five take stock of the first serious discussions held on the draft and decide the next course of action. But diplomats said it is a sign of some progress that the five had met after battling in media for days.

“We want to be sure that we have a sufficient level of understanding between us — first of all to ensure that there is no veto in

the offing and to the extent possible we would like to put this forward as a consensus document,” the US ambassador to the UN, Mr John Negroponte, said after the meeting.

He said the the five permanent members agreed to meet again “as soon as possible” but “I think you have to allow the negotiating process a little bit of time”.

The Russian foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, was quoted by the media as saying the text does not meet the criteria set by Moscow and the French foreign minister, Mr Dominique de Villepin, said: “There is still a lot of work to do.” A senior Chinese diplomat was quoted as saying: “It's a pity there are no substantive changes from the previous text.”

The USA meanwhile reaffirmed that it would lead a coalition to disarm Iraq if the UN fails to pass a resolution setting strict conditions for UN weapons inspections. “If the UN can't make its mind up, we will lead a coalition to disarm Mr Saddam Hussein for the sake of peace,” President George W Bush

said in Pennsylvania yesterday.

But the State Department warned of complicated negotiations between the five veto-wielding members of the Security Council. “It's probably going to be a messy process,” the State Department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, told reporters when asked about objections to the five-page resolution raised by France and Russia.

The new draft, which is yet to be shown to the ten non-permanent members, drops the provision for explicit authorisation of military strike against Iraq if it is found to obstruct weapons inspectors who are to ensure that it does not have any weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological, and long-range missiles.

But it says that Iraq has been in “material breach” of its obligations under the Security Council resolutions because of its failure to cooperate with the inspectors.

While Paris feels there is still a lot of work to do, Beijing rejects the draft for having no 'substantive changes' from the former text

2 0 2002

THE STATESMAN

U.N. credibility at stake: Iraq

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), OCT. 21. Iraq has intensified its campaign to block a new tougher U.N. Security Council resolution that seeks to set new ground rules for eliminating that country's suspected weapons of mass destruction under the threat of force.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Government said on Sunday after a meeting of the Cabinet that a new Security Council resolution would undermine the credibility of the world body. "Regarding the ongoing consultations at the Security Council and outside it, we don't see the need for a new resolution," the spokesman said. "Passing any new resolution that contradicts agreements represents a retreat from the stand that the Security Council should take," he added.

Iraq on October 1 had reached a deal with weapons inspectors that would allow them to return to Iraq after a four-year gap, on October 19. But under pressure from the United States, which is seeking a fresh U.N. mandate on Iraq, international weapons inspectors failed to show up on Saturday. "We warn against passing such a resolution... because it means that the Security Council does not respect its commitments at the time it asks others to fulfil theirs," the Iraqi official said.

The spokesman blamed Washington for the failure of the inspectors to revisit Iraq. While opposing a new resolution, Iraq has not given up support for the

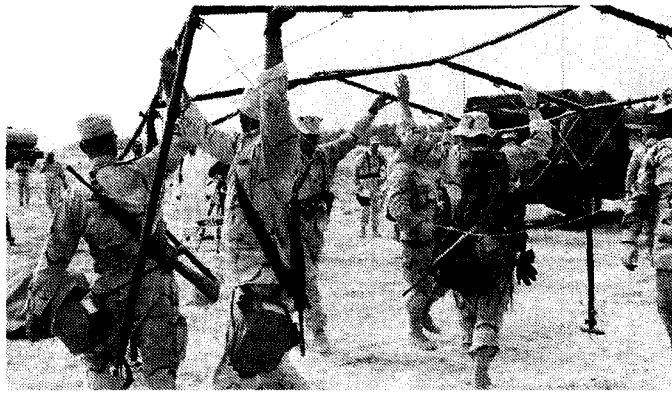
October 1 deal with the U.N. inspectors under earlier guidelines. Iraq's Vice-President, Taha Yassin Ramadan, reportedly said that Iraq maintained its position on the return of arms inspectors in line with the deal with the United Nations. "Iraq is prepared to foil any evil American aggression that targets its national sovereignty and the free will of its people," he said.

All U.N. Security Council members agree on defining a more stringent inspections regime in Iraq, but are divided on the automatic sanction for the use of force in case Iraq does not comply. The five permanent veto-holding members of the Council are also at odds with one another on the question of unseating the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

Analysts point out that differ-

ences between the U.S. and Iraq on inspections revolve around two key issues. First, Iraq opposes exposing its eight "presidential sites" to inspections, though this subject had been addressed in 1998 during talks between the Iraqi authorities and the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

Second, Washington wants that the Iraqis take responsibility for the security of inspectors when they visit specific sites in the Shia-dominated areas in southern Iraq and northern Iraq where the population of ethnic Kurds is predominant. Iraqi air force is barred from flying in these areas under the "no-fly zone" provisions that were adopted at the end of the Gulf War. Iraq says that it would take responsibility for the security of the inspectors in these areas only after negotiating the "no-fly zone" provisions.



IN NO MOOD TO WAIT: U.S. Marines put up a nuclear, biological and chemical warfare protective tent during an exercise in Kuwait on Monday. — AFP

THE IRRAWADDI

27 OCT 2002

UN consensus grows against strike on Iraq

The Times, London

553 1870

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. — The USA and Britain came under intense pressure to soften their hard line on Iraq yesterday as dozens of countries lined up at the UN to speak out against a military attack.

A rare open meeting of the UN Security Council on Iraq turned into a forum for governments from around the world to call for UN weapons inspectors to test Baghdad's co-operation before any decision is made on the use of force.

The debate was convened by the 114-nation Non-Aligned Movement in an effort to thwart what many delegations see as Washington's headlong rush towards war.

Diplomats predicted that the torrent of speeches would help to push the USA and Britain towards a compromise that would strengthen the inspection regime but withhold any authorisation for military action until a second Security Council vote.

"It would be inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the UN Charter if the Security Council were to authorise the use of military force against Iraq at a time when Iraq has indicated its willingness to abide by the Security Council's resolutions," Mr Dumisani Kumalo, South African ambassador and chair of the non-aligned nations, said. "In our view, the way has now been cleared for the immediate return of the UN inspectors to Iraq."

18 OCT 2002

THE STATESMAN

UN divided on strike, Iraq one with Saddam

Iraq holds referendum, President victory clear

NADIM LADKI
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 15

DEFIANT Iraqis lined up to show their support for Saddam Hussein on Tuesday as Western powers were deadlocked over how to deal with the Iraqi President who they say threatens world security.

Key Security Council members have failed for three weeks to agree on a US drafted resolution authorising force against Baghdad, and Iraqis were in festive mood as they turned out to vote in a presidential referendum Saddam is sure to win.

"With our blood and souls we defend Saddam," supporters chanted at a polling station in central Baghdad as voters lined up to cast their vote.

Saddam is the only candidate in the referendum which is set to grant him another seven-year term. While the outcome of the vote is a certainty, it comes at a time when the Iraqi leader faces possibly the toughest challenge to his 23-year rule.

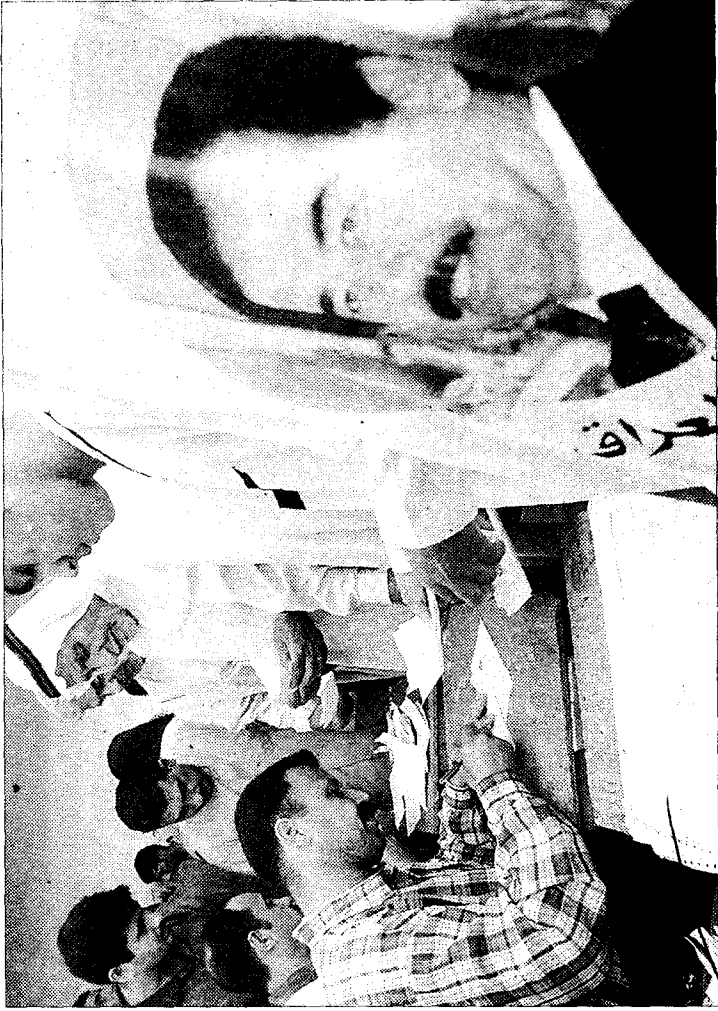
All UN members will have an opportunity to speak on Wednesday, the first public debate on Iraq. "We think the most pressing matter at the moment is for UN arms inspectors to return to Iraq as soon as possible to actually assess the relevant situation and report to the Security Council afterward," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue.

In Baghdad, Saddam's supporters began celebrating victory shortly after polls opened, dancing outside polling stations and bringing sheep to slaughter in a tradi-

tional Arab act of celebration. Ibrahim, the vice-chairman of the ruling revolutionary command council, said the American people were being misled by the Bush administration.

Nearly 12 million Iraqis were eligible to answer a simple "Yes" or "No" for a new term in office for Saddam, who has ruled Iraq since 1979. "I voted a big 'Yes' to Saddam and a big 'No' to Bush," Mohammad Khalil said. "No one can tell us who our leader should or shouldn't be. We want Saddam."

Some Democrats have said during the Iraq debate, the US first should rout out Al Qaeda followers. At a Republican event in Michigan, Bush said he suspected Saddam wanted to team up with Al Qaeda. "This is a man who would like to use Al Qaeda as a forward army." — Reuters



Iraqis vote during a presidential referendum in Baghdad on Tuesday. Reuters

Subverting the UN

It takes two to play that game

Some innovative solutions designed to arrest the drift towards war in Iraq are being put forth. There is, for instance, Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan's suggestion that George Bush take on Saddam Hussein in a one-to-one duel, to be held on neutral territory and refereed by Kofi Annan. The American response has been entirely unhumorous — pointing out that Hussein didn't challenge Kuwait's royals to a slugfest before sending his troops into that country. Ari Fleischer, spokesman for the Bush administration, has mooted his own solution — a one-way ticket for Hussein outside Iraq, or an assassin's bullet — which sounds like a restatement of the ultimatum for "regime change". Neither Washington's nor Tony Blair's statements about the UN system collapsing unless it enforces their will in Iraq can be taken at face value; in reality, the UN functions only to the extent that the big powers allow it to function and the Bush administration with its unilateralist focus has overseen the biggest subversion of any international consensus on a host of major issues, ranging from climate change to an international court to try war crimes. NATO moved on Kosovo even though the Russians vetoed military intervention there when the matter came up before the Security Council but the UN didn't collapse. One can read between the lines of Ari Fleischer's statement to discern Washington's attitude — it would be happy to secure a favourable Security Council resolution, but will press ahead anyway. Which doesn't exhibit a great deal of respect for the UN either.

Current wranglings at the UN may, in fact, be a figleaf for a new geopolitical battle that is shaping up after 9/11, with the US having decided to take on petrodollar-funded Islamic fundamentalism. If past history is an indicator the Americans and British have fought ruthlessly against, it must be said, equally ruthless enemies. During the Second World War, for example, there was the fire-bombing which devastated whole German cities, and atomic strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During the Cold War Washington backed monsters like Pinochet in Chile, Somoza in Nicaragua, Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, Yahya Khan in Pakistan, and even, lest one forget, Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Even the switch on Hussein has historical precedents — to beat Hitler, for example, Washington and London allied with the equally genocidal Stalin, then turned on the USSR once Nazism was vanquished. The present group of ideologues in power in Washington believes that such tactics won them the Cold War. Nevertheless, in Iraq's case the enemy doesn't look as tangible as earlier. If Washington moves on Iraq militarily it will have to present a fait accompli very quickly; the weight of economic disruption and worldwide protests will overcome soon enough.

US, UN officials to meet on inspections

REUTERS
UN/WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 4

THE White House and UN officials were meeting on Friday to forge a common front on Iraq as US President George W. Bush threatened to bypass the global body if it failed to force Baghdad to disarm.

Hans Blix, the chief UN inspector, and Mohamed El Baradei, director general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, were coming to Washington for talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The US Senate was also resuming debate on Friday on



Iraqi women at the Abud al-Kadeer mosque in Baghdad on Friday. Reuters

Bush's demand for authority to launch a possible US strike on Iraq, which Congress was expected to grant overwhelmingly even as some lawmakers moved to trim the scope of the war powers. UN arms inspectors signalled on Thursday they would delay their initial inspections in Iraq until the Security Council completed work on a resolution proposed by Wash-

Iraq calls Bush Hitler of US

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi newspaper on Friday urged the UN Security Council to oppose a US draft resolution that would authorise the use of force against Iraq, calling US President George W. Bush "the Hitler of Washington." The Security Council...

should take a firm stand against this US attempt and not bend to pressure and blackmails on the expense of Iraq. *Al-Thawra* newspaper said in an editorial. It was commenting on the US drive to convince Security Council members to adopt a new resolution on Iraq that would give UN inspectors new powers to hunt for weapons of mass destruction. — AP

ington and backed by UK that could pave the way for a possible US-led war against Iraq. "We are ready to go but we have not booked our tickets yet," Blix said, referring to the delay.

The White House has sharply denounced the rules

under which Iraq agreed on Wednesday to allow a return of UN arms inspectors. Spokesman Ari Fleischer said the inspectors would be "nothing more than tourists" without a tough new UN resolution.

The inspectors had wanted to send advance teams to Baghdad on Oct. 19. But after briefing the Security Council

on Thursday, they made clear they would hold off if the council did not adopt a resolution before then as Washington and London want.

Blix and El Baradei reached agreement on many arrangements for the return of the UN inspectors in talks with Iraqi arms experts in Vienna this week.

Blix said one "loose end" in the Vienna talks was Iraq's not being able to guarantee the safety of inspectors working in "no-fly" zones in the North and South of the country, which are patrolled by US and British planes that have bombed Iraq military targets in response to attacks. Meanwhile, Russian President Putin called on Friday for weapons inspectors to return as quickly as possible to Iraq, after UN team signalled they would delay their mission pending a Security Council resolution.

Uncertainty over UN inspection

The Times, London

Allied aircraft strike Iraqi defence HQ

VIENNA, Oct. 3. — UN officials are divided over whether Mr Saddam Hussein will really allow Iraq to be searched for weapons of mass destruction or if he means to start a new round of the decade-long game of cat-and-mouse.

Even as the chief UN weapons inspector, Mr Hans Blix, is scheduled to brief the Security Council today on the his two-day negotiations with Iraqi officials, doubts remained within his own ranks about the ability of the UN team to complete a task they began in 1991.

Diplomatic sources close to the talks said about half of the UN officials were optimistic that a real breakthrough had been achieved after a four-year stalemate with the Iraqis, but there was an equally strong scepticism among others who have been

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. — Allied planes launched an airstrike in the southern no-fly zone over Iraq today, targeting an air defence headquarters and operations centre, US defence officials said.

"Today's strike came after Iraq air defences fired anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles at coalition aircraft," said a statement from the US Central Command in Tampa, Florida. Coalition planes responded, targeting precision-guided weapons at an operations centre and air defence headquarters for the sector near Tallil.

It was the third time in nine days that planes launched strikes in the area trying to destroy communications equipment, control, radar and a surface-to-surface missile launchers. Repeat missions have become common in recent weeks. — AP

misled by Baghdad before.

Of particular concern was the vexed question of so-called "sensitive sites", such as the ministry of defence, the headquarters of the ruling Baath Party, the secret police's building and barracks of the Republican Guard troops. The right to search these areas without

condition was one of three issues on which the Iraqi delegation had to consult Baghdad before finally agreeing to the UN's demands on Tuesday.

The Iraqis didn't change their stand that special conditions be attached to inspecting these sites, they just suspended their objections, the sources said.

THE STATESMAN

4 OCT 2002

Iraq, US and UN locked in diplomatic war

Ankara, October 2

IRAQ CONDEMNED US proposals for a tough UN resolution on arms inspections on Wednesday, as much of the world stayed warily on the sidelines of a diplomatic chess game that could end in war.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said in Turkey that the new US draft resolution, which demands that Iraq open every inch of its territory to inspectors or face swift attack, was "unacceptable".

But he assured Turkey, home

to US airbases likely to be used to launch air raids against Iraq in any new war, that Baghdad's forces would not attack Turkey itself. He told Turkish television a war would not bring Washington easy victory. "Iraq is strong, even if the Americans attack Iraq we will fight very effectively," he said.

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 under existing UN agreements.

Washington was quick to reject any resumption of inspections before a new security council resolution is in place.

On the sensitive issue of inspecting "presidential sites", which include palaces of President Saddam Hussein and are suspected of containing weapons or related materials, Aziz said an agreement reached with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in February 1998 was still in place.

That agreement stipulated special arrangements be made for any inspections of eight spe-

cific "presidential sites" — apparently falling far short of Washington's demand for "unfettered access" to anywhere in Iraq. US diplomats were lobbying for support at the UN on Wednesday for the tough draft resolution, which makes uncompromising demands on Iraq to open its territory.

Under the US draft resolution, the inspectors would have the right to go anywhere, including the eight sites, to interview any scientist or official in private and even to provide transport out of Iraq for them

and their families, a provision some diplomats say is an invitation to defect.

The resolution would empower inspection teams to remove or destroy any weapons or components, records, materials and equipment. Still under discussion are so-called "coercive inspections" backed up by troops.

Of the five permanent UN Security Council members with veto power, only Britain has so far signed up to the draft, which some diplomats call a blueprint for war because Iraq could never agree to it.

France, Russia and China have strong reservations about authorising the US to decide when Iraq has violated terms of the proposed resolution.

"This proposal of the US is unacceptable, not only by Iraq, it's unacceptable by the Security Council because there is no need for a new resolution," Aziz said. "The standing resolutions of the Security Council concerning the inspections are valid and they are enough for the perfect performance of the inspectors."

Reuters

3 OCT 2002

VIENNA / FOCUS ON 1998 DEAL

U.N. insists on free access

VIENNA, OCT 1. Gearing up for a return to Iraq, U.N. inspectors pressed a delegation from Baghdad today for free access to so-called "sensitive sites" where the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, might be concealing weapons of mass destruction.

Inspectors preparing for a fresh assessment of Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capabilities said the final day of logistical talks would focus on government complexes such as the Defence Ministry, Interior Ministry and the headquarters of Mr. Hussein's elite Republican Guard, where access has been restricted in the past.

"It all has to be immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access," the chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix, told reporters. But he added: "We'll see — the devil is in the details."

Mr. Blix's spokesman, Ewan Buchanan, told The Associated Press that the inspectors also were discussing a 1998 deal that restricted access to eight so-called presidential sites, including Mr. Hussein's palaces, which have been off-limits to surprise visits.

But he said the issue had only

"come up in passing" and not in detail because only the U.N. Security Council — which endorsed the plan — has the authority to press for the deal to be lifted or altered. Mr. Blix said he would report back to the Council on later in the day.

Though the Iraqi President last month pledged unconditional access to sites across Iraq, Baghdad has since rejected the notion of U.N. resolutions that would broaden and toughen the inspection regimen. The Iraqi resistance has thrown into question whether the inspectors would be able to come and go as they please. — AP

Iraq cautions Turkey

Reuters reports

In Ankara, Iraq told neighbouring NATO member Turkey today it would jeopardise its own interests and destroy friendship with Baghdad if it backed U.S. strikes.

The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, met the Turkish leaders in Ankara as part of a bid to deny Washington support bases here for any attack on Iraq. Hours earlier, a senior U.S. official left the capital after presenting her case for co-operation.

UN arms inspection team, Iraqi officials hold talks

TR-13
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Vienna: Iraqi officials opened talks with UN arms experts here on Monday to discuss resumption of inspections as the US kept up its threats to enforce disarmament, if necessary.

Hans Blix, chairman of the UN monitoring, verification and inspection commission (Unmovic), said the purpose of the negotiations "is that if and when inspections come about we will not have clashes inside". Mr Blix also said the UN team would have unlimited access to sites. Asked if there would be limits on where the inspectors could go, Mr Blix said: "No, I am not aware of any such places." But he refused to be specific about whether the inspectors would have access to all sites without delay, an issue before the inspections broke off nearly four years ago.

The US is pressing the UN security council to issue a tough new resolution on Iraqi disarmament.

Resolution 1284 said that if Iraq allowed Unmovic and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to resume work and cooperated fully with them, the crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1991 could be suspended.

But the US administration has said Sad-

dam Hussein cannot be trusted.

It wants to shore up 1284— adopted when predecessor Bill Clinton was in office— with a new text spelling out what secretary of state Colin Powell has called "the hard consequences" if Iraq fails to comply.

