Jiang for closer Sino-Pak ties

Press Trust of India

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BEIJING, Nov. 18. — Chinese President Mr Jiang Zemin has called for the further consolidation of Sino-Pakistani "all weather" friendship and has backed his counterpart General Pervez Musharraf's efforts to stabilise the nation.

"Ever since China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations 51 years ago, the two neighbouring countries have developed an "all-weather" friendship which enjoys steady development, and bilateral cooperation based on mutual benefit has been fruitful," Mr Jiang said.

"China cherishes its traditional friendly relations with

"China cherishes its traditional friendly relations with Pakistan," Mr Jiang said in a congratulatory message to Gen Musharraf, who was sworn in as Pakistan President for a five-year term.

He also pledged to join hands with Gen Musharraf in further deepening and expanding a "comprehensive cooperative partnership" between China and Pakistan.

In his message to Gen Musharraf, Mr Jiang said the military ruler's re-election is an indication that he enjoyed the support of the Pakistani people. "General Musharraf's re-election as the President of Pakistan has demonstrated the trust and support for him from the Pakistani people," he said.

The Chinese leader said Pakistan will enjoy further development under Gen Musharraf's leadership. In his congratulatory message after Gen Musharraf's swearing-in, the Chinese President said "over the past few years the Pakistani people, under the leadership of General Musharraf, have realised national stability and development after overcoming various difficulties under a complicated and changing situation both at home and abroad."

Pak to build 4 warships with Chinese aid tell by the French-made Submarine Tractical Integrated Combat System.

a proposal to build four F-22 type "The government has okayed the proposal and we are currently negofrigates with the assistance of China. tiating with China on this," he said. ISLAMABAD, Aug. 24. - Pakistan today announced that it would build four warships with China's assistance and launched its new domesti-

Under the proposal, one ship would be constructed in China while the restan. A Pakistani Navy press release without naming India said "the new submarine ... will help maintain peace and stability in this volatile maining three will be made in Pakiregion, by deterring our adversary cally made Agosta 90B submarine capable of having a nuclear platform, saying that it would deter In-Launching the submarine, built with French technical assistance, for the Pakistan government has okayed dia from "any kind of adventurism". Navy chief Admiral Abdul Mirza said sea trials in the port city of Karachi,

after renowned Islamic commander Saad bin Abi Waqas would bring in The Navy chief said "Pakistan has marines". He said the submarine joined the elite club of few countries named 'Pakistan Submarine Saad' around the world who can make subfrom any kind of adventurism".

the much needed self-reliance for the country's Navy.

The submarine is equipped with four bow torpedo tubes and missiles, with its fighting capacity coordina-

marine is capable of having a nuclear platform. He also said that a third Agosta-90 B submarine to be built with the help of France here would Pakistan navy claims that the sub-

plied one fully equipped submarine in The second submarine was built as France's multi-national, DCN and Thomson Marconi and Pakistan Navy, a part of the \$1.2 billion deal between under which France has already supbe ready in two years.

Musharraf rushes into arms of old ally

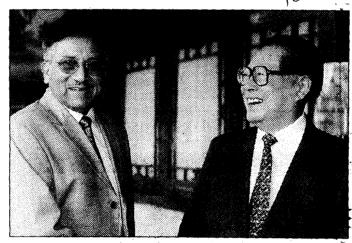
JOHN RUWITCH

Beijing, Aug. 2 (Reuters): Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf met Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing today in what political analysts said was a bid to shore up support from an old ally at a time of tension with

Jiang broke away from an informal gathering of China's leaders thrashing out details of an impending leadership transition and Communist Party Congress to meet Musharraf, making a 10-hour stopover in China en route to Islamabad from

The official Xinhua news agency quoted Musharraf as telling Jiang that Pakistan did not want war and would not start one. He also pledged Pakistan would do its best to realise regional peace and stability.

Musharraf briefed Jiang on the latest domestic situation in Pakistan and offered his views on the situation in South Asia and neighbouring Afghanistan, it said.



Prevez Musharraf (left) with Jiang Zemin in Beijing on Friday. (Reuters)

Xinhua quoted Jiang as telling Musharraf that China supported "all efforts to alleviate the tension between Pakistan and India and to safeguard peace and stability in South Asia".

Analysts said the meeting was a chance for Musharraf, who has worked closely with the United States in Washington's war on terror following the September 11 attacks, to remind Jiang how important China is to Pakistan.

"Musharraf will be seeking understanding or support from China," said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at People's University in Beijing.

China assisted Pakistan in Shaheen missiles Sink project, says U.S. study

Congressional Research Service (CRS) study says that a Chinese company reportedly delivered 12 shipments of components for Pakistan's Shaheen missiles in early 2001.