"The purpose of the talks is that if and when inspections come about, we will not have clashes inside" over what the inspectors will do, Mr Blix said. "We'd rather go through these things outside in advance."

IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said the success of a new weapons inspection mission would hinge on Mr Saddam's promise of full cooperation.

"We're certainly aware of what happened last time," Ms Fleming said. "But we uncovered Iraq's secret nuclear programme, and we dismantled it. We were successful last time. If we get unfettered access, we will be successful again."

"We're looking for Iraqi cooperation here, but these are not political talks," she added. "We are not going to be negotiating here. We're going to be laying on the table the requirements we're going to have as inspectors." Agencies

UN man meets Iraqis to beat of war drums

United Nations, September 29

CHIEF UN weapons inspector Hans Blix will meet Iraqi arms experts in Vienna on Monday and Tuesday to prepare for a return to Baghdad after a nearly four-year break.

Blix has had three unsuccessful sessions this year in an effort to set up practical arrangements for a resumption of inspections to account for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

But this meeting is different.

As he sits down with the Iraqi officials, the UN Security Council considers a tough new US-drafted resolution that threatens military action and rewrites the ground rules for the inspectors, including when they can return.

Still, the Vienna talks are the first test of Iraq's cooperation since Foreign Minister Naji Sabri sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on September 16, saying the inspectors could return without pre-conditions.

Blix intends to make the same requests he did at his last meeting with Iraqi officials in Vienna in July: arrangements for offices, transport, communications, accommodations, escorts, landing sites for aircraft and offices for the first time in Basra in the south and Mosul in the north.

He has also been promised by Iraq an up-to-date list of equipment and materials that have both civilian and military uses and how they are deployed.

Such declarations have not been submitted since the inspectors were pulled out in December 1998, the eve of a United States-British bombing raid meant to punish Baghdad for allegedly not cooperating with the arms experts.

Blix, the executive chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as UNMOVIC, had planned to send advance inspection teams to Iraq on October 14.

But the new US draft resolution, backed by Britain, requires Iraq to accept the demands in the resolution seven days after it is adopted and declare all banned weapons and materials they may have before inspectors can return. It also calls for a protection force for the arms experts.

"If somebody tried to move the team in now, we would find ways to thwart that," Secretary of State Colin Powell told the House International Relations Committee earlier this month.

Powell said he had made this clear to both Annan and Blix. "They recognise there is a debate taking place in the Security

Council and they're waiting to see whether the Security Council chooses to give UNMOVIC different or new authority," he said.

The new draft resolution also overrides any previous arrangements, such as special consideration for entering President Saddam Hussein's eight palace compounds. It demands access for the inspectors anywhere, even mosques.

UNMOVIC is in charge of eliminating Iraq's biological, chemical and ballistic missile arms programs. The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Commission is responsible for nuclear arms. Its director-general, Mohamed El Baradei, will be at the talks with Blix.

Iraq's team is expected to include General Amir al-Saadi, counselor to the presidency on scientific and technical affairs, Hasam Mohammed Amin, head of the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate, the office used for liaison with UN inspectors, and Saeed Hasan, a Foreign Ministry official, who was Baghdad's former UN ambassador.

Blix has a staff of 63 in New York, some of whom could go to Baghdad quickly. Two hundred trained experts from 44 nations are on call and could be put to work within weeks.

Reuters

Pervez secures UN sniper-point

K.P. NAYAR

New York, Sept. 27: Pakistan today opened a new, volatile front in its fight against India when it was elected for a two-year term to the UN Security Council.

The election poses a major diplomatic challenge to Delhi and will keep South Block on its toes during the next two years as Islamabad uses its leverage on UN's top table to target India on Kashmir, human rights, religious violence and a host of other issues.

Pakistan's election as one of the 10 non-permanent members of the council is not a surprise: Islamabad has been diligently working towards this goal for at least three years. What is a surprise is the unanimous choice of

Islamabad by the Asian group in the UN General Assembly as its candidate for the Asian seat in the council.

This seat is currently held by Singapore, which will make way for Pakistan on January 1, 2003, following the unchallenged endorsement of Pakistan by Asian countries and the formality of an election today.

Other non-permanent members elected today are Spain, Germany, Chile and Angola. Five other non-permanent members who will complete their two-year term at the end of next year are: Syria, Mexico, Bulgaria, Cameroon and Guinea.

Pakistan's membership of the UN's "Cabinet" will bring it closer to the US even as the Bush administration is seeking new allies in the world body in its ef-

orts to bend the UN to its will on Iraq and a host of other issues.

In anticipation of Pakistan's election, its minister of state for foreign affairs, Inam-ul-Haq, this week met top US officials in Washington to preface Islamabad's role as an incoming member of the council.

Pakistan's embassy in Washington acknowledged that Haq had discussed today's election in his meetings with secretary of state Colin Powell and his deputy, Richard Armitage.

Keeping the council membership in mind, General Pervez Musharraf recently beefed up his country's permanent mission to the UN, replacing former foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmed with Munir Akram, a veteran Pakistani diplomat who has dedicated

much of his career to UN work.

In a prelude to what India can expect with Pakistan's election to the Security Council, one of Akram's first initiatives after his posting to New York in May was to get council members to meet informally to discuss Kashmir.

He used an NGO's platform for this purpose and secured the support of some bleeding hearts in the UN system and that of willing council members such as Mexico. The meeting, however, was reduced to a non-starter after India persuaded Russia and Mauritius to issue a boycott threat.

But with its leverage flowing from the council membership, Pakistan will now come upfront with such tactics against Delhi, instead of having to rely on proxies like Mexico.

28 SEP 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

The U.N. and Iraq

By Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

The Security Council, in all probability, will adopt a resolution along the lines dictated by the U.S.

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THE INTERNATIONAL community faces a dilemma on Iraq. Is it better to give the United States a United Nations-authorized mandate to do what it is determined to do on its own if necessary? Or, should the U.N. refuse to provide legitimacy to the Americans, leaving them to act on their own, unilaterally? The U.S. Government itself does not seem to be too worried at what the Security Council might decide. Indeed, from its perspective, the U.S. Government is giving an opportunity to the U.N. to redeem itself on the Iraq issue. As the U.S. President, George W. Bush, put it, the Organisation has to decide whether it wants to remain the U.N. or whether it wishes to become the League of Nations. If the U.N. fails to grab the opportunity provided in so timely a fashion by the U.S., it will have only itself to blame.

If recent history is any guide, the U.N. is likely to act on the first option. The Security Council, in all probability, will adopt a resolution along the lines dictated by the U.S. The Americans will surely accept some amendments, which will enable other members — Russia, France, and even some non-permanent members — to claim that they succeeded in diluting the resolution, but the substance will not be affected. In July this year, there was an artificial, mini-crisis in the Security Council over the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court over American peacekeeping personnel. The crisis was artificial because everyone knew or ought to have known which way it would end, namely in favour of the U.S. It was a mini-crisis because there was really no threat to international peace and security. Indeed, several members questioned the legality of the entire proceedings under Chapter VII. The U.S. is firmly opposed to the ICC since it fears its personnel might some day be unfairly indicted for war crimes. Given the widespread disaffection with American attitudes, the U.S. apprehension is understandable.

The ICC statute came into effect

on July 1. The Americans seized the first available opportunity to assert their independence of the ICC when the mandate of the international police force in Bosnia came up for renewal. The U.S. demanded a blanket and perpetual exemption for its personnel from the jurisdiction of the ICC in all peacekeeping operations, not just in Bosnia. Should the Council fail to concede the American demand, the U.S. would simply veto any and all resolutions seeking to extend or establish any peacekeeping operations. Negotiations went on for a few weeks. The Council was obliged to extend the mandate for the Bosnian operation by some days to keep it going. Eventually, a compromise resolution was tabled, proposing exemption for American personnel from ICC jurisdiction for one year, to coincide with the renewed mandate period of the operation in Bosnia. The draft also made it explicit that the Council would seek similar exemption next year. The U.S. achieved its objective, but they played the multilateral game smartly enough to permit others to claim they had managed to preserve the ICC's integrity. Thereafter, the U.S. played the bilateral game and persuaded a few countries — Romania and Israel for example — to conclude bilateral agreements undertaking never to surrender American personnel to the ICC. Several other countries are expected to conclude similar agreements in the weeks ahead.

In the case of Iraq, there are two issues — disarmament and regime change. Nearly all the U.N. members support the U.S. on the first issue, viz; that Baghdad must permit UNSCOM inspectors to return with the requisite freedom to have access to all the sites so as to make sure Iraq does not and will not have the capability to make weapons of mass destruction.

There is, as yet, no consensus that

Iraq already possesses such weapons or that it is only a year away from acquiring nuclear weapons as claimed by the U.S. On the whole, however, other members of the Council will not raise too many difficulties for the U.S. on the disarmament issue. Iraq, for its part, has made it easier for its friends by agreeing to the unconditional return of the inspectors.

The question for immediate consideration is whether a fresh resolution is required before the inspectors resume their mission. Russia, in particular, has taken the position that the existing resolutions contain all the mandate that the inspectors need. The U.S. is determined that a new resolution be adopted laying down stringent deadlines for Iraq to comply with all the disarmament obligations, failing which the 'coalition' led by the U.S. will be free to use all necessary or appropriate means to bring about Iraq's disarmament. There is hardly any room for doubting that a formula will be evolved which will satisfy the core of the American position. This will set the stage for the second phase of an attack on Iraq and the regime change that the Americans expect to bring about as a result of the attack.

It is relatively less difficult for the Security Council to accommodate the U.S. demands on the disarmament aspect because, all said and done, Iraq did agree to all the harsh resolutions adopted since its unacceptable attempt to swallow Kuwait in 1990.

Baghdad was punished in accordance with existing international law as defined in Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. Furthermore, in the post-Cold War era, permanent members usually try hard to meet one another's concerns except when the individual member's interests are vitally involved. But, to agree to or acquiesce in a scheme to get rid of the

25/9

head of state of a member-state is a different proposition altogether.

Iraq could frustrate the American game plan by agreeing to all U.N. demands pertaining to its existing or potential WMD programmes. If UNSCOM were given total freedom to check and destroy any and every plant with WMD potential, the U.S. would not have any ground to attack Iraq.

Even a superpower needs some legal cover, however flimsy, to launch an invasion against a member-state of the U.N. The Americans will make it a humiliating experience for Iraq. In the final analysis, it would depend upon the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein's assessment of his chances of surviving an invasion of his country. By the same token, it is not certain a regime change will necessarily happen following an invasion.

The situation is fraught with dangerous implications extending far beyond the region, not confined to energy supplies. Will the world witness the first authorised or unilateral use of force to topple a head of state? What will be the impact on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? How will Jordan cope with it? Will its king support the operation, which his people will undoubtedly be strongly against? How will the so-called international coalition against terrorism be affected?

Fortunately for India, we are not a principal player in this unfolding drama, although we will be affected by it. It has been easy enough for us to take the position of calling for lifting of the sanctions once Iraq complied with U.N. resolutions relating to WMD.

If and when Iraq is attacked, we will be faced with difficult choices. Let us hope we will not be asked for over-flight facilities. Will the Americans use the base facilities they already enjoy in Pakistan? That will have repercussions internally for Pakistan as well as for our own war against cross-border terrorism. We will have to take decisions based on hard calculation of our national interest.

25 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

UN / U.S. ABSTAINS FROM VOTE

End siege, Israel told

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT. 24. After a marathon session that went past midnight, the United Nations Security Council has demanded that Israel end its siege of the compound of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in Ramallah.

The United States which normally exercises its veto power to reject any anti-Israeli resolutions at the world body abstained. Washington had earlier insisted that the Council should specifically condemn Hamas and the Islamic Jihad for terrorist attacks against the Jewish state.

The Council appeared deadlocked on conflicting resolutions put forth by Syria and the United States, the former concentrating on Israeli acts and aggression against the Palestinians and the latter insisting that the United Nations treat the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad as terror outfits under a Security Council Resolution passed in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Security Council finally accepted a compromise solution put forth by Europe that not only criticised Israel for its siege of Mr. Arafat's compound but also called on the Palestinian Authority to bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts.

The Security Council formal deliberations on what was tak-



The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, seated at his desk in his besieged office in Ramallah on Tuesday. — AP

ing place among the Israelis and the Palestinians did not detract the behind the scenes negotiations on a new resolution on Iraq. But it did complicate matters as Arab nations again took the opportunity to criticise the United States for its double standards — letting Israel off the hook for not following Security Council Resolutions but wanting to throw the book at Iraq.

The Council is expected to start its deliberations on Iraq later in the day with senior diplomats here of the view that there is still a wide gap between the perceptions of the issue by the United States and others notably, Russia, France and

China. The Republican administration is bringing tremendous pressure on the Council members for a tough new resolution on Iraq that has a clear time frame.

Washington is particularly working on France and Russia. The French would like to see a two-part resolution, first on the modalities of the return of the weapons inspectors and weapons inspections. If this were to fail, France then wants to take up the subject of consequences. Russia apparently wants no new resolution but lean on Iraq to abide by existing U.N. resolutions, a stance that is unacceptable to the United States.

Nine killed

GAZA CITY (GAZA STRIP), SEPT. 24. Israeli troops backed by dozens of tanks raided Gaza City early Tuesday to destroy several weapons workshops, killing nine Palestinians in gun battles in two neighbourhoods of the Palestinians' largest city.

On Tuesday, land phone lines to Mr. Arafat's compounds appeared to be out of order, meaning Mr. Arafat's only link to the outside world were a few mobile phones. The embattled Mr. Arafat said in a statement on Tuesday that he welcomed the U.N. resolution, and urged the world to pressure Israel to implement it. — AP

25 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

Stop U.S., Saddam tells U.N.

110-15

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 20. As U.N. weapons inspectors disclosed plans to go to Iraq next month, the President, Saddam Hussein, appealed to the United Nations to stop the Bush administration from attacking his country.

In a letter read by his Foreign Minister to the 190-member U.N. General Assembly yesterday, Mr. Hussein attempted to counter U.S. war plans and denied he had any banned weapons.

"I hereby declare before you that Iraq is clear of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons," he said in the message read by Naji Sabri only days after Baghdad agreed to readmit the arms inspectors without conditions.

He accused the United States of wanting to destroy Iraq in order to control the oil-based economy of West Asia and hinted at limits to where the inspectors could go, saying Iraq's rights, sovereignty and security had to be respected.

"We have accepted the return of inspection teams to Iraq, taking into consideration the arrangements that should safeguard these principles," he said.

The statement immediately raised questions about a 1998 agreement on Mr. Hussein's palace compounds that included diplomats accompanying the inspectors.

The pact was endorsed by the

U.N. Security Council but may be changed.

The chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix, acknowledged that the agreement on the palaces was still valid unless the Council decided otherwise.

But he told reporters after briefing the council that interpretations of Saddam's statement differed. "I think that we will have our view on what it means and we will see to it that we are in line with what the Security Council says."

The inspectors went to Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War that drove Baghdad's troops from Kuwait. They were withdrawn in December 1998, before a U.S.-British bombing blitz designed to punish Iraq for its alleged failure to cooperate with them.

Team composition

The United Nations weapons inspection team is to comprise 17 nationalities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today, AFP reports from Vienna.

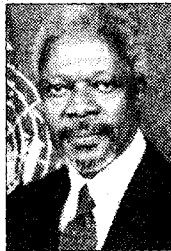
"Seventeen nationalities will be represented, including one Egyptian and two Austrians who are of Arab origin and speak Arabic," said Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman for the U.N.'s Vienna-based nuclear agency.

Iraq on Monday agreed to readmit U.N. arms inspectors, four years after they pulled out of the country. — Reuters

Disgusted, Annan abandons Iraq talks

MAGGIE FARLEY
UNITED NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 20

IT IS one thing to be the middleman. It's another to be caught in the middle. After working for more than a year to get Iraq to agree to a resumption of UN weapons inspections — and being criticised for the results by the White House — secretary-general Kofi Annan has decided it is time to bow out of negotiations over the issue and leave the next steps to Baghdad, Washington and the UN Security Council, his spokesman said.



It's at this pivotal moment that could make the difference between peace and war that Annan is stepping back into the shadows.

Annan declined to be interviewed. It was not immediately clear what impact Annan's decision might have, though he has been instrumental in the past in mediating between the Hussein regime and the Security Council. Some diplomats say his attempts in the past week to forestall an attack on Iraq went beyond the call of diplomatic duty.

On Monday, when the Iraqi For-

'US air power can not destroy Iraqi arms'

WASHINGTON: American air power alone can not wipe out Iraq's secretive and deeply buried arms programmes and any US attack to do so would require ground troops, Defence Secretary Rumsfeld told the Congress on Thursday.

Rumsfeld and the nation's top military officer, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, also told the the Senate Armed Services Committee they could not guarantee that Iraq would not use chemical or biological weapons against those troops.

— Reuters

eign Minister Naji Sabri sent a letter to Annan announcing that Iraq would allow UN weapons inspectors in, the media received copies before the White House. This stirred intense US dissatisfaction.

Officials in the State Department said that though the letter was addressed to Annan, he should have given Washington more time to consider the matter before releasing it to the media.

This made it seem like the issue of weapons inspections was resolved. Annan should not have worked so closely with Iraq, they said. —LATWP

Arms inspectors meet Iraq at UN

Agence France Presse

UNHQ, Sept. 18. — Iraqi officials met chief UN arms inspector Mr Hans Blix for an hour on the resumption of weapons inspections and said they would meet again in Vienna in 10 days.

"We agreed to meet in Vienna in 10 days to finalise the practical arrangements," Mr Saeed Hasan, head of Iraqi foreign ministry's international organisations department, told the Press.

Asked when the arms inspections could start, Mr Hasan replied: "It all depends on Mr Blix's arrangements." Mr Hasan, Iraq's former ambassador to the UN, described the meeting with Mr Blix as "useful and fruitful," adding: "We also discussed some issues relating to our future work and agreed in principle that the Iraqi side will submit documents on the precious semi-annual declaration on the sites that were under monitoring in 1998." He declined to elaborate further.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Mr Najji Sabri said Iraq was "ready for the speedy and immediate resumption of the inspections of weapons," but described the talks as preliminary.

Mr Sabri, who was not therefore the talks, said: "We were not prepared for this," he said. "I have only a few people — one expert — and we hope to continue later on when we agree on timings and other procedures."

US, Russia differ over next move: The United States and Russia, divided by Iraq's surprise acceptance of weapons inspectors, clashed over whether to still confront Baghdad with new conditions or ultimatums, reports AP from the UN.

"We have seen this game before," US secretary of state Mr Colin Powell said as he reaffirmed Washington's call for a tough anti-Iraq resolution by the Security Council.



PEACE AT LAST?: Celebrations in anticipation of the war being put on hold. In Baghdad on Wednesday. — AFP

But Russia's foreign minister said he saw no immediate need for new UN demands if the inspectors are quickly dispatched. He was backed by Arab leaders.

The "logic of war" may now be replaced by "the logic of peace," said one.

The UN inspectors, meanwhile, moved ahead with arrangements for their return.

At a UN news conference at which Mr Powell and Mr Igor Ivanov laid out conflicting views, Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan appealed for them to stick together on Iraq.

This is "the beginning, not an end," he said. "We should try to maintain the unity of purpose that has emerged."

An AFP report from the UN Security Council to ignore the Iraqi offer and pass a resolution handing President Saddam Hussein a tough ultimatum to disarm or face action, presumably military.

He said Saddam "has delayed, denied, deceived the

the UN Security Council must act in a way to hold this regime to account, justice for all, the UN Security Council must act in a way to hold this regime to account,

Washington says that US President Mr George W Bush today meets with congressional leaders to discuss the future strategy viz-a-viz Iraq. He said

Washington says that US President Mr George W Bush today meets with congressional leaders to discuss the future strategy viz-a-viz Iraq. He said

Monitors will dice with deceit

Richard Beeston,
The Times, London

LONDON, Sept. 18. — The UN weapons inspectors preparing to travel to Baghdad face a daunting challenge to complete a mission begun more than a decade ago but repeatedly thwarted by the Iraqi authorities.

As scores of experts in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons were placed on stand-by to return to Baghdad, veterans of past inspections had good cause to be sceptical about the outcome of the latest attempt to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Richard Butler, who led the last UN team withdrawn from Baghdad in 1998, said Iraq had built "a wall of deceit and concealment" to fool inspectors in the past, and may do so again.

"What we really need to see is that the inspectors are allowed to do their work when they get there, without conditions; in other words, unfettered access to any place or person that they need in order to do their job, and we will not know that until they get there," he said. "This job can be done if the Iraqis allow it to be done. If they will not, then we are going to have a very serious crisis on our hands."

Inspectors were first sent to Baghdad in 1991 as part of the ceasefire agreement concluded by Iraq and the US-led forces in the Gulf War. Almost from the start the mission ran into trouble as the two sides began a protracted game of cat and mouse, with the Iraqis trying to stay one step ahead of the UN monitors.

British officials believe that President Saddam Hussein made concealment of his weapons a priority after the war.

George Washington, have brought the number of US navy ships to 20 which includes the Fifth Fleet, currently positioned there.

George Washington, have brought the number of US navy ships to 20 which includes the Fifth Fleet, currently positioned there.

World peace in Blix's hands

LONDON, Sept. 18. — A 74-year-old-Swede plucked from retirement by a telephone call to his holiday cabin in Antarctica two years ago now stands between war and peace in Iraq.

Mr Hans Blix, chief UN weapons inspector, is the man who will ultimately judge if Mr Saddam Hussein has complied with the demands of the international community.

As such, this amiable septuagenarian knows that his verdict could unleash the full might of the US military on Iraq.

If Mr Blix felt the weight placed on his shoulders by both Iraq and President Bush, he did not show it. He said he was not surprised that Iraq had relented and agreed to let inspectors return. — The Times, London

US, Russia clash over Iraqi resolution in UN

United Nations: Divided by Baghdad's sudden acceptance of weapons inspectors, the US and Russia clashed openly over the need for a new UN resolution against Saddam Hussein's country, even as the chief arms inspector of the world body and Iraqi officials agreed to meet in Vienna in 10 days to finalise arrangements for resuming weapons checks.

"We cannot just take one-and-a-quarter page letter (by Iraq agreeing to re-admit arms inspectors unconditionally) as the end of this matter. We have seen this game before," US secretary of state Colin Powell said on Tuesday. Mr Powell also stressed the need for a tough new resolution by the UN security council.

The US says the new resolution should lay down the Iraqi obligations and consequences of non-compliance. Apparently, it wants authori-



80-year-old Dr Mercy Heatley arrives at Witney Magistrates in Oxfordshire on Tuesday. She has been summoned for refusing to pay tax in protest against bombing of Iraq.

ty to act without again coming to the security council if Iraq is perceived as not complying with the demands of inspectors.

But Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov, who was also present, said he saw no need for such a measure if the inspectors are able to return early. "From our view, we don't see the need for any special resolution. All of the necessary resolutions

are there," Mr Ivanov said. All necessary procedures are in place as they were agreed on during the preliminary inspections in 1990s, he added.

"Whether we can trust this (Iraqi) letter or not, I think that only facts alone can corroborate this," Mr Ivanov said and emphasised on the need for the speedy return of inspectors who have been barred since December, 1998.

At the press conference, secretary-general Kofi Annan appealed to the two leaders to be united on Iraq. This is "the beginning, not an end," he said. PTI

Iraq agrees to re-admit UN arms inspectors



Tariq Aziz

United Nations: In a spectacular turnaround, Iraq on Tuesday agreed to re-admit UN arms inspectors unconditionally to "remove any doubts" that it "possesses weapons of mass destruction", but an unimpressed Washington termed it as a "tactical" move to give "false hope" to the world community.

Iraq fears that the US could still attack despite Baghdad's decision to allow in weapons inspectors, deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz said, adding the inspections should be completed "within a reasonable time."

"I confirm that I have received a letter from the Iraqi authorities conveying their decision to allow the return of the inspectors without conditions," UN secretary general Kofi Annan said.

The letter containing the Iraqi offer was handed over to Mr Annan by its foreign minister Naji Sabri who was accompanied by Arab League secretary general Amr Moussa.

The decision to allow inspectors back is based on Iraq's "desire to complete the implementation of the relevant security council resolutions and to remove any doubts that Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction," Mr Sabri said in the letter.

The first indications at the UN were that the US would continue to press for a new tough security council resolution demanding that Iraq cooperate fully with the in-

spectors and comply without reservation with all 16 resolutions adopted by it over the years.

In Washington, White House spokesman Scot McClellan said: "This is a tactical step by Iraq in hopes of avoiding strong UN security council action. As such, it is a tactic that will fail."

Mr Annan credited US President George W Bush's speech to the UN general assembly last week for the development, saying it "galvanised the international community".

Diplomats also said the tough speech by Mr Bush and near total demand that Iraq comply with the resolutions apparently played a major role in Baghdad changing its stand from one of defiance to that of cooperation with the world body.

Mr Annan sent the letter to all 15 members of the security council but it was not immediately clear when it would take up the letter. Diplomats said that new resolution is likely to be adopted despite Iraqi offer.

Washington would like to set a deadline, but so far it is finding opposition on that count, diplomats said.

Mr Annan also informed chief weapons inspector Hans Blix about the offer. The inspectors could go in Iraq within days but it would be months before they start operating effectively on the ground.

In Iraq's first public comments since agreeing to allow return of inspectors, Mr Aziz said his government had long questioned whether US and British accusations that Iraq was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction were "a genuine concern or a pretext". Agencies

18 SEP 2002

Indian, Russian, Chinese Foreign Ministers plan 'official meets'

By Amit Baruah

WNS
10-11
16/9

NEW YORK, SEPT. 15. The Indian, Russian and Chinese Foreign Ministers, who met informally over lunch on Saturday, have agreed to hold "official meetings" in the future, the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, told presspersons. Mr. Ivanov, in brief comments after the first-ever trilateral meeting with Mr. Yashwant Sinha and Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, said Saturday's meeting did not have any fixed agenda, but matters relating to the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly came up for discussion.

"We have common positions on principal matters," the Russian Minister said, adding that they discussed the "formation of a world order based on the superiority of the United Nations Charter and international law". They discussed "current international problems given the coordinating role of the U.N."

When asked about the periodicity of the meetings, Mr. Ivanov simply said that the three countries had agreed to hold official meetings in the future. Asked whether this would be annual or biannual, he responded: "depends on the occa-

sion." According to sources, however, the three Ministers would be meeting next year on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session. Also, other interactions at different official levels were being planned.

But, it was evident that the three countries were not keen on giving a "formal shape" to this trilateral meeting lest it be misunderstood by the international community.

The sources said that the issue of counter-terrorism as well as Iraq came up for discussion. For its part, the Indian side gave an account of what was being done by Pakistan in the form of cross-border terrorism.

The significance of this meeting is not in doubt. And the decision to give an official shape to these meetings in the future is equally significant. After the meeting, the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, did not take questions from reporters, leaving it to Mr. Ivanov to deal with the press. As one official put it on Saturday, the trilateral meeting was a "work in progress". Both the work and the progress at future official meetings between the three countries will be closely watched.

16 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

Stand up to Iraq, Bush tells UN

Camp David (Maryland): President George W. Bush has urged the United Nations "to show some backbone" on Iraq and made clear he was prepared to confront Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with or without world support.

"Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations 16 times. Not once, not twice, 16 times he has defied the UN," said Mr Bush on Saturday, who this week challenged the world body to enforce its resolutions on Iraqi disarmament. "Enough is enough."

With Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, one of Washington's most loyal allies in continental Europe, standing beside him at the Camp David presidential retreat, Mr Bush said the United Nations deserved "another chance to prove its relevance."

"This is the chance for the United Nations to show some backbone and resolve as we confront the true challenges of the 21st century," Mr Bush said. But, he added: "Make no mistake about it, if we (the United States) have to deal with



George Bush

the problem, we'll deal with it." Mr Berlusconi agreed on the need for decisive action from the UN, saying it could not continue "to see its image undermined and its resolutions flouted".

At a news conference after the Camp David meeting, Mr Berlusconi said unspecified action would be taken against Baghdad as early as January or February, if Mr Saddam continued to bar weapons inspectors.

But he did not spell out what form such action might take and he declined to answer questions about the substance of his talks with Mr Bush. Despite US threats of an attack, Iraq's foreign minister Tariq Aziz made clear on Saturday that Baghdad would not allow UN weapons inspectors to return without other issues, such as sanctions,

being resolved at the same time.

The UN inspectors, responsible for accounting for Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapon programmes, were pulled out of Iraq in 1998 on the eve of a US-British bombing raid and have not been allowed to return since.

The United States is pressing security council members to agree quickly on a new resolution demanding that Iraq comply with UN disarmament demands, although Mr Bush said on Friday he was "highly doubtful" that Saddam would yield.

"The UN will either be able to function as a peacekeeping body as we head into the 21st century, or it will be irrelevant," Mr Bush said. "That's what we're about to find out."

Meanwhile, in a significant event, foreign ministers of India, Russia and China had a meeting in New York to work on steps to defuse the Iraqi crisis sparked by Mr Bush's threat to take action to disarm Baghdad. Agencies

16 SEP 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Bush wants UN action on Iraq within days

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

UNHQ, Sept. 14. — Mr George Bush has urged the United Nations to fix a deadline for action against Iraq in “days and weeks” even as Baghdad pursues more talks with the world body to try and avert war. Former British minister Mr Chris Smith has warned, in remarks to be broadcast tomorrow, that a strike on Iraq could topple the international coalition on terrorism.

“We must have deadlines ... and we’re talking days and weeks, not months and years,” Mr Bush told reporters late yesterday. British foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said the permanent members of the Security Council had agreed there must be a

time-limit, though none has been set. Iraq and the UN are set to hold talks on the disarmament process “in three or four days”, Mr Amr Musa, Arab League general secretary, said today.

A four-member US delegation, headed by Mr Nick Rahall, Democrat Congressman from West Virginia, reached Iraq today. It will push for peace but also seek the return of UN weapons inspectors there.

Arms monitors welcome: Envoy

CHANDIGARH, Sept. 14. — Iraq’s ambassador Mr Salal Al Mukhtar today said his country welcomes weapons inspection by international observers but insists that they should not engage in “espionage activities as in the past”. He was reacting to Mr George Bush’s UN speech.

In New York, Security Council members have responded to Mr Bush’s demand for Iraq to admit UN weapons inspectors with a demand for the inspectors to return. — SNS & AP

THE STATESMAN

1 5 SEP 2002

Mbeki seeks UN help for new African dawn



Bush with Mbeki at a meeting with African heads of state in NY on Friday. Reuters

REUTERS
UNITED NATIONS,
SEPTEMBER 13

SOUTH African President Thabo Mbeki has promised a new African dawn in an address to the United Nations General Assembly saying the continent had risen to the challenge of making and keeping peace by setting up the African Union (AU). Mbeki, who succeeded Nelson Mandela in 1999 after South Africa's first four years of democracy, told the Assembly yesterday.

"The AU is Africa's practical and determined response to its past and present, in favour of peace and stability, democracy and human rights, cooperation, development, prosperity and human dignity."

Mbeki, elected AU's first President at a founding meeting in

South Africa in July, said the organisation would "transform this into an African century."

African nations had also agreed to a peer review mechanism to "ensure that we honour our commitments to democracy, human rights and good governance."

Mbeki, who has fended off attempts by Libya and other African governments to water down the AU's commitments to democracy and good governance, made no mention of opposition to the peer review mechanism from capitals including Tripoli, Harare and Windhoek.

Instead, he urged the UN to

support the AU's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a program linking foreign investment to good political and economic governance to "end Africa's humiliation as an object of charity."

He listed nine priorities for the AU and UN, including human resource development, debt relief and improved market access for African exporters. The second last priority before environmental degradation was "communication and other

diseases, including aids, malaria and tuberculosis."

The UN has labelled AIDS

the worst epidemic in human history. Its figures show the disease has hit hardest in Africa, which has more than 28 million of the 40 million people believed to be infected. Botswana has the world's highest infection rate, estimated at 38.8 per cent, and South Africa has more people living with HIV and AIDS than any other country, with 4.8 million said to be infected.

Mbeki has been criticised for questioning the link between HIV and AIDS and for delaying programs to treat the pandemic with anti-retroviral vaccines, which he says are dangerous and expensive.

At a later event in New York organised by the Council on Foreign Relations, Mbeki denied suggestions the NEPAD program skirted around the AIDS crisis. "The matter of AIDS is indeed one of the principal health challenges in the document," he said.

Swaziland food-for-sex

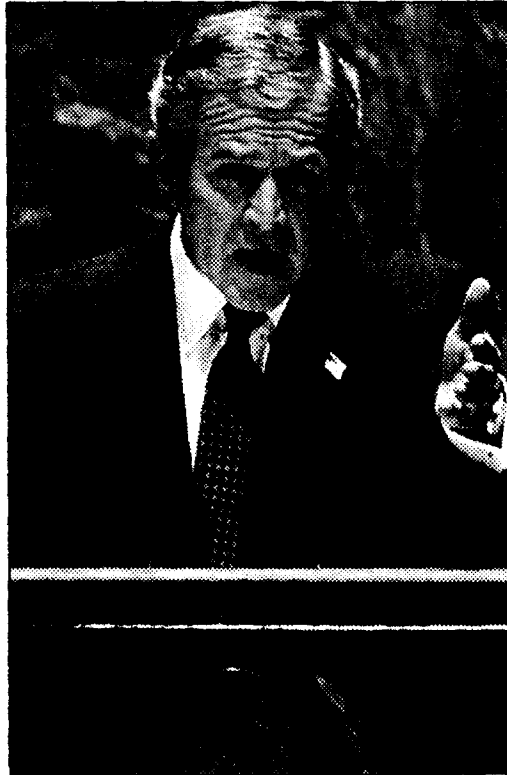
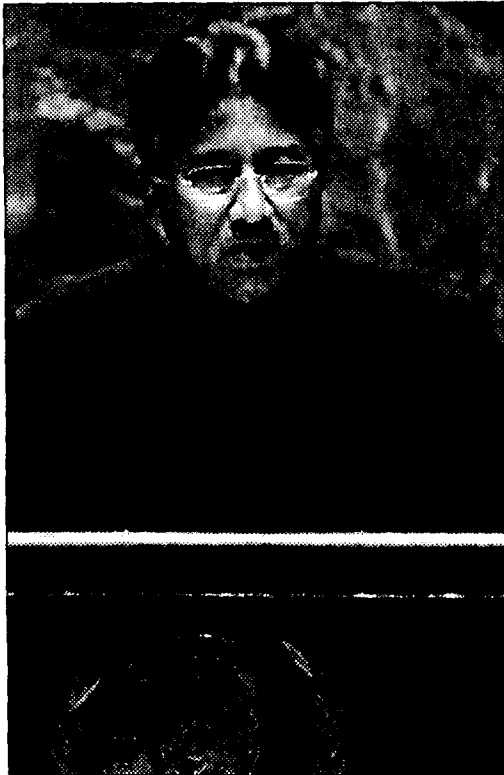
■ MBABANE: The trading of food aid for sexual favours in Swaziland has forced World Food Programme to formulate an anti-abuse policy, the UN agency said on Friday. "Women have been told they must have sex with managers and (truck) drivers before they receive food for families. Children are also victims," said Veli Riba, Unicef special programme coordinator. Reuters

bating communicable and other diseases, including aids, malaria and tuberculosis."

The UN has labelled AIDS

Bush issues challenge to UN on Iraq action

W
UN 13/9



Pervez Musharraf and George W. Bush address the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. (Reuters)

Musharraf lists three steps

K.P. NAYAR

New York, Sept. 12: Even as UN secretary general Kofi Annan identified the situation in South Asia as one of the four current threats to world peace, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf warned the UN General Assembly that peace in the region is "hostage" to one accident or "strategic miscalculation" by India.

Opening the UN General Assembly, Annan said the world had recently come closer than for many years to a direct conflict between two nuclear weapons capable countries. "The situation may now have calmed a little, but it remains perilous. The underlying causes must be addressed", Annan said without naming India, Pakistan or Kashmir.

He also warned that "if a fresh crisis erupts, the international community might have a role to play".

Musharraf said in his speech to the General Assembly that "crisis management cannot afford to become a substitute for conflict resolution".

He listed three steps for advancing peace between the two neighbours: mutual withdrawal of forward forces deployed by both India and Pakistan, a ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and an end to Indian "state terrorism" against Kashmiris.

"Simultaneously, a dialogue must be resumed between India and Pakistan...The Kashmiris should be fully associated with the dialogue on Kashmir and should be allowed to travel freely to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir."

The general, who devoted a quarter of his speech to India, severely attacked the BJP, naming the party for massacring Muslims in Gujarat and targeting Christians and Sikhs. "There must be accountability for this massacre," he said.

United Nations, Sept. 12 (Reuters): President George W. Bush today issued a ringing challenge to the UN on Iraq, saying if the world body did not force President Saddam Hussein to disarm and stop backing terrorism then "action will be unavoidable."

But UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, speaking minutes before Bush, said only the UN could authorise military force in cases that go beyond straightforward self-defence and that multi-lateral action was essential.

"The Security Council resolutions will be enforced — the just demands of peace and security will be met — or action will be unavoidable," Bush declared. "And a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power."

But foreign states welcomed Bush's commitment to pursue diplomatic pressure at this stage, including backing a new UN resolution. US allies and other world leaders, as well as many members of the US Congress, have counseled this

course. Bush issued a fierce indictment of Saddam, saying he posed a "grave and gathering danger" after engaging in a "decade of defiance" of post-Gulf War UN demands by developing weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Aldouri, who was in the UN General Assembly hall when Bush spoke, said the US had repeatedly failed to find any evidence that Iraq was involved in terrorism.

Instead Bush delivered the "longest series of fabrications that has ever been told by a leader of a nation," Aldouri told reporters. "I only can say that President Bush's speech had no credibility at all."

Bush's speech coincided with an increased beat of US war drums, including the disclosure that a major part of the US military command overseeing operations in West Asia would, at least temporarily, be moved from the US to the Gulf.

The US is demanding a return of unrestricted UN inspec-

tions of Iraq's suspected weapons programmes, which Saddam agreed to after his defeat in the 1991 Gulf War but which were abandoned in 1998 after hindrance by Iraq.

While he joined Bush in demanding Iraq comply with all resolutions, Annan questioned Bush's right to go to war.

Any state, if attacked, retained the right of self-defence, he said.

"But beyond that, when States decide to use force, to deal with broader threats to international peace and security there is no substitute for the unique legitimacy provided by the UN," he added.

Insisting that Iraq's refusal to abide by previous resolutions threatened the authority of the UN, Bush said the US would work with other members of the UN Security Council on a new resolution.

"What was positive in his speech is that future action is rooted in the United Nations," Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said.

U.N. includes Chinese group in terror list

40-15
By P. S. Suryanarayana 2/2/01

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 12. East Asian countries on the Pacific Rim remained on a security alert today despite yesterday's violence-free observance of the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks. An intervention by the United Nations in this context raised the anti-terror awareness in the entire region to a new high.

The "Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement" (ETIM), a separatist group active in China's Xinjiang province, has been identified as a terrorist outfit by a U.N. Security Council committee that monitors sanctions against Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives.

Announcing the move, the U.N. said the action was a sequel to China's own submission in this regard. The ETIM has now been

added to a long list of entities and persons linked to the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The list itself was first drawn up in the context of the measures that the Security Council took in response to the indictment of Osama bin Laden for the terrorist bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam in 1998.

The ETIM's inclusion in this terror list, in the context of the ongoing U.S.-led global campaign against terrorism, follows America's endorsement of China's views about the outfit — first, during a top American official's visit to Beijing recently and now at the world body's headquarters.

The latest U.N. move, which reflects a certain China-U.S. understanding to be accommodative of each other's anti-terror concerns, has added a new dimension to the battle against terrorism in this region.

While the U.S. Embassies and consulates in a few South-East Asian locations remained closed today as well in the context of the September 11 anniversary, Washington made a somewhat conciliatory gesture towards Indonesia which had yesterday asked the American authorities for a clarification about the indefinite closure of their missions in Jakarta and Surabaya.

Put on record now is the U.S. appreciation of the steps taken by Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, in the global campaign against terrorism.

Unrelated to terrorism is another China-friendly gesture that the U.N. has made at this time. The U.N. General Assembly's general committee has rejected a proposal for Taiwan's representation at this year's session in New York. China today welcomed this political development.

190th member of U.N. ^{HO-12}

UNITED NATIONS: After remaining neutral for 57 years, ¹⁷⁹ Switzerland has become the 190th member of the United Nations with the General Assembly approving its admission with acclamation at its opening session. Switzerland sought admission after a popular vote approved its joining the world body in March last, thus ending the isolation it had maintained for years. "The U.N. is needed now more than ever," said the Swiss President Kaspar Villiger, citing the need to take a global approach as the world confronts terrorism. "Independence and joint action are not incompatible and is precisely this diversity coupled with respect for the independence of each state that is one of the U.N.'s strengths," he said. — PTI

Regains sensation

NEW YORK: Christopher Reeve (*in the picture*), the 'Superman' actor who was paralysed seven years ago, has regained some movement and sensation in his arms and legs, a spokeswoman for the actor said, and his doctor holds out hope he may one day walk again. Mr. Reeve, whose spinal cord was severely damaged when he fell off a horse during an equestrian



event, has regained the ability to move his right wrist, the fingers of his left hand and his feet," the spokeswoman said. "He can now feel a pin prick on his body and can move some of his joints voluntarily. He can also move other joints against resistance." — Reuters

THE HINDI

1 2 SEP 2002

Blair and Bush put UN on the spot

SF-3 109

Phillip Webster, Roland Watson
The Times, London

Sept. 9. — The British prime minister, Mr Tony Blair, will tomorrow challenge the UN to prove its worth and force Iraq to dismantle its deadly weapons stockpile.

In a gamble that could avoid war, Mr Blair and President George W Bush are putting the UN's credibility on the line by backing a final deadline on President Saddam Hussein to allow in arms inspectors, but insisting that it must be backed up by the threat of force if he refuses to comply.

In his speech to the TUC conference in Blackpool tomorrow, Mr Blair will try to defuse a potential Cabinet rebellion by disclosing that he has won Mr Bush's support for seeking the widest possible international backing for action to disarm the Iraqi dictator. He

line to Iraq, possibly four to six weeks, to comply with UN demands to allow weapons inspectors in. It would then be given around six months for its weapons to be decommissioned. But if the work of the inspection teams was hampered, Saddam would be considered to have breached the resolution and face military action led by the USA but, crucially, backed by the UN.