The study authored by Barbara

Leitch Lepoer of the foreign affairs, defence and trade division of the service says China and Pakistan enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship for over three decades. "Pakistan served as a link between Beijing and Washington in 1971 as well as a bridge to the Muslim world for China in the 1980s" the study notes adding China's continuing role as a major arms supplier for Pakistan began in the 1960s

The study says both India and Pakistan have built large defence establishments -including ballistic missile programmes and nuclear capability—"at the cost of economic and social development."

According to CRS, U.S. policy analysts consider the continuing

WASHINGTON: The latest arms race between India and Pakistan as posing the most likely prospect for the future use of nuclear weapons. India is believed to have enough plutonium for 75 or more nuclear weapons. Pakistan may have enough enriched uranium for 25 nuclear weapons. Both um for 25 nuclear weapons. Both countries have aircraft capable of delivering weapons.

India has short-range Prithvi missiles and is developing an intermediate-range ballistic missile (Agni) with enough payload to carry a nuclear warhead. Pakistan reportedly has acquired technology for short- range missiles (Shaheen) from China and medium-range missiles (Ghauri) from north Korea, capable of carrying small nuclear warheads.

A major issue facing the administration, it said, was how to make use of Pakistan's support for military operations in Afghanistan without seriously destabilising "an already fragile state that has nuclear weapons and ballistic mis-

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Pakistan's China 'card'

kistan President, Pervez Musharraf, soon after the ter rorist attack on India's Parlia ment reflect Islamabad's strategic dependence on Beijing. It is important that he should have engaged China despite his new and pleasant equation with the U.S. So, a poser, which does not at all imply a Sino-Pakistan bid to trouble India on the terror issue, is whether Islamabad can now play a 'U.S. card' as also a 'China card' to confound New Delhi.

The answer is not a simple choice. In a sense, there is also nothing dramatically novel about Pakistan's comfortable relationship with China and the U.S. now. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Pakistan actually catalysed a friendly strategic reaction between Richard Nixon's U.S. and Mao Zedong's China. The comfort level Islamabad had attained as regards both Washington and Beijing then was quite phenomenal. A reason was that the U.S. and China were really strategic strangers then, not just adversaries, unlike at the present juncture of a non-definitive post-Cold War period. Islamabad's separate but also somewhat integrated equations today in respect of Washington and Beijing are certainly not of the same strategic genre as those in the early 1970s. Of greater salience, though, is Gen. Musharraf's determined effort to keep China on his side in the present context of the U.S.-led international 'campaign' against terrorism.

Today, India faces a rare diplomatic challenge. Of concern is not so much the unproven notion of a Pakistan-China-U.S. nexus of sorts as the somewhat blurred battle lines in the ongoing international 'war' against against terrorism. By proclaiming that Pakistan will no longer allow any form of terrorism in the name of the Kashmir issue, Gen. Musharraf has lent credence to New Delhi's charges, sustained over a long period, about Islamabad's sponsorship or tolerance of terrorism against another country.

able to wean away from Pakistan an anti-terror leader of the 'Free World' like the U.S. Doubtless, the creative international 'campaign' against terror is not free from the conventional calculations of realpolitik. So, the real foreign policy issue confronting India has much to do with some new aspects of international realpolitik and

HE VISITS to China by the Pa-Yet, Official India has so far not been ity that China has consistently played a major role in sustaining Pakistan's strategic stability since the early 1960s. It all began with China's decision to befriend Pakistan in the specific context of its perception of India as a possible competitor. This suited Pakistan too. Its so-called alliance of a 'Free World' orientation with the U.S. was also beginning to fray by the early

> China will be greatly pleased if Gen. Musharraf can control the Muslim radicals... besides ensuring that the American presence in the region is time-specific.

not the stated objectives of the U.S. 'campaign' against terror. It is in the totality of this emerging situation that Pakistan's 'China card' and 'U.S. card' acquire an India-centric relevance.

It has become increasingly fashionable in some international quarters to discern the outlines of the present world 'order' which, however, is still being described by many as the post-Cold War dispensation with no definable central focus. For the neo-order theorists, the 'campaign' against terror has already created a world 'order' in which no country can easily hope to play one major power against the other as in the past. Dominated by the U.S. at the apex, this global 'order' is said to be a configuration of big powers and others. Their common bond is reckoned to be a collective desire to guard their separate interests against the unpredictable ravages of the terrorists. Even if the anti-terror agenda is accepted as the glue of the present 'order', the reality of diplomatic jockeying by the various players cannot be brushed aside. It is this aspect, more than the genuine absence of a stabilised post-Cold War global order, that lends a sense of urgency to China's diplomatic activism, no less than America's, in relation to Pakistan.