There is scepticism in London and Washington over whether the UN is prepared to take the stringent line required. But in recent days Mr Bush and Mr Blair have told the leaders of the other permanent members of the Security Council, France, China and Russia, that should the UN option fail they are determined to go ahead.

The latest diplomatic moves in the Iraq crisis were discussed by Mr Blair, Mr Bush and advisers during a 200-minute meeting on Saturday.

Coalition planes strike Iraq

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9. — Warplanes from a US-British coalition struck an air defence command and control facility in southern Iraq today, the latest of a series of retaliatory attacks, the US military said. The US Central Command said the airstrike was "in response to recent Iraqi hostile acts against coalition aircraft monitoring the southern no-fly zone".
— AFP

will say that he is ready to follow the UN route, but only if the UN is prepared to deliver and never again tolerate Saddam's constant flouting of its resolutions.

Mr Bush will outline the strategy he and Mr Blair agreed over the weekend at Camp David in a speech to the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday. He is understood to favour giving a short dead-

UN tells Iraq to fulfil word on war missing

United Nations: The UN has once again appealed to Iraq to fulfil its obligations and 'restore its credibility' by accounting for more than 600 Kuwaitis and nationals of other countries missing since Baghdad attacked Kuwait in 1991.

"Despite the encouraging agreements at the Arab summit in Beirut in March, Iraq's words on the fate of the missing persons are yet to be matched by tangible deeds," UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said in a report issued on Tuesday.

Full accounting and repatriation of foreigners is one of the requirements, along with elimination of weapons of mass destruction, set by the council to consider lifting of sanctions imposed against Iraq in the wake of the attack.

"The Iraqi refusal to cooperate with a commission



Kofi Annan

dealing with repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains continues to thwart any progress on the issue," Mr Annan said.

Mr Annan, who had discussed the issue with Iraqi foreign minister Naji Sabri, said Mr Sabri had told him that the issue would be directly taken up with Kuwait, with the assistance of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

"There still is a window of opportunity to address humanitarian issues, such as that of missing persons, in good faith," he told Baghdad, adding "Iraq should use this opportunity to restore its credibility on the outstanding humanitarian issues." PTI

US will suffer defeat: Iraq

Washington: Denying the possession of weapons of mass destruction, Iraq has warned the US that it will suffer a defeat if the country is attacked.

Deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz warned President George W Bush that if Iraq was attacked, the US would be defeated as the war would be fought in Iraq's heartland.

Iraq was defeated during the Gulf war because it was in Kuwait. "This time the fight will be in Iraq's heartland. This time Iraq will be defending its integrity and national interests against an aggressor," Mr Aziz said. PTI

22 AUG 2002

UN ready to go back to Iraq on its terms: Blix

Agence France Presse

LONDON, Aug 18. - The UN is ready to send inspectors back into Iraq to check for weapons of mass destruction, but only on its terms, chief UN weapons inspector, Mr Hans Blix, said today.

"We are very eager to start inspections," said Mr Blix in an interview with BBC television, after President Saddam Hussein's government this week sent new proposals to UN secretary-general Mr Kofi Annan.

"However, you have to read the small print of any invitation," he said.

"It seems this was by no means a decision by the Iraqis to invite inspectors, but rather to suggest discussions on what issues were open in 1998" when UN arms inspectors were last in the country, he said.

"We have not been directed by the UN Security Council to do that." Mr Blix spoke from New York after Iraqi foreign minister Mr Naji Sabri replied to a request from Mr Annan asking Baghdad to confirm its readiness to abide by all UN Security Council resolutions.

UN officials said / Mr Annan

'USA gave military advice to Iraq'

WASHINGTON, Aug 18. - A covert US programme in the 1980s provided Baghdad with critical military advice at a time when US intelligence agencies knew that Iraq would likely use chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, a newspaper reported today.

Although senior US officials publicly condemned Iraq's employment of mustard gas, sarin, VX and other poisonous agents, US military officers interviewed by the *New York Times* said.

Washington continued a highly classified programme in which more than 60 officers of the Defence Intelligence Agency secretly provided to Iraq detailed information on Iranian deployments, tactical planning for battles, plans for air strikes and bomb-damage assessments. The programme was supported by the then President Ronald Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and senior national security aides, the *Times* reported.

Iraq's use of poison gas in the Iran-Iraq war from 1981-1988 now is repeatedly cited by President George W Bush and his top lieutenants as justification for a regime change in Iraq. During the Iran-Iraq war, the USA decided it was imperative that Iran be thwarted so it could not overrun the important oil-producing states in the Persian Gulf. The covert programme was carried out at a time when President Reagan's top aides, including secretary of state Mr George Shultz, defence secretary Mr Frank Carlucci and General Colin Powell, then the national security adviser, were publicly condemning Iraq for its use of poison gas, especially after Iraq attacked Kurds in Halabja in March 1988. — AFP

was unlikely to respond to Mr Sabri's 10- to 12-page letter - which suggests "technical discussions ... to establish the groundwork for the next phase of monitoring and inspection" - before mid-week.

Mr Blix, a Swedish diplomat who heads the UN Monitoring, Verification and Control Commission, said: "They want talks first, and in light of the talks maybe decide whether they will invite inspectors."

U.N. demands Israeli withdrawal

HD-12
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UNITED NATIONS, AUG. 6. The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding that the Israeli armed forces withdraw immediately to the positions they occupied when the current *intifada* began in September 2000.

The resolution, adopted by 114 votes to four with eleven abstentions yesterday, also calls for "the immediate cessation of military incursions and all acts of violence, terror, provocation, incitement and destruction." The United States was among the four countries that voted against the resolution, which "strongly deplores the lack of Israeli co-operation" in implementing previous U.N. resolutions on the matter.

The resolution also emphasised the urgency of ensuring that medical and humanitarian organisations get unhindered access to Palestinian civilians at all times, and calls for assistance in rebuilding and revitalising the Palestinian economy. Despite its strong wording, the resolution represents a substantially watered down version of the original proposed by the Arab group, which the European Union had said it was unable to support.

A draft resolution to condemn the Jewish state for the "atrocities" against citizens committed by Israeli troops in Jenin and other Palestinian cities was deemed "hypocrisy" by the US. — AFP

Hamas rejects plan

GAZA CITY, AUG 6 The militant Palestinian Islamist movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad today rejected an Israeli plan under which Israeli troops would quit re-occupied land in Gaza if Palestinian security forces cracked down on hardline groups.

"The Palestinians reject this plan. Our mission is to resist the

occupation, and such a sedative plan aims to calm criticism by the international community and gain time," said a Gaza Hamas leader, Ismail Abu Shanab.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Binyamin Ben Eliezer, met yesterday the Palestinian Interior Minister, Abdel Razaq al-Yahya to discuss the plan. — AFP

Annan spurns Iraqi offer

JAMES BONE, THE TIMES, LONDON

NEW YORK, Aug 3. - The UN Secretary-General, taking care not to fall foul of the USA, rejected an Iraqi offer yesterday to invite the chief UN weapons inspector to Baghdad.

Mr Kofi Annan said that an Iraqi letter calling for a further round of technical talks with Mr Hans Blix, the head inspector, set conditions "at variance" with the demands of the 15-nation Security Council. The Iraqi invitation to Mr Blix seemed intended to split the major powers at the UN as the drumbeat of war in Washington grew louder. British and US officials described the Iraqi letter as an attempt by President Saddam Hussein to rewrite UN resolutions on weapons inspections.

"What he should say is: 'Yes, I accept any time, any place unfettered inspections,'" Mr Sean McCormack, a spokesman for the US National Security Council, said. Russia, however, welcomed the Iraqi initiative as an "important step

towards resolving the crisis through political and diplomatic means".

Although bitterly divided over the prospect of the USA using military force to bring about a "regime change" in Iraq, the major powers do publicly agree that Iraq should allow the resumption of weapons inspections in line with the requirements of Security Council Resolution 1284. The 1999 resolution demanded that UN inspectors should be allowed "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access" in Iraq and gave them 60 days to identify the "key remaining disarmament tasks to be completed by Iraq" and to establish a programme for future inspections.

UN officials said yesterday that Iraq was effectively trying to make the UN identify the remaining disarmament tasks and draw up a programme of work before the inspectors were allowed back in.

In the letter to Mr Annan, Mr Najib Sabri, Iraq's foreign minister, said the proposed talks would be aimed at reaching common ground on the

scientific and practical criteria that would be adopted to resolve what the UN weapons inspectorate might see as disarmament issues. Mr Sabri also asked the UN to revisit an earlier UN review of outstanding disarmament tasks - a request Mr Blix had already rejected in previous rounds of talks.

Mr Annan has held three rounds of face-to-face talks with Iraq this year on the possible return of the weapons inspectors, who were forced out of Iraq in 1998. However, the Secretary-General is wary of Iraqi promises after Saddam reneged on a deal brokered by Mr Annan earlier in 1998. At the last round of talks, in Vienna, he refused to set a date for a new face-to-face encounter because he felt Iraq was just agreeing with him in order to gain time.

He did, however, agree that technical talks could continue between UN and Iraqi officials.

Mr Fred Eckhard, the UN spokesman, said that Mr Annan's objection was to the substance of the Iraqi invitation, not to the proposed venue of Baghdad. "It's what is to be

discussed," he said. Mr Annan will gather reaction to the Iraqi proposal at his monthly lunch with Security Council members on Monday.

However, diplomats and UN officials made clear that, with both Britain and the USA expected to oppose talks on Iraq's terms, it was virtually certain that Mr Blix would not accept the invitation to go to Baghdad.

Powell rejects offer: The US Secretary of State, Gen Colin Powell, today emphatically rejected a move by Iraq inviting the chief UN weapons inspector to Baghdad to discuss the resumption of inspections halted amid acrimony in December 1998.

The offer, which coincided with a new flurry of speculation about a possible US attack on Iraq, had earlier drawn an equally sceptical reaction from Washington's closest Western ally Britain, but support from Russia, which opposes US military action.

Gen Powell, speaking to reporters ahead of meetings with Philippine officials in Manila, accused Iraq of attempting to "change the goalposts" and wriggle out of their obligations.

Palestinian claim of Jenin massacre false: UN report

United Nations: UN secretary general Kofi Annan, after releasing a long-awaited report on Israel's incursion into the Jenin refugee camp, spoke of the "very severe" humanitarian predicament of the Palestinians.

"It is clear that the Palestinian population has suffered and are suffering the humanitarian consequences which are very severe and I would hope that both parties will... take steps to end the cycle of violence that is killing innocent civilians on both sides," Mr Annan said on Thursday.

The 31-page report, based on statements supplied by UN member-states, non-governmental organisations and the Palestinians, refuted Palestinian claims of a massacre at the West Bank camp between April 2 and 12 when it was reoccupied by Israeli troops.

Mr Annan acknowledged the report was not an "on-the-spot investigation, but a report built off reports available in the public domain," as Israel barred access to the camp by a United Nations fact-finding mission.

Meanwhile, Israel broadly welcomed the report that it had not committed a massacre of Palestinians in the Jenin refugee camp, while the Palestinians dismissed the findings outright. The report covered the events sur-



Kofi Annan

rounding a pitched battle between Palestinian militants and Israeli troops fighting to occupy the West Bank camp.

Following the battle, senior Palestinian officials accused Israel of killing some 500 people, while Israel put the Palestinian death toll at 52, along with 23 of its own soldiers.

Israeli foreign ministry official Dabiel Taub said in Jenin that the findings placed blame on the Palestinian Authority for allowing hardline militant groups to operate out of areas under its control, and cleared Israel from accusations of a massacre.

In a related development, Amnesty International has said that the UN report showed the need for a full probe into the incident.

It said the report released by Mr Annan into events in the West Bank city "underscores the need for a thorough, on-the-spot investigative inquiry into the reports of grave human rights abuses that occurred."

In a statement the rights group charged that Israel has "impeded the search for truth and justice. It failed to provide information to the UN secretary general for his report." AP

3 AUG 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HDR 2002: Figure it out if you can

Analyse this: India jumps from one statistic to another from one Human Development Report to another in the space of one year. By **BIBEK DEBROY**

THE UNDP's Human Development Report for 2002 has recently been released and people have already written about HDR. I have always wondered why figures given in the HDR jump around from year to year, for example, in the comparison between HDR 2001 and HDR 2002.

I don't mean minor decimal level discrepancies. You will find those also. What was India's Human Development Index value in 1975? HDR 2001 gives 0.406 and HDR 2002 gives 0.407. This is a decimal level kind of discrepancy. But take something like urban population as a percentage of total population. HDR 2001 gives 28.1 per cent (for 1999), while HDR 2002 gives 27.7 per cent (for 2000). This is not a decimal level discrepancy.

What about the percentage of one-year olds immunised against tuberculosis and measles? HDR 2001 tells us 72% of infants were immunised against tuberculosis and 55% against measles for the period 1997-99. HDR 2002 gives us a figure for 1999 and tells us 68% of infants were immunised against tuberculosis and 50% were immunised against measles. Did performance deteriorate so much in

who are under-weight or under-height. If under-nourishment increases, you would perhaps expect the incidence of under-weight or under-height children to increase. But strangely, while HDR 2001 gives us 33% as the percentage of infants with low birth weight (for 1995-99), HDR 2002 gives us 26% as the percentage of infants with low birth weight (for 1995-2000). HDR 2001 tells us that for 1995-2000, 53% of under-five children were under-weight. For the same period, HDR 2002 gives us a figure of 47%.

HDR 2001 tells us that the maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) was 410 during 1980-99. HDR 2002 tells us that the maternal mortality ratio was 540 during 1985-99. During the later period, did the maternal mortality ratio really jump like that?

Unlike the social sector indicators, you might expect trade data to be more robust. HDR 2001 tells us that the share of high technology exports in total manufactured exports was 7% in 1998. HDR 2002 gives us a figure of 4% for 1999. How much is military expenditure as a percentage of GDP? For 1990, HDR 2001 gives us 2.9%. HDR 2002 gives us 2.7% and this is proba-

much? Perhaps it could. But according to HDR 2001, total armed forces were 11,73,000 in 1999. According to HDR 2002, total armed forces were 13,03,000 in 2000. I refuse to believe that total armed forces could have increased by that much in one year.

These are objective vari-

ables, so to speak. This year's HDR also tries to measure and quantify quality of governance within countries. There are some indicators described as objective indicators of governance, such as participation in the electoral process (voter turnout, year women received the right to vote, seats in Parliament held by women), strength of civil society (trade union membership, number of NGOs) and ratification of international human right instruments. Because these are objective variables, the only quarrel can be about whether these variables adequately capture the idea of governance or whether there can be better variables.

These are objective vari-

Understandably, on this democracy head, India outstrips the rest of South Asia.

On corruption, we don't have values for all South Asian countries. Transparency International tells us that India is less corrupt than Pakistan and Pakistan is less corrupt than Bangladesh. The World Bank believes that India is the least corrupt of the three, but Bangladesh is less corrupt than Pakistan. According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka is the least corrupt within the region and Nepal is less corrupt than India. If you take the World Bank figure, India has

HDR 2001 vs HDR 2002						
	Human Development Index Value	Urban Population (% of total)	Population under-nourished	Infants with low birth weight	Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 births)	Total Armed Forces
HDR 2001	0.406	28.1%	21%	33%	410	11,73,000
HDR 2002	0.407	27.7%	23%	26%	540	13,03,000

Source: Human Development Report 2002

IE Graphics/B.K. SHARMA

On the democracy head, India outstrips the rest of South Asia. But on the press freedom criterion, India scores only 42 out of 100. This means that the Indian press is "partly free" and places India in the same league as say, Kuwait, Romania, Macedonia, Fiji, Indonesia and Uganda

But on the press freedom criterion, India scores 42 out of 100. This means that the Indian press is "partly free" and places India in the same league as say, Kuwait, Romania, Macedonia, Fiji, Indonesia and Uganda.

Rule of law and government effectiveness include political stability and lack of violence (World Bank), law and order (International Country Risk Guide), rule of law (World Bank) and government effectiveness (World Bank). Again, India is the best performer within South Asia, although in an absolute sense, the Indian government is believed to be ineffective. The corruption head has corruption perception (Transparency International) and graft (World Bank). It is not very obvious how the two are different, except that they come from two different sources.

the same level of corruption as Colombia and Senegal.

In general, HDR 2002 has a lot of charitable references to India, partly because of the deepening democracy theme and partly because of income growth in India during nineties. However, there is also a reference to the 50 million missing women (100 million in the world), who would have been alive but for infanticide, neglect or sex-selective abortions.

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"A recent survey in India found 10,000 cases of female infanticide a year, and a study of a clinic in Bombay found that 7,999 of 8,000 aborted foetuses were female." Why was the single male foetus aborted? Must look it up from the reference given in HDR 2002.

(This article first appeared in The Financial Express)

The HDR 2002 report generally has many charitable references to India, partly because of the deepening democracy theme. But there's also a reference to the 50 million missing women who would have been alive but for infanticide, neglect or sex-selective abortions

a couple of years?

According to HDR 2001, during 1996-98, 21% of the population was under-nourished. According to HDR 2002, during 1997-99, 23% of the population was under-nourished.

In addition, you also have figures on children under five

bly more than a decimal level kind of discrepancy.

HDR 2001 tells us that in 1999 (in 1990 prices), we imported \$ 566 million worth of arms. HDR 2002 tells us that in 2001 (in 1990 prices again), we imported \$ 1,064 million worth of arms. Could defence imports have increased by that

USA to withhold population fund

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 23. - The Bush administration, in a victory for social conservatives who oppose abortion, will withhold \$34 million that had been earmarked for UN family planning programmes overseas. Instead, the money will go to international child survival and health programmes of the US Agency for International Development, officials said yesterday.

Critics of the decision said it was driven by politics and vowed to fight to ensure funding for the UN programme. UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan said he was disappointed and China said it hoped the decision will be changed. "Women and children will die because of the decision," said Ms Thoraya Obaid, executive director of the UN fund. She questioned why the administration cut off aid to all countries when in the past, the fund has simply promised not to spend the money in China.

A State Department spokesman recommended the administration maintain the earlier arrangement. But spokesman Mr Richard Boucher in announcing the decision said the administration considered the law and

other factors and concluded "that the UN Population Fund moneys go to Chinese agencies that carry out coercive programmes" that involve abortion. The White House was involved in the decision and President Bush supported the action, he said.

White House officials privately said conservative activists have pressured the administration for months to prove President Bush's anti-abortion credentials by permanently denying money to the UN fund, which helps countries with reproductive and sexual health, family planning and population strategy. Conservatives helped President Bush win the presidency and political advisers have tended to them. But the family planning decision could damage Mr Bush's standing with moderates and women who weigh the issue of abortion rights heavily when they vote.

White House spokesman Mr Scott McClellan said the State Department "made a decision based on the law and the law is clear that we cannot use federal tax dollars to support or fund organisations abroad that support or fund coerced abortions." He also dismissed allegations of political motivations.

Missile defence

WASHINGTON, July 23. - The USA yesterday launched a drive to win the backing of sceptical European allies for its controversial missile defence system by proposing to turn it into a "global" programme. A high-level Pentagon team met British counterparts at the Ministry of Defence to urge their cooperation in developing a system that would give all Nato allies protection against rogue states with weapons of mass destruction.

— The Times, London

U.N. mission crucial to Bosnia poll

By Batuk Gathani

100-15
1997

BRUSSELS, JULY 16. The extension of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Bosnia must have come as a huge relief to many in Europe as a stable Bosnia contributes to the stability of that continent. Seven years after the worst bloodletting in Europe since World War II, Bosnia today is showing "unmistakable signs of sustainable recovery", according to Paddy Ashdown who is the international community's new high representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Lord Ashdown said Bosnia had "a stable currency, almost no inflation and a profitable commercial banking system". It would be unfair if international support was withdrawn simply because "Bosnia had been made a pawn in a diplomatic game." "Bosnia has made high progress in its push towards normal democracy, but much has still to be done. Effective measures, including issuing identity cards have been taken to ensure that Bosnia cannot, under any circumstances, be used as a base for international terrorism. Yet smuggling and people trafficking remain a main problem." Estimates of human trafficking from poorer parts of eastern and southern Europe vary between one and two million every year and according to one estimate, "equal to the entire population of Berlin". At the conference on child trafficking held in Rome last week, a charity organisation said 6,000 children, mainly adolescent girls from eastern and southern Europe, were being sold into the sex trade in western Europe and North America.

The European Union plans to send 500 special police officers to Bosnia next January to boost the existing U.N. peacekeeping mission. Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign and security policy co-ordinator and chief executive, said: "Should a compromise fail, the European Union cannot abandon the Balkans. It constitutes its number one priority." The Bosnian Federation is split along three ethnic communities — Christian Serbs, Catholic Croats and Muslims. Elections are scheduled to take place in October. The presence of an independent security force under the umbrella of the United Nations is crucial to ensure free and fair elections.

THE HINDU

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U.S. wrests a concession from U.N.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 13. The U.N. Security Council has agreed unanimously to give American peacekeepers a year's exemption from prosecution by a new international war crimes court.

The resolution of a three-week dispute averted a potentially threatening situation for U.N. peacekeeping missions. The Security Council, however, did not agree to the U.S. demand for blanket immunity for American peacekeepers neither did the Bush administration push it, knowing well that there were no takers even from its traditional and staunch allies such as Britain. Once the concession to the U.S. was made, Britain immediately pushed for a one-year extension of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia due to expire on Monday, which was approved by the Council.

The United States Ambassador to the U.N., John Negroponte, said the resolution "offers us a degree of protection for the coming year". But the 12-month grace period has come under fire in Congress with both Republicans and



The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte (left), and his Bulgarian counterpart, Stefan Tafrov, raise their hands to vote during the meeting of the Security Council in New York on Friday. — AP

Democrats criticising the administration for agreeing to the stipulation. "This one-year directive is a temporary immunity from the International Criminal Court for not only the U.S., but for any country that is not a party to the treaty," a spokesman for the American mission to the

U.N. said. The Bush administration has made it clear that it intends to pursue the issue of immunity after the grace period.

"Should the ICC eventually seek to detain any American, the United States would regard this as illegitimate, and it would

have serious consequences. No nation should underestimate our commitment to protect our citizens," Mr. Negroponte said.

Most Council members believed U.S. opposition was ideological and that Washington's worries its soldiers or civilians could come to the court were illusory. The court, for example, only steps in when countries are unable or unwilling to prosecute mass murderers or other systematic abuses.

Reuters reports from United Nations:

The resolution asks the tribunal to allow a 12-month grace period before investigating or prosecuting U.N. peacekeepers from countries that do not support the court "if a case arises" and "unless the Security Council decides otherwise." It expresses the Council's "intention" to renew the resolution in a year but does not commit it to do so.

The International Criminal Court was set up to try individuals for the world's most heinous atrocities: genocide, war crimes and systematic human rights abuses, a belated effort to fulfil the promise of the Nuremberg trials 56 years ago.

49-14

U.N., Iraq talks end in a stalemate

By George Chakko

VIENNA, JULY 6. The United Nations failed to persuade Iraq on Friday to allow the return of weapons inspectors to Baghdad after two days of negotiations, but the two sides agreed to continue talks. Iraq did agree, however, on exactly how to return Kuwait's national archives, which were looted after its 1990 invasion of its tiny, oil-rich neighbour.

The U.N. chief went into the talks hoping to get agreement from the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Naji Sabri, on the return of inspectors who have been barred from Iraq for 3 1/2 years. But the Iraqis had a much broader agenda, including the lifting of sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait and U.S. threats to topple Saddam Hussein — issues Mr. Annan could not address.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, expressed optimism in spite of the stalemate. "There has been some movement,

but obviously not enough," Mr. Annan said, adding that contacts would be maintained. "I will remain in contact with the Security Council with respect to Iraq's expressed wish for a comprehensive settlement. Talks are not broken." Mr. Sabri needs to consult with the leadership in Baghdad and get back to Mr. Annan for the next round, although as of now, no date has been set. "We have agreed to maintain contacts, including continuing discussions on a technical level," Mr. Annan said. He declined to answer a question about a possible U.S. attack on Iraq. He only said, "I am not sure whether the U.S. has taken a decision to attack or not. I am not here to stop an attack. I am here to get the inspectors in."

The U.N. chief alone doesn't have the ability to resolve the key issues Iraq wants addressed before allowing the inspectors' return. Mr. Sabri gave Mr. Annan a list of 19 questions at their first meeting in March — some technical and some political. The Chief U.N. weapons inspector, Hans Blix,

addressed the technical questions at the second meeting in May and Mr. Annan sent the political questions to the Security Council.

These questions focussed on lifting sanctions, U.S. threats against Iraq, "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq enforced by U.S. and British aircraft, and the creation of a nuclear weapons-free zone in West Asia.

The Security Council chose not to respond to these questions — which meant Mr. Annan went to Vienna with no answers for the Iraqis.

Mr. Sabri made it clear that Iraq would never agree to permit the inspections without "dual commitment" on the part of the United Nations.

"We do not accept that Iraq is deprived of its right to import one pistol while Israel has the biggest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in the region, threatening peace and security of the region and the world," Mr. Sabri said.

7 JUL 2002

THE HINDO

U.N. mission in Bosnia gets a brief reprieve

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 4. The Bush administration has backed away, at least for now, from its threat of shutting down the United Nations Mission in Bosnia.

On Wednesday, the United States agreed to a further 12-day reprieve for the police training mission in Bosnia. The mission's mandate has now been extended until July 15. "We do have to find some kind of resolution to this problem in due course. Otherwise, we are going to be confronting it in a number of different situations," the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, said. The U.S. may have changed its stance following a letter written by the Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. The unusually blunt letter apparently warned the Bush administration that its action placed the entire U.N. peacekeeping operations at risk. Mr. Annan is reported to have told Gen. Powell that no peacekeeper in U.N. history had committed crimes that would

fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC. "...the whole system of United Nations peacekeeping is being put at risk," Mr. Annan said.

The Security Council will again take up next week the extension of the U.N. mission in Bosnia and members will have to address Washington's concerns. The Republican administration's "threat" to shut down peacekeeping operations one by one still holds even if there are indications of its stand softening. For instance, Washington has said that its 46 strong personnel in the Bosnia police training mission and some 3,000 soldiers in the NATO force stationed in Bosnia will not be withdrawn.

Diplomatically, there is pressure on the Security Council to come to grips with the issue and in concrete terms. There are about 15 U.N. peacekeeping missions all over the world from East Timor to Cyprus to the Congo. In the immediate context, apart from Bosnia, U.N. mandates end this month in Lebanon, Georgia and in the Western Sahara.

5 JUL 2002

THE HINDU

UN mission in Bosnia gets 72-hr extension

United Nations: The UN security council managed to pass an unanimous resolution for a 72-hour extension for its peacekeeping mission in Bosnia hours after the United States had vetoed its full renewal.

The US had on Sunday vetoed a resolution that would have extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Bosnia, after other members rejected its demand that American peacekeepers be exempted from the jurisdiction of the international criminal court which came into being on Monday.

Had the extension not been granted, the 1,500-strong mission, which was established in 1995 to train a multi-ethnic police force, would have come to an end at midnight. The extension would now allow the mission to continue till midnight on July 3. Earlier, 13 of the 15 members of the council had voted in favour of the resolution for full renewal of the mission, with mover Bulgaria abstaining as there was no unity. But it did say that it supports the resolution. However, a single negative vote by the United States killed it.

Following the veto, Britain and France, who voted for the resolution, suggested extension of the mission till July 15 to allow a compromise to be worked out. But Americans, who had taken a tough attitude on the issue, rejected that too and said they would not agree to its extension for more than 72 hours. Earlier, the American veto came after high-level discussions in Washington involving secretary of state Colin Powell.

American diplomats said that they need the exemption as their citizens were a target and could face frivolous and politically motivated prosecutions, a view that other members rejected. US ambassador to the UN John Negroponte said their citizens were likely to be targeted and Washington had vetoed the resolution with "great reluctance."

The council has seen vetoes in the past but the American action on Sunday was unusual in the sense that it pitted itself against its traditional allies Britain and France, who supported the resolution, and made the future of several other such missions, uncertain.

The United States could have withdrawn its personnel from the mission but it decided to take a tough attitude seeking an express clause exempting its citizens. The United States has 46 police officers in the UN mission.

The resolution would also have extended the authorisation for the Nato-led force charged with providing security by one year. It is not yet clear what effect would the non-renewal of authorisation would have on it.

But the American veto would have no effect in the coming into existence of the court which 74 member-states support. The court which would prosecute individuals, not states, for crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity would not have jurisdiction on crimes committed prior to July one. Besides, it would try individuals only if the national courts are unable or unwilling to do so. PFI

THE TIMES OF INDIA

JUL 2007

Open up markets, rich nations urged

ROME, JUNE 11. Leaders of the developing world on Tuesday exhorted the United States and the European Union to remove farm subsidies and open their markets, saying that free trade was the only way to alleviate world hunger.

"We are poor. You are rich. Level the playing field!" said Teofisto Guingona, Foreign Minister of the Philippines.

The message continued on the second day of the U.N. World Food Summit, a four-day meeting at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation headquarters here that's designed to accelerate efforts to meet U.N. targets to cut hunger.

The U.S. on Monday justified its new farm subsidies and its use of biotechnology in agriculture, saying genetically modified foods were one of the key ways to fight hunger by increasing productivity.

Uganda's President, Yoweri Museveni, however, dismissed the idea that a lack of technology was to blame for world hunger, saying there's more than enough food to go around.

"Let us stop beating around the bush," he said. "The most fundamental problems are not the weather; are not lack of improved seeds. The main causes of food shortages in the world are really three: wars, protectionism in agricultural products in Europe, the U.S., China, India and Japan, and protectionism in value-added



A child searches for food in a pile of garbage in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on Monday. Nearly 70 per cent of the population of Haiti lives below the poverty level. — AFP

products on the part of the same countries".

Mr. Guingona demanded wealthier countries negotiate trade agreements with the poor ones in good faith, saying the World Trade Organisation framework shouldn't only benefit the rich.

"Do not impose subsidies for exports. Do not dump products that kill our farmers

and fisherfolks," he said. "Do not in the name of free trade deny us time to integrate our resources, and having integrated them deny us access to your rich markets."

The Colombian President, Andres Pastrana, issued a similar appeal, saying poor countries don't want charity, just a chance to compete.

Canada's Agriculture Minister, Lyle Vanclief, complained about major new U.S. farm subsidies signed into law by the President, George W. Bush, last month.

The President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, also complained about the new subsidies, which E.U. officials say violate WTO rules.

The U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Ann Veneman, defended the subsidies at a press conference, saying the criticism was misplaced and that the U.S. remained committed to lowering subsidies in the long run.

The summit opened with an appeal by the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, for leaders to make good on their promises in 1996, at the first food summit, to reduce the number of hungry people from 800 million to 400 million by 2015.

Telegraph reports:

The Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe, used the summit to flaunt his land acquisition, hailing it as his Government's "visionary" response to hunger and poverty.

THE HINDI

12 JUN 2002

Pak envoy to UN breathes N-fire

HT-10 31/5

S Rajagopalan
Washington May 30

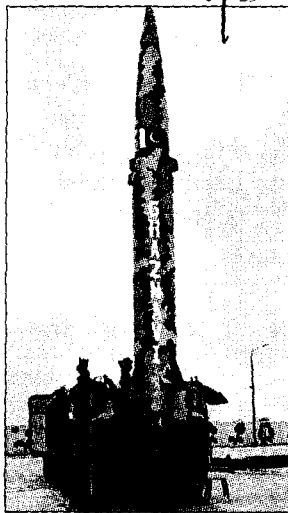
MUNIR AKRAM, Pakistan's new ambassador to the United Nations, has sought to spread all-round panic by asserting Islamabad's "right" to use nuclear weapons in order to counter an aggression by India.

Barely a day into his new job, Akram called a Press conference at the UN headquarters in New York to declaim: "If India reserved the right to use conventional weapons, how could Pakistan — a weaker power — be expected to rule out all means of deterrence."

Pakistan, he suggested, had to rely on all available means to deal with an Indian aggression. "We have that means and we will not neutralise it by any doctrine of no first-use (of nuclear weapons)," he said.

As he put it, India cannot have the "licence to kill with conventional weapons while Pakistan's hands are tied regarding other means to defend itself". For that very reason, he argued, Pakistan never subscribed to the doctrine of no-first use of nukes.

While India has been



A file photo of Pak missile Ghaznavi.

"arming itself to the teeth", Pakistan just cannot hope to match it, he said adding: "We do not wish to expend our limited resources on building up a conventional defence, which will completely debilitate our development."

On Day 1 itself (Tuesday), Akram had attracted considerable attention with a longish speech while presenting his credentials to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The UN, he held

forth, had "a legal, moral and historical responsibility to promote a just and peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute and, more immediately, to prevent the recourse to logic of war in South Asia."

In sharp contrast, his Indian counterpart Vijay Nambiar, who presented his credentials the same day, settled for the tradition of a short statement that did not seek to ruffle anyone's feathers.

At his Press conference, Akram said that instead of a no-first use of nuclear weapons, Pakistan offered India a non-aggression pact, something which New Delhi turned down.

The envoy's remarks made it abundantly clear that Pakistan plans to unleash a propaganda offensive against India on the Kashmir issue at the world body. Akram, who has been Pakistan's ambassador to the European Union and to the UN in Geneva, harked back to the issue of UN-sponsored plebiscite in Kashmir and said it was time the Security Council initiated action. He demanded a substantial augmentation of the UN monitoring group in the region.

UNITED NATIONS-II

579

1675

Third World Must Lead Efforts To Restore Legitimacy

By GURMEET KANWAL

In a number of recent conflicts, most of them in Africa, individual states or regional groups resorted to the use of force without specific Security Council authorisation. In 1998, the US attacked Afghanistan and Sudan with cruise missiles (some of which even fell on Pakistani territory) in retaliation for terrorist attacks on US embassies, allegedly by Osama bin Laden's Islamic fundamentalist terrorists. Expressing his concern, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, "The scourge of terrorism cannot be eliminated by unilateral action. I was, therefore, concerned by these actions. Terrorism can only be combated by joint international strategies and action. The UN should take a leading role in such efforts."

Indispensability

However, nothing has undermined the credibility and the future effectiveness of the UN as much as the bypassing of the Security Council before the commencement of the US-led NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia. Once again, Kofi Annan expressed his displeasure at "the emergence of the single super power and new regional powers" and "the preference of the willing" to resort to unauthorised force. He said, "Unless the Security Council is restored to its pre-eminent position as the sole source of legitimacy on the use of force, we are on a dangerous path to anarchy... Unless the Security Council can unite around the aim of confronting massive human rights violations and crimes against humanity on the scale of Kosovo, we will betray the very ideals that inspired the founding of the United Nations."

Echoing a similar view, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov called the Kosovo war "a disgrace to all of us who tried to build a New World Order based on political methods and a strong role for the United Nations Security Council... Instead, we see Nato itself as supreme arbiter, using military power alone... It is pure lawlessness and I strongly condemn it." K Subrahmanyam has written: "The UN has been rendered redundant since there is no balance of power left in the world and the entire industrial world, barring a ramshackle Russia, is under US overlordship. If this is not a dangerous international security environment, what is?"

According to Muchkund Dubey, "Nato is hardly the regional arrangement which can qualify... for the maintenance of international peace and security... It is not recognised as such by all the countries of the region; a major power like Russia is outside and strongly opposed to it. It is a relic of the Cold War and still seeks to perpetuate the Cold War division of Europe. Its basic military character and coercive approach to dealing with security situations, militates against the essentially comprehensive and co-operative approach to security practised by the United Nations. It frequently tends to act

outside the United Nations and at cross purposes with it. In fact, it has been the principal instrument used by Western powers to marginalise the United Nations and reduce it to a residual peacekeeping force."

It is not without significance that several former US secretaries of state wrote to Congressional leaders that as former secretaries they knew at "first hand the importance of the United Nations and its agencies in securing global peace, stability and prosperity." It emerges quite clearly that in the New

our existence." Not much has changed since he made this perceptive observation. The invincible forces of "might is right" thinking are apparently still at play in international relations. As President Woodrow Wilson has so passionately advocated early in this century, the world needs organised peace rather than organised rivalries and a community of power instead of a balance of power. The lack of a community of power broke the League of Nations. The same lack of community of power will inevitably also break its successor, the United Nations,



World Order, despite its present shaky state, the UN will remain indispensable. As has been often said, if it did not exist, there would be a need to invent it. However, it is a human institution, managed and manipulated by human beings and cannot, therefore, ever be perfect. Shashi Tharoor, executive assistant to the UN secretary general, sees an emerging role for the UN in providing a forum to move the world along towards universal human rights, managing trans-national terrorism, drugs trafficking, money laundering and international crime. Concerted effort, tolerance and respect for human dignity can decisively overcome the systemic shortcoming to ensure the peaceful coexistence of all the people of the world. The foremost requirement is for the "strong to respect the rights of the weak," as envisioned by President George Bush in 1990.

Might is right

In 1981, in his last annual report as the UN secretary general, Kurt Waldheim had remarked out of experience and observation: "For all our efforts and undoubted sincerity, the Organisation has not yet managed to cut through old political habits and attitudes to come to grips decisively with the new factors of

if some of the most powerful nations continue to practise their might is right politics, completely disregarding national sovereignties and the spirit of international consensus, as was witnessed in Nato's air strikes over Yugoslavia in 1999.

Soon after the Kosovo conflict, the chaos in East Timor presented yet another challenge to the international community. Once again the troubling question of whether armed intervention is a valid response to the violation of human rights had to be addressed. After Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Yugoslavia, "Indonesia is the seventh sovereign country in recent years to be told to allow foreign peace enforcement troops onto its soil." However, since the East Timor case was not entirely that of intervention in the internal affairs of a sovereign country (the UN has never accepted East Timor as an integral part of Indonesia), consensus in the UN Secretary Council was much easier to achieve and an Australian-led peacekeeping force could be despatched very rapidly to bring the problem under control.

The present conflicts afflicting the developing countries will continue to defy resolution unless these countries

decide to help themselves. Trends toward the emergence of regional security arrangements for the maintenance of peace are to be welcomed and should be encouraged. Regional solutions to problems of peace and security are bound to be more easily acceptable to the warring parties than solutions imposed by a distant world body. The Asean Regional Forum (ARF) is a good example of a regional security framework. In recent years it has gradually proceeded forward from limiting its activities to confidence building to becoming indirectly involved in conflict resolution. Though Asian security will inevitably remain linked with and will continue to be looked at in terms of the UN framework, this would be more plausible after the UN system goes through a process of reform and is sufficiently empowered to act as a viable and independent global security framework.

Reforms to follow

Some commentators are of the view that it will not be possible to reform the UN system in an optimal manner in the near future because of certain deeply ingrained prejudices. This view appears to be overly pessimistic as it is premised on the assumption that the Western powers, and China, will never give up the balance of power approach. It is now becoming clear that realisation is gradually dawning on the P-5 that the balance of power approach is no longer suitable for ensuring a secure and stable world order. Cold War mindsets will eventually fade away and UN reform will automatically follow.

In the first decade of the 21st century, the foremost challenge before the world is that of ensuring lasting international peace so that unlettered development can lead to the alleviation of poverty and all round prosperity in a framework of pluralistic democracy. "Expect nothing from the 21st century," wrote Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "It is the 21st century which expects everything from you." Will the world rise to the challenge? Or, will it succumb to Mathew Arnold's famous cry of hopelessness: "We are wandering between two worlds/One dead, the other unable to be born."

Clearly, mankind's instinct for survival will ensure that Armageddon remains a distant nightmare. The prognosis for the future is hope, rather than despair, and the triumph of mankind, rather than holocaust or disaster. As a world-wide rethinking of social, political, educational and economic orders takes place, the obsolete thinking of the nuclear age will gradually but inexorably give way to a new Non-violent World Order. It is to be hoped that a strong and undisputed UN will be at the centre of it, backed by the collective will of countries of the Third World.

(Concluded)

210-15
165

U.N. vote has a hidden sting

By Kesava Menon

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), MAY 15. Though it was expected the U.N. Security Council's vote yesterday converting the nature of the sanctions has been a set back for Iraq. Not only did the U.S. proposal for a "smart sanctions" get the unanimous approval of the Security Council but the new arrangement includes a sting that makes it little different from the arrangements in place so far while it has helped the U.S. earn some brownie points.

Yesterday all fifteen members of the Council voted for the smart sanctions regime. The smart sanctions regime was intended to change the emphasis of the "oil for food" programme under which Iraq is allowed to sell oil to pay for the import of

food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. As per current arrangements the money that Iraq earns from its oil exports are paid into a U.N.-controlled escrow fund.

A Security Council committee approves payments out of the fund for contracts that have been cleared by it. So far the supervisory committee was examining every contract to see whether any item sought to be imported by Iraq could be used for military as well as civilian purposes. Contracts for the import of items that could be put to such dual use were not approved. What has been put in place is a system whereby the Security Council has drawn up a list of items that will require prior approval while the rest will not.

Theoretically speaking this

change should help Iraq since it frees up a whole lot of item in respect of which they will not have to seek the approval of the supervisory committee. However the list includes items that are very broadly categorised-items like computer and telecommunication equipment are on the list for which prior approval is necessary. So in practical terms the change might not amount to much.

Besides the Security Council has retained a crucial component of the old arrangements. Any member of the Council can object to, and thereby hold up,

any contract entered into by Iraq irrespective of whether the items in question are on the proscribed list or not. This means that all Iraqi imports, and not just those on the proscribed list, continue to be under Security Council scrutiny. With the U.S. and U.K. being permanent members the restrictions on Iraqi imports can be just as severe as they were before the sanctions smartened up. The U.S. and U.K. between them currently hold up \$ 5 billion worth of Iraqi import contracts and they are to only countries that have so intervened.

THE HINDU

16 MAY 2002

UN approves revision of ^{HR 11} Iraqi sanctions ^{15/5}

United Nations, May 14

THE UN Security Council on Tuesday approved the biggest overhaul of sanctions against Iraq in years, aimed at expediting civilian goods to ordinary Iraqis from sewing machines to bicycles. The vote was unanimous, 15-0, with Syria, Iraq's neighbour, deciding at the last minute to support the resolution despite earlier objections that delayed the vote.

The council's resolution also renews until November 25 the oil-for-food plan that allows Baghdad to sell oil and purchase food, medicine and a host of other goods under UN supervision, an exception to the sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Responding to criticism the sanctions were harming the Iraqi people, the United States and Russia, which wants sanctions suspended, negotiated for months on a system aimed at sending civilian supplies to Iraq more quickly while maintaining a ban on military goods.