Not in dispute is the empirical real-

1960s in the context of Pakistan's perception that its American link had not produced any tangible dividend in regard to the Kashmir dispute. Such perceptions set the stage for the Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, a strategic 'coup' in regard to India, which had for most part of the 1950s supported the newly communist China

China's note to Pakistan in February 1962 underlined that the agreement should have a rider. The accord, it was said, "has to provide that, by the time Pakistan and India have solved the dispute over the ownership of Kashmir, the relevant sovereign authorities (in plural) will renegotiate with the Chinese Government so as to replace this temporary agreement by a formal boundary treaty". The 1963 agreement signalled the beginning of multifarious cooperation between China and Pakistan, inclusive of the suspected transfers of Chinese knowhow in nuclear arms and ballistic missiles. The 1963 document itself had empowered the two countries to establish physical linkages of the strategic kind despite "the dispute over the ownership of Kashmir"

Subsequently, China supported Pakistan during its war with India in 1971. On that occasion, Pakistan

played a 'China card' and a 'U.S. card'. with all the three favourably disposed towards one another following Henry Kissinger's secret journey to Beijing. Yet, India managed to win in the face of such a formidable challenge. Several strategic and political reasons shaped that happy denouement for India. A related question in 2002 is whether India can similarly overcome any possible move by Pakistan to play a 'China card' and a 'U.S. card'. There is no need for pessimism, given India's impeccable anti-terror commitment, and moreover, New Delhi can also discern a few positive signs in its external environment.

India should make no mistake about the latest U.S. view that Pakistan's present leadership is part of the solution to globalised terror. Yet, Washington's updated interactions with New Delhi, in the context of the terrorist attack on Parliament House, do not hide some American concerns about Pakistan. The U.S.' willingness to help New Delhi address Islamabadoriented concerns in fighting terror is

quite illuminating.
As for Pakistan's 'China card', Beijing had suggested in 1996 that Islamabad could consider improving ties with New Delhi by leaving the Kashmir issue to be addressed over time. In 2002, China will be greatly pleased if Gen. Musharraf can control the Muslim radicals who do not respect nafrontiers tional and Islamabad's safe custody of its nuclear arsenal, besides ensuring that the American presence in the region is time-specific. Gen. Musharraf has most recently supported Beijing's fight against the "East Turkestan" terrorists within China's borders. About America's new strategic footprint, Beijing is conscious of the views of Sinologists such as David Shambaugh that the apparent issue before the U.S. is "never whether to change China but how" through "several impulses" from the commercial to the strategic. This should evoke India's interest as it considers whether Pakistan can play a 'China card' and a 'U.S. card' now.

Jiang peace lesson to Pak general

Beijing, Jan. 16 (PTI): Chinese President Jiang Zemin today met a top Pakistani general here, exchanging views on Indo-Pak tension and emphasising the need for peace and stability in South Asia.

"China sincerely hopes that South Asia will maintain peace and stability and score a rapid and sound economic development," Jiang, who is also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China and commander-in-chief of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA), said.

"South Asia is an important part of Asia and there could be no peace and prosperity in the whole Asia without stability and development in South Asia," Xinhua quoted Jiang as telling the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee of Pakistan, General Mohammad Aziz Khan.

Jiang and Aziz had an hourlong meeting on the military standoff between India and Pakistan and on the anti-terrorism issue, sources said.

The Chinese President is understood to have assured Aziz that China supports Pakistan's efforts to resolve its differences with India, including Kashmir, through dialogue and other peaceful means, the sources added.

According to Pakistan's APP news agency, Jiang particularly lauded Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's speech on January 12, and hoped the measures taken by him would help reduce tension in the region and combat extremism.

China snubs Musharraf

New Delhi, Jan. 14: China, Pakistan's closest ally, has said the Kashmir issue should be solved without involving a third party, glossing over the appeal of Pervez Musharraf for international intervention.

China's position was conveyed by Prime Minister Zhu Rongji to his Indian counterpart Atal Bihari Vajpayee here this

evening.

Zhu's remarks bring out in the open not only China's reservations over the presence of American troops in Afghanistan but also its differences with Pakistan on the role of foreign forces.

istan on the role of foreign forces

in Kashmir.

China and India have agreed to set up a mechanism to exchange information to counter terrorism. (See Page 8)

neads

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Sino-Pak arms trade worries Bush, Blair

Vijay Dutt Bangalore / London, January 9

TONY BLAIR is said to have had a 50-minute talk with President Bush immediately after he returned to London from his six-day tour to the subcontinent and Afghanistan. He is said to have briefed Bush on the tension between India and Pakistan and his impressions about the situation in Afghanistan during his three-hour halt there.