Central to the new plan is a 300-page "goods review list" of supplies that have military and civilian uses, from trucks to communications equipment, which have to be evaluated separately within 30 days. Most goods not on the list can go to Iraq after



SADDAM HUSSEIN

a 10-day review by UN officials.

Currently, virtually everything but food and medicine is scrutinized by the council's sanctions committee where the United States has blocked \$5 billion worth of goods Iraq has ordered.

Earlier, a vote in the Security Council on a draft resolution to reform the 12-year-old UN sanctions against Iraq was delayed until today at Syria's request.

But Britain's ambassador to the UN, Jeremy Greenstock, told reporters there was no question of amending the draft, which was co-sponsored by the five permanent members of the council. "The understanding in the room was very clear that it is this resolution, and they (the Syrians) will have to choose how they vote."

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 MAY 2002

UNITED NATIONS-I

Restructuring To Meet Future Challenges

By GURMEET KANWAL

If longevity and survival are criteria of success, the United Nations has succeeded admirably. On 26 June 1995, the UN celebrated its 50th anniversary. In contrast, the League of Nations had disintegrated after only 20 years. As set out in the preamble to the UN Charter, the organisation was established to fulfil a deep longing for peace, determination on the part of states to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and a firm commitment to create a world order in which fundamental human rights, and the dignity and worth of the human person are respected.

During the September 2000 Millennium Summit in New York, a visionary declaration charting the UN's future course was adopted by the world leaders: "We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the UN is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realise our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development...". The declaration also set out a number of measures in the area of peace and disarmament, including providing the UN with the necessary resources for conflict prevention, peacekeeping and related tasks.

Reasonably successful

The results achieved by a large number of UN organisations in many diverse fields have been undoubtedly praiseworthy. However, the principal purpose for setting up the United Nations was the maintenance of peace. On this front, the record of the UN has varied from spectacular success in some peacekeeping missions to blameworthy failure in many others. Overall, despite the pulls and pressures of the Cold War and the partisan interests of some of the P-5 countries, it must be said that UN peacekeeping efforts have been reasonably successful.

Writing on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UN, Soli J Sorabjee had taken a dim view of the peacekeeping achievements of the UN: "It is generally believed that UN peacekeeping has played a highly constructive role in maintaining international peace and security, as evidenced by the award in 1988 of the Nobel Peace Prize to UN peacekeeping forces. It is difficult to subscribe to this assessment, especially after its failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Rwanda". While Sorabjee's assessment of the lack of success in three important missions cannot be faulted, it is unfair to mention only a few recent failures and ignore many signal successes, including those in Iran-Iraq, Namibia, Cambodia, South Africa, El Salvador, Mozambique and Kuwait.

The UN-supervised elections in South

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Africa, were conducted successfully. The Angola Verification Mission managed to ensure that the MPLA-UNITA standoff did not result in a bloodbath even if it did not succeed in ending the civil war and resolving the conflict for over a decade. Other examples can be cited to support the view that success has been a regular feature of UN peacekeeping missions.

However, it is now becoming increasingly apparent that the UN system is being progressively undermined through

harnessing the collective voice of the developing countries in the General Assembly as a diplomatic leverage to ensure that the will of the majority can be used for the common good.

Unless there is basic re-thinking on the evolution of a polycentric world order, where the threat of war is discounted as a viable instrument of policy, the UN cannot be an effective peacekeeper. During the early 1990s, there were, on average, over 50,000 Blue Berets in the service of



the indirect actions of certain powerful Western nations. The US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation intervention in Kosovo in 1999 is a case in point. Nato's decision to launch air strikes against Yugoslavia had completely bypassed the UN Security Council and also violated a large number of international laws. This does not augur well for the future of the UN system. It is in preventing aberrations like this that the countries of the Third World have the greatest role to play.

Basic re-thinking

The Third World can do this by promoting the central role of the UN General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN where the majority view can and should override partisan considerations of the P-5 and attempts to bypass the UN system when it does not suit their interests. Since most of the conflicts that require UN intervention are in the Third World countries, these developing countries have a major stake in ensuring that the UN peace-keeping apparatus functions smoothly and impartially. The foremost requirement at present is to strengthen the UN to enable it to play its legitimate role in ensuring peace and security in the world. This can be done by

peace in various parts of the world. The annual cost of UN peacekeeping operations was approximately \$3,000 million. Some time ago, the then UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, had proposed the creation of a 5,000-strong permanent UN Security Force, with additional guaranteed standby contributions from the member states, to enable the UN to respond to emerging situations in a reasonable time-frame. However, the idea did not find ready acceptance among the major powers that would be expected to contribute significantly, both monetarily and materially, to the creation of such a force.

In the absence of a standing UN army, the Security Council decision-making apparatus needs to be urgently re-vamped. There is now an inescapable need to increase the number of permanent members of the UN Security Council. Germany, Japan and India are obvious candidates. The inclusion of Nigeria and Brazil also needs to be considered so as to ensure fair representation to the African and South American continents, respectively. As one of the most populous countries in the world, Indonesia can also stake a deserving claim to permanent membership of the Security Council. This would "further strengthen its capacity and effectiveness and

enhance its representative character". In 1997, the US had proposed that the strength of the Security Council should go up to 10 "with the inclusion of Germany and Japan and three developing countries — one each from Asia, Africa and Latin America".

Marginalisation

As a large number of developing countries are growing rapidly, it would be inappropriate to dispense permanent membership on such a basis. Also, such a proposal is bound to create a deadlock in the selection process, as the developing countries will not find it easy to agree on regional representation. Another cause for concern is the suggestion that the new permanent members will have no veto rights unlike the present P-5. Such discrimination is unjustified and is unlikely to be acceptable to any of the prospective candidates. Either the veto should be abolished completely or it should be the common prerogative of all the permanent members.

The UN Declaration, adopted by 185 countries during the 50th anniversary special commemorative session of the UN from 22 to 24 October 1995, had called for such restructuring of the UN to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The document also focused on development, peace and equality and clarified that the principle of self-determination is not to be construed as authorising or encouraging any action that would dismember or impair — totally or in part — the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent states, particularly those that conduct themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and provide a government that represents all without any distinction. The declaration called on the international community to act in concert to defeat common threats such as terrorism in all its forms, trans-national organised crime, illicit trade in arms and the production, consumption and trafficking of narcotics.

The most important task facing the developing countries is to work in a united manner towards restoring the legitimacy of the UN as the pre-eminent organisation in the world engaged in the promotion of peace and security for all its members. The UN can be a peacekeeper or a peacemaker only when the major world powers, including the P-5, agree on the desirability of putting a UN label on their common will, as was witnessed in the Coalition Forces joint action against Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf War. Since then, the increasing marginalisation of the UN Security Council in decision-making for the enforcement of peace, has become a cause for concern.

(To be concluded)

Nations pledge to improve children lives

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 11. More than 180 nations pledged to give the world's two billion youngsters a healthier and more peaceful life at the end of the first U.N. children's summit but U.S. demands on the contentious issues of sex education, contraception and abortion disappointed its close allies in Europe and Canada.

At the end of two years of negotiations and a marathon 30-hour final blitz, the compromise deal that was reached and adopted by consensus just before midnight on Friday didn't seem to satisfy anyone — even the Americans. The Canadian envoy, Gilbert Laurin, said it "falls significantly short" of reaffirming the right to high-quality family planning as well as counselling and information for adolescents. Spain's U.N. Ambassador, Inocencio Arias, representing the European Union, regretted that it didn't reflect past agreements that strongly supported sexual and reproductive health services.

The Child Rights Coalition, which represents more than 100 international non-profit organisations, called the deal "weak." Adrienne Germain, president of the International Women's Health Coalition, claimed "it was shoved down the throats of the rest of the world by the United States."

Carol Bellamy, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund, was most enthusiastic about the new blueprint to improve the lives of children over the next 15 years, calling it "a strong, action-oriented document."

It focuses on improving health, access to quality education, protection of children against abuse, violence and exploitation and fighting HIV/AIDS. It includes goals ranging from reducing malnutrition among children under five by at least one-third to increasing primary education to at least 90 per cent by 2010.

While the U.S. Ambassador, Sichan Siv, said the summit "will mean greater hope for children around the world," the envoy to the U.N. Economic and Social Council outlined a host of U.S. reservations to the final document. The United States does not in any way view the final document as promoting "abortion or abortion-related services" or abortion as a method of family planning, he said. It also believes in the need "to practice abstinence, fidelity, and monogamy" and to support marriage between men and women and strong parental rights.

The U.S. delegation had pushed the Bush administration's agenda against abortion



BROKEN CHILDHOOD: Anna (5) and her elder sister work at the family stone-smashing business on the outskirts of Lusaka. Anna has been doing this job from the age of one and has never been to school. — AFP

and in favour of sexual abstinence before marriage and of the traditional family — a stand backed by the Vatican and Islamic countries including Sudan, Syria and Iraq. On the other side of the debate were the European Union and many Latin American and Western countries who support the successive agreements on reproductive and sexual health issues at five U.N. conferences in the last eight years and the programmes they have generated — which they argue are crucial for young people.

Ms. Germain said the final document's affirmation of the agreements at those conferences was very important, because it means "the progress in providing lifesaving health information and services for young people will continue" despite the Bush administration's attempt to curtail them.

In a victory for the Bush administration, the document excludes the United States from a requirement barring the death penalty or life imprisonment for those under the age of 18.

Palestinian supporters also pushed for a reference to the plight of Palestinian children in the final document. But the issue was dropped when agreement was reached on the final document, called "A World Fit for Children."

Early in the final negotiations, delegates

settled a contentious issue between the United States and all other countries — how to refer to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was intended to be the global standard for children's issues. The convention has been ratified by 191 countries — all nations except Somalia and the United States.

The U.S. President, George W. Bush's administration opposed language saying the convention is "the standard" for children's rights, because the United States is not a party, and diplomats said the text was reluctantly watered down.

"This is unacceptable," the Nobel Peace laureate, Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala told The Associated Press.

"All social organisations, but especially those focussing on children's rights, have to repudiate this type of action." The former U.S. President, Bill Clinton's administration signed the convention but never submitted it for Senate ratification because a number of groups argued that it infringed on the rights of parents and was inconsistent with state and local laws.

The Bush administration has also taken no action. Somalia signed the convention this week and is expected to ratify it, which will leave the United States as the lone holdout. — AP

U.N. child summit to review past decade

UNITED NATIONS, MAY 3. More children are in school than ever before, polio has nearly been eradicated and there are 3 million fewer child deaths per year now than when the first World Summit for Children was held in 1990. Still, 10 million of the world's 2 billion children die each year from preventable causes, every 20th child is not in school and some 300,000 are fighting in wars.

On Wednesday, some 65 world leaders and delegates from more than 150 countries will sit down at the United Nations to review the successes and failures of the past decade and adopt a new plan for tackling tragedies such as AIDS orphans, child soldiers and trafficking in children. The conference had been scheduled for September 18, but was postponed after the terrorist attacks on the U.S.

This year, delegates will include more than 300 children — the first time that young people will attend a U.N. conference as full, participating delegates.

Since the first children's summit, the world has changed in ways few could have imagined.

In 1990, delegates envisioned a safer world for children after the Cold War. They did not foresee a decade of Balkan violence that would create child refugees in the heart of Europe, civil wars that would turn children into killers, sexual exploitation on the Internet or AIDS destroying millions of African families. Negotiators are working on a document to address these issues at the upcoming meeting, a General Assembly special session to follow up on the 1990 meeting. — AP

THE HINDU

UN team poised for Jenin probe

Jerusalem, April 27

2894
FOUR PEOPLE were killed when gunmen attacked an Israeli settlement in the West Bank on Saturday in the first such assault since Israel launched a four-week-old military sweep through Palestinian-ruled cities.

A UN mission to find out what happened during Israel's three-week military operation in the Jenin refugee camp waited in Geneva for a green light to depart for the region.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan agreed to hold the team back at the request of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to give the Israeli cabinet time to discuss the fact-finding mission at its Sunday morning meeting, a UN official said.

The Israeli army said four people had been killed and six wounded, one of them severely, in the attack by one or two gunmen on Adora, a few km west of the divided city of Hebron. The army had earlier put the death toll at five. The attack came a day after President Bush insisted Israel must end its military offensive "now," after another Israeli

raid defied his earlier demands.

HTF "
"The attack this morning against Israeli citizens in the West Bank proves that terror has not yet been eradicated," Israeli government spokesman Aryeh Mekeel said. There was no immediate Palestinian comment.

Hebron was the only big West Bank city not reoccupied in Israel's offensive, perhaps because the army feared a full-scale assault would endanger about 400 Jewish settlers living in heavily guarded enclaves among 120,000 Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unleashed the West Bank campaign on March 29 after suicide attacks killed scores of Israelis. Israel says many of the attackers came from the Jenin refugee camp, scene of the fiercest fighting in the offensive.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack on Adora and the assailants appeared to have escaped. Israeli media said two gunmen had entered a house in Adora and fired on a sleeping couple before moving to another house and opening fire.

Reuters

Annan turns down Israel, Jenin panel to reach soon

United Nations

24 APRIL

UN SECRETARY-general Kofi Annan has rejected Israeli demands for changes and delay to the panel on Jenin refugee camp saying he expects the team to arrive in West Asia by Saturday even as the Security Council called for "fast implementation" of resolution 1405 and warned Israel not to harm Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Diplomats on Tuesday said both the US and UN officials were surprised by the Israeli demand as they had thought that Israel would not object to the composition of the team after agreeing to admit a fact-finding team headed by former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari. Israeli ambassador Yehuda Lancry told Annan that Tel Aviv wanted more military and counter-terrorism experts added to the three-member team and an investigation of Palestinian terrorist activities in the refugee camp.

While agreeing to delay the departure, Annan's office said he expects the team to be in West Asia by Saturday. Israel, which had earlier agreed to the mission, said it would not allow the panel unless the team includes military as well as counter-terrorism experts. Annan said the team could be expanded if necessary but refused to substantially change its composition.

Diplomats say Israel wants to renegotiate terms of the mission and objects to Cornelio Sommaruga, former president of the International Committee of Red Cross, being on the team. Meanwhile, concerned over the detonation of explosives in a prison close to



IN AN IMPATIENT STATE OF MIND: Secretary General Kofi Annan of UN announces the appointment of former Finnish Prime Minister Martti Ahtisaari as chairman of the Jenin team. — AP

besieged Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, the Security Council, in an emergency meeting told Israel that "there must be no harm to him." — PTI

25 APR 2002

The Economic Times

Israel threatens to block Jenin camp investigation by U.N.

JERUSALEM: Israel threatened to block a U.N. mission to probe its devastating assault on the Jenin refugee camp, but opened the way for European envoys to visit besieged Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Wednesday.

Israel told the U.N. overnight it had changed its mind and would not admit the fact-finding team to Jenin unless it included military and counter-terrorism experts. Palestinians, who have alleged a massacre in the camp, responded angrily, saying Israel's objections to a mission it had agreed to on Friday showed it had something to hide.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians who tried to infiltrate the Jewish settlement of Netzarim on Tuesday night, the army said. Relatives named the three as Youssef Zaqout, Anwar Hamdouna and Ismail Abu Nadi, 14-year-old classmates from Gaza City. U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan said experts might be added to the team 'as necessary' and agreed to postpone its departure by a day or two. He said in a statement he still expected the mission to be in the region by Saturday. Palestinians have said hundreds of civilians may have been killed in the camp, including

many whose homes were shelled or bulldozed. Israel has said it killed only a few dozen gunmen.

Twenty-three Israeli soldiers died in the camp, scene of the fiercest fighting of the West Bank offensive Israel launched on March 29 after suicide bombings that killed scores of Israelis.

"We believe the mandate of the fact-finding team should also cover, not only military operation of Israel, but the terrorist network which has flourished in the Jenin refugee camp and which, in fact, generated the Israeli military operation," Israel's U.N. ambassador Yehuda Lancry said in New York.

As Israel raised objections concerning the U.N. effort to clarify events in Jenin, it gave the go-ahead for European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to visit Mr Arafat, after denying him access to the Palestinian leader earlier this month. Mr Solana was due to visit Mr Arafat's tank-ringed compound in Ramallah with the EU's West Asia envoy Miguel Moratinos and meet Israeli defence minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer later in the day. It was not clear if the EU envoys would also meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has declared Mr Arafat an enemy. (Agencies)

25 APR 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

UN is determined to send fact-finding team to Jenin

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council has said that it is determined to send a fact-finding mission to Jenin despite Israel's refusal to accept it even as it gave a days extension to secretary general Kofi Annan to persuade Israel on the issue.

"The members of the security council after this briefing remain firm in their insistence on full implementation of resolution 1405," council president Sergei Lavrov of Russia told reporters.

However, he indicated that a breakthrough in the standoff was possible. "The members of the council expect a positive report from the secretary-general on Monday."

Seeking another day, Mr Annan expressed the hope that the Israeli

cabinet would reverse its decision at its meeting on Monday and would agree to it.

However, diplomats said Mr Annan could also send the mission without approval of Israel but that would hamper the team's work as Tel Aviv and its officials would not cooperate.

UN under-secretary-general for political affairs K.P. Gast told an emergency meeting of the council on Sunday that Mr Annan's priority is to get the three-member team as early as possible.

The council, he said, is very supportive of Mr Annan but is feeling frustrated.

At a long meeting on Sunday, the Israeli cabinet voted to refuse cooperation with the mission. (PTI)

Israel should accept UN forces: Annan

IRWIN ARIEFF

UNITED NATIONS, APRIL 18

FEARING a fresh wave of violence in West Asia, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the Security Council on Thursday it was in Israel's interest to reverse course and accept a large armed international force in Palestinian areas.

Israel has long opposed such a force, which the Palestinians want. But Annan said the international community should pursue the option rather than wait for the parties to arrive at this conclusion on their own.

"A multinational force is essential to a gradual restoration of trust between the two sides, which is so vital if further steps towards a broad framework for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace are to be taken," he said.

Annan, who raised the issue last Friday in Geneva, presented his arguments to the 15-member Council for the first time on Thursday. European diplomats said few nations would volunteer unless the US offered troops and Washington so far has declined such a venture.

But Annan said a multinational force, organised by one country rather than the United Nations, would only succeed if Israelis and Palestinians committed themselves to a peace process.

Otherwise, the force's position would soon become untenable if it appeared to be freezing the political and territorial status quo.

"It could succeed only if Israelis saw it as part of a process leading to long-term security and if Palestinians saw it as part of a process leading to the end of occupation and the withdrawal of Israeli settlements," he said.

Annan has long considered himself as a buffer between Israelis and Palestinians and until recently was more conciliatory to the



A Palestinian girl searches for her family's belongings in the rubble of a damaged house in the destroyed Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank on Thursday. Israel said troops would leave the West Bank cities of Nablus, Jenin and parts of Ramallah by Sunday but would stay at Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound and Bethlehem's Nativity Church until a standoff with militants was resolved. *Reuters photo*

Israeli position than his predecessors.

But since Israel launched its siege of Palestinian cities in search of suicide bombers who have killed 120 Israelis in a month, he has grown increasingly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has not replied to his letters.

UN relief staff have been unable to gain full access to the refugee camps and its arm-

bulances and facilities have been the target of Israeli gunfire.

Although US Secretary of State Colin Powell left West Asia on Wednesday without achieving a ceasefire, Annan said his mission gave hope that the tattered peace process could be resumed.

But unless the international community assumed a direct and effective role on the

ground, "this progress is unlikely to be sustained" he said.

"On the contrary, my fear is that the dynamics of the situation are such that we may well see the resumption of the cycle of attacks and reprisals between Israelis and Palestinians, with an intensification of violence and a continuing disregard for international law," he said.

Annan also called on Israel to end a curfew and allow humanitarian workers full access to the devastated Jenin refugee camp, describing the situation there as "horrific".

UN officials visiting the camp on Thursday found "people digging out corpses from the rubble with bare hands," he said.

"Meanwhile no major emergency rescue operation has been allowed to begin. The destruction is massive and the impact on the civilian population is devastating," Annan said.

Arab nations were pressing for a Security Council vote later in the day expressing shock at reports of massacres at the Jenin camp and demanding a UN investigation.

But Washington, Israel's closest ally, opposes a fourth Council resolution in a month on West Asia, believing Council action would exacerbate tensions in the region. Some US officials said a veto was possible.

"We think the Council has done enough," US Ambassador John Negroponte said late on Wednesday.

The US usually opposes Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. But in the last month it has softened language on proposed resolutions and voted for them rather than use its veto power and risk further inflaming tensions in the Arab world.

The new Arab draft resolution also calls on Israel to withdraw from West Bank cities and immediately end its sieges of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

—Reuters

UN proposes action plan for ageing world

Madrid, April 15

WITH THE world's population of people 60 or older expected to triple to two billion by 2050, delegates from 160 nations have vowed to defend the health and rights of the old, with special focus on poor countries, where the increase will be fastest.

After four days of heated debate in Madrid, a United Nations Second World Assembly on Aging agreed unanimously on Friday to a 44-page plan of action that lists scores of objectives, including education and work for the elderly, pension guarantees, housing and health care, and the rights of older women.

"We have put aging on the agenda for the 21st century," said Paul Hoeffel, a United Nations spokesman.

An accompanying political declaration outlined shared principles on how to adjust to the expected boom in the elderly population over the next 50 years. By the middle of this century, the United Nations estimates, one in five people will be 60 or older, and more than two million people will be 100 or older. United Nations officials said that the demographic shift was likely to require a corresponding change in development aid, with some of the resources that had been focused in the 20th century on education and employment for the young moving into programs more tailored to

the needs of the elderly. "This conference was aimed at raising awareness of the issue of aging," said Nitin Desai, the United Nations under secretary for economic and social affairs, who headed the conference.

"Now pressure groups will have a much stronger voice to ensure governments stick to these commitments."

Developing nations and non-governmental organisations had pressed for the establishment of a special agency to carry out the plan.

But wealthier nations insisted that executing it was the responsibility of individual governments and existing United Nations agencies.

The meeting highlighted problems in developing nations, where better health care and nutrition will quadruple the number of the elderly by 2050, most of them living in rural poverty.

"In Europe, countries became rich before they became old," said Mohammad Nizamuddin, director of the United Nations Population Fund for Asia and the Pacific. "But in the developing world, countries are growing old before they are rich." The United Nations has set a goal of reducing by half the number of people living in poverty by 2015.

After delegates from several countries told stories of harrowing neglect and abuse of older people, the United Nations

recognised for the first time the need to eliminate violence toward the elderly, particularly women, who make up two-thirds of that population.

"There has been a strong focus on human rights and elder abuse," Desai said. "Before, we hardly even talked about it." With regard to people 80 or older, the world's fastest-growing age group, the plan called for special attention to their medical and nutritional needs.

It also advocated encouraging the elderly to work later in life to ensure that countries' economies and health systems do not collapse.

"Older people facing technological change without education or training can experience alienation," the plan said, calling on countries to "promote literacy, numeracy and technological skills training for older persons and the aging work force."

It also called for financial incentives, more flexible working hours for older workers and guaranteed pension rights.

"The world may find enormous benefits offered by aging," Desai said, noting that older people could bring a lifetime of experience and knowledge to areas like education.

If the demographic focus of the 20th century was on education and employment for the young, then the theme for the 21st century will be the elderly, Desai said.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

+10-15

Ageing a global ^{UN} challenge, says meet

MADRID, APRIL 8. The U.N. World Assembly on Ageing is hailing the "revolution in longevity" as a triumph of 20th-century advances in medicine, technology and human development.

But such a seismic shift in ageing also will make unprecedented demands on society — ranging from ensuring adequate pensions, housing and health care, to protecting the elderly from discrimination and abuse.

Delegates from 160 countries and international organisations are meeting on Monday to put the finishing touches on a plan to help Governments prepare for the economic and social im-

9/1

pact of a rapidly ageing population. "It is clear that we face a series of urgent and concrete problems," the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who is to deliver the opening address, said in an interview published on Sunday.

Rather than simply discussing the issues, Mr. Annan, who turns 64 on Monday, said he hoped delegates would leave with "new and innovative ideas" to deal with the challenges ahead, so that older people can enjoy dignified and rewarding lives. Globally, the population of people 60 and older is growing by 2 per cent each year.

— AP

W. ASIA / U.S. FOR ARAFAT ROLE

39/3 HD-14

U.N. asks Israel to withdraw troops

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 30. The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution today calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Ramallah and other Palestinian cities.

The resolution, which was approved by a vote of 14 to 0, with Syria not attending the meeting in protest and leaving its seat empty, came after a marathon emergency debate called by Arab nations after Israeli troops and tanks besieged the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah. For the second time in recent weeks, the United States voted for a resolution on West Asia, a change from its earlier stand of either abstaining or vetoing any Security Council resolution on the issue. "Chairman Arafat is the leader of the Palestinian people. His leadership is now, and will be, central to any meaningful effort to restore calm," the U.S. Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, James Cunningham said. He warned that Mr. Arafat should not be harmed in any way.

The resolution also asked both parties to move toward a meaningful ceasefire and to cooperate with the United States special envoy, Anthony Zinni, who is in the region to work a way out of the stalemate. In New York and in Washington,

senior officials and diplomats have watched with increasing concern the Israeli raids on Palestinian cities and the storming of Mr. Arafat's office in Ramallah. "Destroying the Palestinian Authority will not bring Israel closer to peace," the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said referring to the assault on the headquarters of Mr. Arafat.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said terrorists must not be allowed to thwart the peace process. "They don't want to see a solution to this problem. They are determined to destroy this process, and we must not let them," Mr. Powell told reporters on Friday. "Let's be clear about what brought it all to a halt — terrorism," he said. He added that Gen. Zinni would remain in the region to work out a ceasefire. The President, George W. Bush, monitored the developments in West Asia at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. The President is said to have discussed the situation with his National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Powell, the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld and the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, George Tenet. After its initial reluctance to get involved in the peace process, the Republican administration has welcomed a recent peace proposal from Saudi Arabia.

THE HINDU

31 MAR 2002

U. N. SUMMIT / U.S. PLEDGES MORE DEVELOPMENT AID

U.N. 0
19-14

Leaders vow to tackle poverty

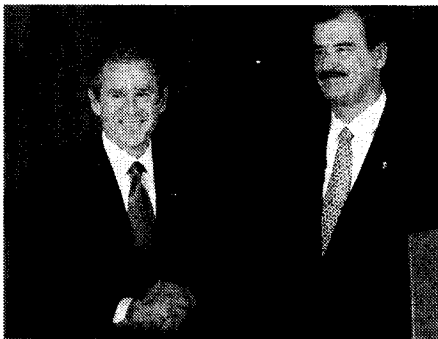
24/3

MONTERREY (MEXICO), MARCH 23. Buoyed by U.S. and European pledges of fresh cash for impoverished nations after years of declining foreign aid, world leaders wrapped up a U.N. summit with a boast that they had laid the groundwork for a renewed assault on extreme poverty.

Rich countries and poor have struck a new bargain to fight poverty, said the Mexican President, Vicente Fox, who hosted the International Conference on Financing for Development in the northern industrial city of Monterrey. "We can speak of a new commitment between countries in the vanguard and countries bringing up the rear," Mr. Fox told a news conference at the summit's end yesterday.

The summit was the brainchild of the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who wanted to line up the resources for a broad strategy against world poverty drafted by the United Nations' 189 members at their 2000 millennium summit in New York. The goals include reversing the AIDS epidemic, providing universal primary school education and halving by 2015 the number of people living on less than a dollar a day. Some 1.2 billion people now live in extreme poverty.

The next step in Mr. Annan's campaign is to lay out the specific programme required to achieve those goals, at yet another sum-



The U.S. President, George W. Bush (left), shakes hands with his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox, at the conclusion of their joint press conference in Monterrey, Mexico, on Friday. — AFP

mit opening in Johannesburg in August. World leaders said the significance of the Monterrey meeting was that it resulted in a consensus that wealthy nations had an obligation to provide more development aid and slash trade barriers while poor nations were obliged to make sure the money was well spent. That means fighting corruption, improving government efficiency, and assuring that aid leads to measurable results.

The United States and the European Union played crucial roles in the meeting's success by pledging to increase significantly their aid commitments, although by much less than many other nations had hoped. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, pledged an additional \$10 billion over a three-year period while the E.U. said its donations would rise gradually over the next several years, reaching an extra \$7 billion a year by 2006. The United States now gives about \$10 billion a year in development aid, and the European Union about \$25 billion.

Japan, whose \$13 billion a year in foreign aid makes it the world's largest donor nation, said its troubled economy prevented it from giving more at this time. While the overall increases were well below the doubling of foreign aid called for by Mr. Annan — which would have meant an extra \$50 billion a year — rich and poor nations alike conceded it was a good start.

"We have to be practical," said the Cambodian Commerce Minister, Cham Prasidh. "We cannot ask the rich countries to do more than what they can afford at this moment. We shall wait for better days. We do hope those better days will come soon enough."

The U.S. commitment was the biggest surprise at the weeklong conference. — Reuters

THE HINDU

MAR 24 2002

U.N. meet to discuss development funding

MONTERREY (MEXICO), MARCH 18. Organisers of a U.N. conference on Monday on financing for development were breathing easier about the potential for violent protests after a demonstration against possible local restrictions on miniskirts fizzled out.

The authorities, warned about the hooded anarchist mobs that have plagued other recent international gatherings, had prepared for a crowd of as many as 20,000. Only several dozen women, however, dressed in miniskirts and calling for "democracy in the street and in bed," marched for equality in this Mexican industrial hub.

The vague threat of limits on skimpy clothing, in the form of proposed regulations that surfaced several years ago but were never put into effect, was apparently not serious enough to overcome a hot midday sun, U.N. officials said.

To further dampen the potential for angry mobs, organisers sponsored a five-day forum on development for activists,

encouraging them to explore the issues ahead of time.

Only about 500 people showed up for the forum although more than 30,000 had been expected.

The conference, expected to draw more than 50 world leaders, some 300 Cabinet members and thousands of government officials, business leaders and activists, aims to come up with innovative strategies for the world's poorest countries to finance their development needs.

The cause has taken on added urgency following the Sept. 11 suicide airliner attacks on the United States, which sent the world economy reeling as developing nations were already complaining of being left behind in the rush toward a global economy.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, proposed the meeting as a way of pressuring businesses, banks and investment firms as well as rich nations to do more to help poor countries share in the benefits of globalisation. — Reuters

THE HINDO

19 MAR 2002

TOWARDS A PALESTINE STATE?

18/3
HD-10
U.N.O

THE UNITED NATIONS Security Council has at long last made a ringing endorsement of the "vision" of a sovereign state that the hapless Palestinian people can call their own at some future date. Now, the United States piloted the Security Council's Resolution 1397, which underlines the U.N.'s "affirmation" of this "vision". As a result, a welcome ideological shift seems to have occurred in the international political arena towards the recognition of a fair settlement of the prolonged Israel-Palestinian conflict. Not surprisingly, therefore, Resolution 1397 speaks of a future scenario of two states — the existing Israel and a possible Palestine — within "secure and recognised borders". The immediate context of the Security Council's proactive role is of two dimensions — the ballistic pace of the spiralling violence involving the Palestinians and the Israelis at one level and second, the U.S.-led globalised "campaign" against the politics of terror. The context itself explains the Council's definitive call for an immediate cessation of such violence. Given the growing unease among the Islamic nations over certain perceived aspects of America's anti-terror "campaign", it is easy to understand the urgency implicit in the U.N.'s advocacy of a Muslim-friendly gesture such as the creation of a viable Palestine state. Suitably emphasised is the point that Israel and a future Palestine state will not be incompatible entities. The U.N.'s broad formula for their peaceful coexistence is to be seen in this light. The borders of the two states are proposed to be drawn in such a manner as to be "secure", the determination of which will depend on political and military logistics. An equally important prescription for peace is that the two states be recognised by each other and by the global community.

On paper, the new U.N. plan is much more than a mere diplomatic palliative for the current

crisis of violence that occurs on both sides of the Palestinian-Jewish schism. Manifest at one level is the fury of the Palestinians over what they perceive to be America's heightened patronage of the Israelis as a direct consequence of its worldwide "war on terror". Intersecting the Palestinian wrath at another level is Israel's militarist overdrive in the name of weeding out the sources of terror in West Asia. The U.N.'s definitive goal is a sustainable political solution that can be found only over time. This is certainly sensible, given the constraints under which the world body functions. A dominant strand of thought within the U.N. system at this stage seems to be one of expecting the U.S. to sort out the basic Israeli-Palestinian dispute and to do so by creating the framework for the negotiations too.

Significant indeed is the fact that Resolution 1397 pointedly mentions the Tenet work plan for a possible truce and the Mitchell report regarding a negotiated settlement. Both these documents are American contributions, and the U.S. President, George W. Bush, has spoken of how Washington "engineered" the finer aspects of this U.N. resolution. With Mr. Bush calling upon Israel, a long-time protege of the U.S., to rein in its disproportionately aggressive militarism, it is becoming clear that Washington does not want to lose its leverage in respect of some key sections of the Arab-Muslim bloc. Washington cannot afford to alienate itself from this entire bloc even as Mr. Bush weighs whether his "war against terror" should be extended to Iraq and Iran besides also the other alleged "rogue" elements who might be developing or scouting for weapons of mass destruction. Israel itself is increasingly becoming vulnerable in this situation. Whatever be Mr. Bush's calculations in seeking to reassure the Arabs, the question of a future Palestinian state is a just cause to espouse.

THE HINDU

14 MAR 2002

18 MAR 2002

UN Council resolution on Palestinian state

Agencies

UNHQ, March 13. — In a historic vote, the UN Security Council has for the first time adopted a resolution specifically mentioning a Palestinian state.

The resolution, sponsored by USA last night, was passed 14 votes to none, with Syria, sole Arab state with a seat on council, abstaining. The resolution demanded "immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction," and called upon Israel and Palestinians to take steps towards resuming peace talks.

Syria's ambassador to the UN, Mr Michael Wehbe, described the text as "a weak resolution" and said it did not deal with the question of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

But the Palestinian observer to the UN, Mr Nasser al-Kidwa, said the resolution was important and that it "will help the situation on the ground." The resolution was adopted minutes before midnight in New York at the end of one of the bloodiest days since the start almost 18 months ago of the Palestinian intifada, the uprising against Israeli occupation.

The council resolution began by "affirming a vision of a region where two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognised borders." It also welcomed "the contribution of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah," who has proposed that Arab states offer "complete peace" in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

Vote hailed: The Security Council's adoption of the resolution marks an "advance", said Mr Ahmed Abdel Rahman, secretary-general of the Palestinian government, a report adds from Doha.

Editorial: This ain't working,
page 4

Annan call: Mr Kofi Annan has called on Israel to end "illegal occupation" of Palestinian territory and stop attacks on civilians. This was the first time the UN Secretary-General had used the word "illegal" referring to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land seized in the 1967 West Asia war and urged its leaders to withdraw.

Force 17 official killed: The deputy commander of Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat's Force 17 bodyguard in Ramallah, Abu Fadih, was killed today during a gun fight with Israeli troops in the centre of the West Bank city, a security source said, a report adds from Ramallah.

Photographer dies: An Italian news photographer, Raffaele Ciriello, died today after being seriously wounded by Israeli army gunfire in Ramallah in the West Bank, hospital sources said. He was hit in the chest and stomach by six bullets fired from a tank, hospital sources said.

Earlier, three Palestinians were killed by Israeli tank fire in Ramallah, two of them in the central Al-Manara district, Palestinian security sources said.

Mr Arafat's top adviser accused Israel today of asking the USA to delay the return of US envoy Mr Anthony Zinni until it completes its incursion into the Palestinian refugee camps. "Israel asked Zinni to delay his visit until after they finish attacking the refugee camps," Mr Nabil Abu Rudeina told journalists at an ad hoc gathering outside Mr Arafat's House in Ramallah.

Meanwhile Israeli tanks rolled more than two kilometres into Palestinian-controlled territory in the Jabaliya area of the northern Gaza Strip today, Palestinian security sources said.



Italian freelance photographer Raffaele Ciriello, 42, with Mr Yasser Arafat in the latter's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday. Ciriello was shot and killed by an Israeli tank early on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

Musharraf asks for world USA knew of ultras'

Ershad says he has second...

REFERENDUM / END TO ISOLATION

Swiss vote to join U.N.

U.N.

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HD-14
5/3

GENEVA, MARCH 4. Swiss voters have approved joining the rest of the world as members of the United Nations after sitting on the global sidelines for more than five decades.

The voters gave the referendum for U.N. membership a comfortable 55-45 per cent approval, but the crucial second hurdle — approval by at least half the number of the country's cantons (States) — received a much narrower 12-11 result. Major issues need the double approval of a nationwide majority and that of at least 12 of the country's 23 cantons.

The small cantons — most of them German-speaking — voted heavily against joining the United Nations. But the French-speaking cantons of the west and key German-speaking cantons of the centre prevailed with their "yes" vote. It was a sharp reversal of a similar vote in 1986, when 75 per cent rejected U.N. membership, backing opponents who said it would let East-West polarisation during the Cold War compromise Swiss neutrality. The Government pushed the new initiative, believing that the political climate had changed since the height of the Cold War, and that it was "high time" for the 7 million Swiss to play a full role in the world. The country, which will be the 190th member, had long



The new Russian Director-General of the U.N. in Geneva (UNOG), Serguei Ordjonikidze (left), the Swiss Ambassador to the UNOG, Francois Nordmann, and the former Swiss President, Adolf Ogi, shake hands after the Swiss vote to become member of the United Nations in Geneva on Sunday. — AP

refused a place in the world body, fearing the loss of its centuries-old neutrality. More recently, opponents of the move have said Swiss membership would mean having to submit to the political dictates of the Security Council.

The Swiss have practised forms of neutrality on an off since the 13th century, but the principle has been laid down formally since 1815, when the European powers that signed the Treaty of Paris guaranteed

the "perpetual neutrality" of the country. The Swiss themselves made it part of their 1848 constitution, and treating both sides in a war even-handedly has remained a guiding principle since, although recent historical reviews have said Switzerland went too far in helping the Germans in World War II. The billionaire industrialist, Christoph Blocher, a nationalist politician who led the opposition this time, said he "deeply regretted" the out-

come. "It will lead to the weakening of Switzerland," Mr. Blocher said. "Freedom and the rights of the people will be limited, and neutrality will at the very least be deeply damaged."

The Foreign Minister, Joseph Deiss, assured voters, "Switzerland remains neutral." "Everyone stands to gain from this," a Government statement said. "Switzerland will now be better able to safeguard its interests and assume its responsibilities in the world." The Government — and Swiss industry, banks and interest groups — feared a no vote would make Switzerland an international outcast with a reputation for being selfish and uncaring. "Today is a great day for Switzerland," said Mr. Deiss. But the President, Kaspar Villiger, said he was concerned the cantonal vote was so close and said it indicated a "malaise" that had to be studied and taken seriously.

Switzerland has no move to join any military alliance, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. But the Government does have a longer-term goal of joining the European Union, which is expected to encounter even tougher resistance. But Mr. Deiss said the U.N. vote had "nothing to do with entry into the E.U." and that Europe policy would be taken up later. — AP

THE END

Arabs not to move motion at U.N.

HD-66

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

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UNITED NATIONS, FEB. 28. At least for the time being Arab nations are not pursuing a Resolution on the ongoing crisis in West Asia. It is believed that the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, has told his delegation not to pursue a Security Council Resolution on the subject. And for all practical purposes much would hinge on how the Palestinians wish to go about.

One reason for the stance of the Arab delegates vis-a-vis a Council Resolution may have to do with the upcoming meeting of the Arab League in Beirut; and the subject could be taken up afresh once after the meeting is over. Another is the recently-floated proposal by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah, calling for Israel's return to pre-1967 borders in return for full Arab diplomatic recognition. The Saudi proposal, which has seen positive statements from Mr. Arafat and some enthusiasm from the U.S. President, George W. Bush, does not seem to have the backing of all Arab nations. And the impression here is that the full backing from the Arab League countries may be difficult given the range of opinions that exist on the West Asia peace.

For instance, Syria has taken the position here that what is called for at this juncture is political will on the part of Israel, not more initiatives. At the United Nations, Arab countries appeared to give the impression that they did not wish to pre-empt what was going to take place at the Arab League meeting. There is no question of the fact that the Arab nations are trying to get a Security Council Resolution on West Asia in a manner that will not attract a veto by the U.S. The Bush administration has not threatened a veto, but it is obvious that any harsh condemnation of Israel will not be approved by the U.S. In fact, the top American diplomat at the world body has argued that the Security Council cannot solve the issues between the Israelis and Palestinians. And the British have made it known that if the Council has to act effectively, it must "speak unanimously".

Meanwhile, in an interview to *The New York Times*, Mr. Arafat, in praising the Saudi peace proposal as a "very strong platform" for a comprehensive West Asia peace, has called for a "very quick push from outside". He maintained that the Saudi plan needed the endorsement of Europe, Russia and the U.S.

PTI reports:

Saudi Arabia surprised world community by launching a blistering attack on Israel charging it with "systematic terrorism" despite Riyadh's peace plan for West Asia, unveiled recently.

Addressing the U.N. Security Council here last night, the Saudi Ambassador, Fawzi bin Abdul Majeed Shobokshi, accused Israel of the "worst forms" of pressure, persecution, racism and occupation. He said Israel was indulging in "systematic terrorism," and was defying the most fundamental human rights as also international opinion.

The speech drew sharp reaction from Israelis, who said it was confrontational and said it did not contribute to the cooling of passions. He justified Palestinian actions since September 2000, when the latest round of violence broke out, saying it was resistance to occupation and a counter to Israeli "violence."



The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Maher (right) and the European Union envoy, Javier Solana, joke together as they simulate a hug during a meeting in Cairo on Thursday. Mr. Solana arrived in Egypt for talks to maintain momentum for a Saudi plan to restart West Asia peace talks. — Reuters

THE HINDU

1 MAR 2002

U.N. HD- Annan warns against attack on Iraq

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, FEB. 26. The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, who met the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair here on Monday, has warned against any military attack on Iraq saying such an action would be "unwise" when efforts are being made to facilitate a return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Baghdad.

"I don't think Washington has taken any decision on what to do about Iraq. But I am on record as saying any attack on Iraq at this stage would be unwise," he said after talks with Mr. Blair amid growing speculation over U.S. plans to extend the war on terrorism to Iraq, described by the U.S. President, George W. Bush as part of an "axis of evil". Mr. Annan said he would meet Iraq's Foreign Minister, Naji Sabri, in New York early next month for talks on the return of weapons inspectors.

His remarks came as critics stepped up pressure on Mr. Blair not to be drawn into American plans, and there was a sharp reaction from Britain's European allies to reports that he was inclined to back Washington if and when it decided to attack Iraq. They cautioned Britain against stepping out of line with the common European perception that any military action against Iraq would be unjustified in the absence of any evidence of its links with the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"Only when Europe has a common foreign and security policy, as we have a single market and single currency, will we be taken seriously," the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer said. He has consistently opposed attempts to broaden the "war" against terrorism in Afghanistan to attack other States whom America regards as "evil". Until now, that has also been the British line but increasingly Mr. Blair is said to be veering around to the American plans for a "second phase" to deal with Iraq and other States seen as a "threat" to peace.

Britain's pro-U.S. tilt on the issue was attacked on Monday by the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats Party with its foreign policy spokesman, Gert Weisskirchen, describing it as "very regrettable". The British media highlighted his remarks in which he warned Britain that any unilateral action against Iraq would "destroy" the international coalition against terrorism. He said it would be wrong for Britain to go ahead without consulting its European allies. He recalled that at a mini-summit of European leaders at Downing Street last November, it was decided that instead of pushing for military action against Iraq, maximum pressure should be put on it to co-operate with U.N. weapons inspectors. Britain should not depart from that agreement, he said.

THE HINDU

27 FEB 2002

U.N., Iraq to discuss return of inspectors

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNITED NATIONS, FEB. 26. The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, will be meeting the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Naji Sabri, in New York on March 7 to discuss an agenda that will include the return of weapons inspectors to Iraq, it was announced here on Tuesday.

"The Secretary General expects to have a focussed discussion on the implementation of relevant Security Council Resolutions, including the return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq", a spokesman for Mr. Annan said here. The meeting between Mr. Annan and Mr. Sabri will be a one-day affair. But Baghdad has apparently made it known that it is interested in continuing the discus-

sions in April. The last time Mr. Annan had discussions with Iraq was in February 2001. With the Security Council, the major decision-making body on Iraq, Mr. Annan did not follow up on his meetings because no common position or policy evolved in the Council. The U.N. weapons inspectors left Iraq in 1998 and Baghdad has not allowed them back.

The Security Council is deeply divided on how to implement the Iraqi sanctions with many permanent members, notably Russia and China, unhappy with the hardline positions of the U.S. and Britain. But quietly, the message is getting around to Iraq that it should abide by the Security Council Resolutions. The U.S. adamant that the weapons inspectors should get back into

Iraq; and Baghdad has been equally adamant that it will not allow the inspectors on Western terms. Among other things, Iraq has been saying that there is nothing to be checked and that seven years of inspection had revealed nothing substantive.

In fact, the Bush administration has been saying that the previous inspection regimes have been slack and what was needed now was a "more intrusive" inspection. "If you try to use the old regime it wouldn't work. You would have to have a much more intrusive regime and many more inspectors and the Iraqis not controlling when they could come in, where they could go, what they could do", the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, said making the point that in

the last three years, Baghdad has been working on weapons of mass destruction programmes.

The Annan-Sabri meeting will take place at a time when the Bush administration has stepped up its rhetoric against the Saddam Hussein regime with reports suggesting that the U.S. is planning a military strike against Iraq. The President, George W. Bush, in his State of the Union Address last month, said that Iraq, Iran and North Korea constituted the "axis of evil" and warned that the U.S. will not remain idle as countries developed weapons of mass destruction. The unilateralism of American policy has attracted criticism from allies in Europe and West Asia which have cautioned Washington against acting in haste.

THE HINDU

27 FEB 2002

Taliban may be down, but not out: UN panel

By Arun Mohanty
MOSCOW: The United Nations (UN) has warned that the Taliban has sufficient manpower and military strength to launch an armed rebellion in the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

A report by the UN Observers' Committee on Afghanistan said the Taliban still had a sufficient number of fighters and could launch an attack with land-to-land missiles and weapons of mass destruction. It also cautioned that the remnants of the Taliban and

the Al Qaida had the potential to threaten the ongoing peace process in Afghanistan.

The report, prepared by five experts appointed by UN secretary general Kofi Annan, said the Taliban movement still enjoyed sufficient support among the local population in the country. India, Russia and some other countries had expressed apprehension over the sudden, mysterious disappearance of thousands of Taliban

soldiers in the wake of the regime's collapse in Kabul. While some believed that they might have fled to the inhospitable, barren mountains of Afghanistan, according to others, the Taliban cadre might have merged into the local population and might be waiting for the right opportunity to hit back.

The report warned that the uncontrolled flow of arms and ammunition to the warring ethnic factions in the country



Kofi Annan

presented the gravest danger to the interim administration of Hamid Karzai. Drawing attention to a large number of weapons left by the Soviet army when it pulled back from Afghanistan in 1989, the report pointed out that the arms were now in the hands of the various warring factions. Besides, it observed, when the Taliban forces retreated from Kabul, they had in their possession around 100 Grad missiles, which could be equipped with chemical or nuclear warheads, apart from four mobile missile complex of the Grad class.

Although the Taliban is widely believed to have a huge chemical weapons arsenal under its control, the UN committee has not been able to determine its location. None of the narco-laboratories run under the Taliban control has been found and the Taliban and Al Qaida may use the funds generated from these to finance their arms purchases.

The UN observers also expressed concern over the fact that other terrorist outfits such as the Islam Movement of Uzbekistan and Chechen militants were still operating from Afghan territory. Another worrying factor is that many terrorist training camps in Afghanistan have not been shut down, and opposition forces could use them to sabotage peace. "These camps could wreak havoc in the entire region surrounding Afghanistan," the UN warned, recommending the sending of monitoring groups to the country to ensure that the camps are shut down. (IANS)

17 killed in fire at video parlour

BEIJING: At least 17 people, mostly youngsters, were killed in a big fire in an illegal video parlour in Tangshan city in north China's Hebei province, an official report said on Monday.

Seven of them were found dead on the spot, and 10 others died in a local hospital, a local news agency said.

The video game parlour was illegally run by a local retiree, Ling Fu, who blocked the door and windows, leaving only a secret gateway for an entrance, it said. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

20 FEB 2002

UN gives up on Khmer Rouge trials

United Nations, February 9

THE UNITED Nations abandoned 4 1/2 years of negotiations with Cambodia to establish a court to try Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide on Friday because there was no guarantee the tribunal would be independent and impartial.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan decided to end talks on UN participation in the court after the Cambodian Government made clear that its law setting up the tribunal would take precedence over any agreement with the United Nations on the conduct of the trials.

The UN decision leaves the Cambodian Government free to move ahead on its own, or perhaps with the support of "interested States", to bring the sur-

viving Khmer Rouge chiefs to trial, UN legal counsel Hans Corell told a news conference.

Cambodia's UN Ambassador Ouch Borith said late Friday that negotiations failed because the United Nations tried "to dictate the terms of cooperation".

"My Government is determined to go ahead with or without the UN assistance," he said in a statement. "It is our responsibility to bring those top leaders of the Khmer Rouge to justice."

The UN announcement surprised many countries, including the US and France, which expressed hope that the door had not been shut to a continuing dialogue between the United Nations and Cambodia.

Annan dispatched a letter saying that after reviewing the lengthy negotiations, "the Unit-

ed Nations has concluded that as currently envisaged, the Cambodian court would not guarantee independence, impartiality and objectivity, which is required by the UN for it to cooperate with such a court," UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

Corell said the United Nations "is especially concerned at the lack of urgency" shown by the Cambodian government in the past 18 months, and fears "this lack of urgency could continue," which will delay justice for the aging Khmer Rouge leaders.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said "the tribunal is important to help resolve many of the issues that remain in Cambodia".

"We would hope that they would continue discussions. We think there are grounds for con-

tinuing their discussions," he said. A diplomat at France's UN Mission echoed Boucher, expressing hope that the past constructive dialogue "will remain open".

Asked whether the United Nations might consider resuming negotiations, Corell said the secretary-general had made a decision and "I'm not getting into any hypothetical situations".

Annan was asked by Cambodia's co-prime ministers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, in June 1997 for assistance in bringing to justice those responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity during the communist Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 rule, when 1.7 million people died because of disease, overwork, starvation and execution.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1997 FEB 10

ANNAN OFFERS UN HELP TO RESTART INDO-PAK TALKS

Danger of nuclear war, warns CIA

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. — UN secretary general Mr Kofi Annan has offered the world body's help to bring India and Pakistan together for talks even as the CIA warned the chance of war between the two nations was "higher than at any point since 1971" and a conventional war, once begun, could escalate into a nuclear confrontation.

Briefing the Security Council yesterday on his trip to Pakistan and some other Asian countries, Mr Annan said New Delhi and

Islamabad must start talking to resolve their differences, including the issue of Kashmir.

There was a "need not only for immediate military de-escalation, but also for sustained dialogue to resolve this situation so there will not be another crisis for some time". The secretary general said he had offered his services to both the countries to get talks started.

In Washington, CIA director general Mr George Tenet told Senate Intelligence Committee "the chance of war between these two nuclear-armed states is higher than at any point since

1971." Testifying before the committee, he said. "Both India and Pakistan are publicly downplaying the risks of nuclear conflict in the current crisis. We are deeply concerned, however, that a conventional war — once begun — could escalate into a nuclear confrontation. We have continuing concerns both sides may not be done with nuclear testing."

The director general said although the 11 September attacks highlighted the challenges India-Pakistan relations pose for US policy, the attack on the Indian Parliament was even more desta-

bilising resulting as it did in new calls for military action against Pakistan, and subsequent mobilisation on both sides. "If India were to conduct large-scale offensive operations into PoK, Pakistan might retaliate in the belief that its nuclear deterrent would limit the scope of an Indian counterattack," he said.

The Musharraf government's abandonment of a decade of support for the Taliban represent a fundamental political shift with inherent risks because of the militant Islamic and anti-US sentiments existing in Pakistan, he said.

THE STATESMAN

6 FEB 2002

Iraq ready for unconditional talks with UN

New York, February 5

IRAQ IS ready to hold talks "without preconditions" with the Secretary General of the United Nations, it was announced last night, in a sign that Saddam Hussein is beginning to buckle under increased military pressure from Washington.

Kofi Annan received the offer of unspecified "dialogue" during a meeting in New York yesterday with Amr Moussa, the secretary general of the Arab League, the UN said.

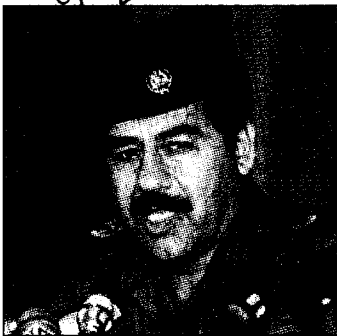
It was not clear what would be discussed, or whether the announcement heralded the return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq after an absence of three years. But Annan would find a date in his diary to "discuss implementation of relevant security council resolutions" with a delegation from Baghdad, according to a UN statement.

Talks between Annan and representatives of Saddam's regime broke down last February when Iraq demanded the lifting of sanctions against the country, imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, as a precondition for continued dialogue.

The UN Security Council has refused to lift the sanctions until Iraq can demonstrate that it is no longer seeking to build its chemical, nuclear or biological weapons capability. But a CIA report released last week said it had probably spent the past three years doing just that.

The move follows President Bush's State of the Union address last Tuesday, in which he singled out Iraq as part of an "axis of evil", along with North Korea and Iran, which are developing weapons of mass destruction.

The momentum for US action against Saddam has increased in recent weeks with even the more cautious State Department officials said to be questioning how and when Washington would take action but not if it should occur. Iraq's announcement is part



Saddam Hussein

of a concerted effort by Baghdad to improve its world standing and erode international support for military action against it.

Iraqi Government officials have met with Russian, Chinese, Arab and EU diplomats in recent weeks, and Saddam has also offered concessions to Kuwait on the fate of prisoners seized during the Gulf War.

Last week the Iraqi dictator said he would allow a UN human rights inspector to visit Iraq for the first time in 10 years. Europe's sceptical response to Bush's speech, spearheaded yesterday by the German Government, suggests the effort may be paying off. Representatives of Saddam's Government also met with Swiss officials, agreeing to reopen Baghdad's embassy in Switzerland after a closure of 11 years.

The regime also continues to pursue closer relations with Iran, the neighbour with which it fought a bloody eight-year war in the 1980s. Direct flights will soon resume between the two countries for the first time in two decades, and recent months have seen more releases of prisoners captured during the war.

Moussa received the go-ahead to make the talks offer in Baghdad last month, the UN statement said. He returned "with a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein saying the Iraqis were prepared to resume dialogue with UN without any preconditions".

The Guardian

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 FEB 2002

Karzai wants U.N. troops beyond Kabul

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNITED NATIONS, JAN. 31. The Afghan leader, Hamid Karzai today called on the United Nations Security Council to expand the peace-keeping force beyond Kabul to other Afghan cities.

"We hope you would authorise an extension and expansion of the mandate of this force," Mr. Karzai told the 15-member Security Council. It is the first time that the Afghan leader has explicitly called for a change in the mandate of the multi-national force. "The extension of presence of multinational forces in Kabul and expanding their presence to other major cities will signal the ongoing commitment of the international community to peace and security in Afghanistan," Mr. Karzai said. The Security Council authorised the force last December but restricted its activities to Kabul as sought by the interim Government. It is believed that Mr. Karzai and others in his interim administration have changed their position, in part due to the resurgence of warlords.

There are presently 2,500 peace-keeping troops stationed in Kabul. If the force were to be extended to other cities, it would mean a significant change in numbers. According to one estimate, around 35,000 troops will be required. Apart from the fact that any change in operations will require the Security Council to adopt a new resolution, it is not sure if the countries currently contributing to the force will be keen on adding personnel. In fact, the immediate response of the Council has been in general terms and not specifically addressing Mr. Karzai's request. The United States, for instance, has made it known that it will not participate in the peace-keeping force although Mr. Karzai wanted it.

The President, George W Bush, was clear that his administration would be involved in activities other than contributing to the multinational force. Western nations, by and large, are more willing to train the police and military forces of Afghanistan. Mr. Karzai, who flew into New York from Washington after attending the President's State of the Union Address on Tuesday night, visited Ground Zero. "The Afghans understand America's pain," Mr. Karzai said, adding that the people who committed the crime in New York did the same in Afghanistan against the Afghan people. "They were against life itself," the Afghan leader said.

THE HINDU

1 FEB 2002

Hands off Kabul, warns Annan

Agencies

KABUL, Jan. 25.— UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan today warned Afghanistan's neighbours against interfering in the war-ravaged country's affairs so as to give it a chance to recover.

Mr Annan told a news conference in Kabul that the UN had been stressing to neighbouring governments "that they should not interfere in Afghanistan, that they should not repeat the errors of the past and that we should all work in the same direction, and I hope that is what will happen." "Most of them have giv-

'Osama alive'

GENEVA, Jan. 25.— The brother of Osama bin Laden, Mr Yeslam Binladin, said the Al-Qaida leader was probably alive as he was too well known to have died without the fact becoming widely known. — Reuters

en us their assurance that they are going to work with us to ensure a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, and that is what we need," he said, alongside interim Afghan Prime Minister Mr Hamid Karzai. In Cuba, US legislators arrived at the controversial detention centre today eager to learn if captured fighters of the Afghan war are providing useful Intelligence

for the US-led war on terrorism. Meanwhile, Washington has decided to release over \$200 million worth of blocked Afghan gold and other assets which will shortly be turned over to the interim government.

THE STATESMAN

26 JAN 2002

UN resolutions cannot solve J&K row: Annan

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, January 24

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan today made it clear to Pakistan that United Nations Security Council resolutions could not solve the Kashmir dispute without dialogue.

Annan ruled out the possibility of transforming the UN observers in the region as peacekeepers. "Yes there are Security Council resolutions but they are not automatically self-implementing. In fact you need to get the parties to co-operate," he said.

"There have been many instances where Security Council resolutions have served as the basis but at the end of the day the parties have to talk and resolve their differences. The resolutions are there and I hope the parties will find it helpful when they sit to resolve their differences," Annan said.



KOFI ANNAN

On the UN peacekeepers in the region, Annan said: "You would need another resolution for that by the Security Council and I don't see it happening now."

Annan also stressed the need for military de-escalation and easing of tension and called upon India and Pakistan to initiate a sustained and determined dialogue to resolve all issues

including Kashmir peacefully.

Phone bar in PoK: The authorities in PoK have barred the public call offices from making telephone calls to India, including Jammu and Kashmir, for "security reasons".

A written directive from the authorities has been circulated among the PCOs in the area, asking them to inform the nearest police station, military police or any intelligence agency about the person who shows up to book a call for any number in India.

"This is your responsibility failing which action will be taken against you and no explanation will be expected," the directive warned.

For the local telephone subscribers the facility of international dialing has also been suspended rendering the holders of the facility unable to make any international call.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSAN TIMES

25 JAN 2002

Build on Musharraf's steps, says Annan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy ^{HD1}

^{UN} **ISLAMABAD, JAN. 23.** The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said here tonight that there was need for India and Pakistan to build on the steps taken by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to defuse the tension between the two countries.

Mr. Annan, who arrived here tonight on a two-day visit to discuss among other things the Indo-Pak. tension and the situation in Afghanistan, said he was pleased with the January 12 address of Gen. Musharraf to the people of Pakistan. "It is an important speech and a step in the right direction. We need to build on it to defuse the current tension", he said.

Mr. Annan would meet Gen. Musharraf tomorrow and is later scheduled to hold a news conference along with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar.

A U.N. spokesman said Mr. Annan was likely to reiterate his appeal to India and Pakistan to sit across the table to resolve all their differences and emphasise the urgent need for reduction of tension.

Pakistan is bound to make use

^{24/1} of the opportunity to make an appeal to Mr. Annan to prevail upon India to withdraw its troops from the frontline positions and agree for a dialogue with Islamabad for resolution of all differences.

Mr. Annan would be here on his way back from Tokyo where he attended the Afghanistan Reconstruction Conference on January 21 and 22. On January 25, he would be heading to Kabul and then on to Teheran.

Mr. Annan's last visit to Pakistan was disappointing to the Musharraf Government as the Secretary-General made a blunt statement on his arrival that the U.N. resolutions on Kashmir were "not enforceable" and that India and Pakistan should sit across the table to resolve the dispute.

Visit to India dropped

Mr. Annan wanted to include India in his itinerary but had to drop the plan after New Delhi indicated that the dates were not suitable.

A U.N. spokesman said this at a press conference here, answering a question on whether Mr. Annan could play a meaningful role without visiting New Delhi.

THE HINDU

24 JAN 2002

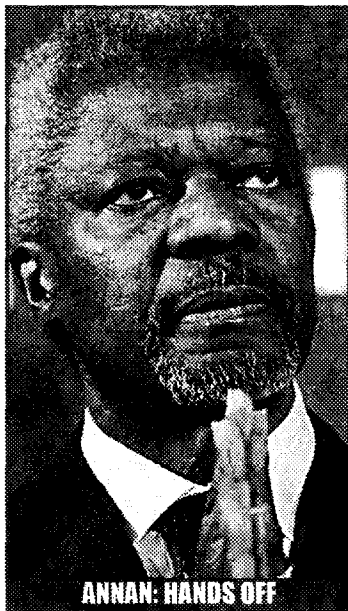
Security Council rejects Pak plea for intervention

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 10 JANUARY

PAKISTAN'S ATTEMPT to seek UN Security Council intervention in easing Indo-Pak tensions ended in a whimper with the UN Security Council rejecting its plea. Instead, it delivered a pointed snub to Islamabad by asking it to rein in the terrorist groups operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

Coming as it does in the wake of the desire expressed by the US that Pakistan should take more steps to curb the activities of jihadi outfits operating from its soil, the two developments must have come as a damper to General Pervez Musharraf's efforts to deflect the international pressure on India.

At a meeting with the UNSC president — Mauritian ambassador Jugdish Koonjal Dharmachand — the Pakistan's permanent representative, Mr Shamshad Ahmed Khan, sought the Council's intervention in easing Indo-Pak tensions that had emerged in the wake of the December 13 attack on Parliament. "There is no support for Pakistan's request among the Security Council's 15 members, who stressed that it is a bilateral issue and needs



to be resolved between the two countries," council diplomats said.

"The immediate issue is the need for Pakistan to crack down on terrorist groups which have been operating in Kashmir and killing innocent people," they said.

The stand taken by the UN Security Council is in consonance with the line taken by the Vajpay-

ee government that the Musharraf regime should first take firm and concrete action against the jihadi outfits operating from Pakistan before any dialogue between the two countries can be resumed.

Mr Dharmachand briefly mentioned his meeting with the Pakistani ambassador during a closed door meeting under "other matters" after the Council had finished the day's business late on Tuesday.

Council diplomats said there was no discussion on the issue as none of the members evinced any interest. Mr Dharmachand made a routine mention, as he always does to the Council members about his meetings. The normal practice is that if members show interest on any issue, it is followed by a discussion. The members responded to the presidential mention by observing a complete silence. The issue was over in less than one minute, the Council diplomats said.

The UN Security Council's position is not unprecedented. Last year, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, while touring the region, remarked in Islamabad that the Kashmir UN resolutions of 1948 had lost their relevance, mainly because of their non-enforceability.

The Economic Times

11 JAN 2002