But the focus is said to be more on the likely impact on the geopolitical situation in the region following the huge supply of aircraft and arms by China to Pakistan. It is also said that some spare parts have been sent "speedily" by China through the Karakoram Highway.

This could be Pakistan's way of telling Bush not to lean too much towards India, said a Whitehall source. "Islamabad is disgruntled at the way Blair and Bush have pressed it to get rid of terrorists and in effect change the Kashmir policy."

The Pakistanis have reportedly complained that the US is only interested in securing its cooperation in the Afghan campaign and has now no intention to help them resolve the Kashmir issue. The Time's Foreign Editor Bronwen Maddox said: "The intended audience of yesterday's report (shipment of arms by China to Pakistan) was no doubt Delhi, but the most important audience is Washington."

Defence analysts have compared the military balance between India and Pakistan to conclude that the latest shipments are not likely to give any advantage to Pakistan if it decided to "have it out" with India. The total active armed forces with India is double of Pakistan's, 1,303,000 as against 612,000.

India has an estimated 774 combat aircraft as against Pak-

istan's 353. Even in missiles and nuclear strength, India has superiority over Pakistan. Both London and Washington are said to have decided to keep everything on hold until the speech President Musharraf is expected to make by the weekend. They expect him to announce radical measures to curb extremist groups and in particular take steps to break-up Lashkar-e Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. The two groups were proscribed by Britain quite a few months ago.

Blair and Bush reportedly expect President Musharraf to declare that no one would be allowed to cross the border to India and enter the valley. If he does, Washington would reportedly give the help Musharraf might need to keep his Generals and other fundamentalist elements at bay.

US team unhappy with Pak: Expressing dissatisfaction with Pakistan's steps to contain terrorism, a three-member US Congress team today said: "We're looking for more than symbolic steps. We want concrete action."

The team was in Bangalore attending the CII's Partnership Summit 2002. Congresswoman Shelley Berkeley said cross-border terrorism must stop. Earlier at a symposium on 'US Security: How dangerous is tomorrow's world?', she said the US and India were on the verge of forging closer ties and a strategic agenda would be formulated for South Asia

On how the US perceived India's nuclear capability and whether it was a hitch to closer relations, Congressman Joseph Crowley said September 11 had changed the definition of "safe". The fact that India had committed itself to a "no first use" nuclear policy was good enough, he added.

Pak. denies receiving Chinese weapons

By B. Muralidhar Reddy & vo low

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 8. Pakistan today described as "totally fabricated" a report in a section of the press that China had sent five shiploads of weapons to the country last month to help it meet "any eventuality".

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, told a news conference here that there was no truth whatsoever in the report and it was totally fabricated. The leading English daily, *The News*, and its

The leading English daily, *The News*, and its Urdu daily, *Jang*, in a prominent front-page report claimed that the consignment included unassembled fighter aircraft besides other air force equipment. The papers, run by the same group, gave an impression that China's decision to send the consignment at this juncture was meant to send a message in the context of the ongoing Indo-Pak. tension.

The prompt manner in which Mr. Khan denounced the report gave the impression that Beijing had objected to it and wanted Islamabad to correct the impression.

Observers here said that if Mr. Khan wanted to dodge the question, he could have simply

fallen back on the cliche "I have not seen the report" or "We do not comment on speculative reports." The news report datelined Karachi gives vivid details of the consignment and said the timely arrival of the F-7MG and FC-1 super seven aircraft had made the airpower ratio between India and Pakistan two to one.

It said the aircraft had night-fighting capability. "Pakistani and Chinese technicians assembled the aircraft in record time and they were deployed at several bases."

PTI reports:

The News said China made a "speedy delivery" of spares and related equipment for Pakistan's "strategic assets" through the Karakoram highway mountainous pass connecting both the countries. Strategic assets meant nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

"Separately, the Chinese Government made a speedy delivery of spares and related equipment for Pakistan's strategic assets through Karakoram highway, a little before the snow created major obstacles on this crucial communication line between Pakistan and China before Christmas," it said. The newspaper said Pakistan's extensive missile defence system had now been raised with the active support of the Chinese Government.

Senior officials were quoted as saying that as a "gesture of friendship to Pakistan", the Chinese Government had sent the ships loaded with defence equipment to Karachi even before the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, met his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, during his visit to China in December last year. Gen. Musharraf met the Chinese Premier, Zhu Rongji, on January 3 while on his way to the SAARC summit in Kathmandu and also returned through Beijing.

On more than one occasion during Gen. Musharraf's visit to China in December, the Chinese leadership reiterated that its friendship with Pakistan "was deeper than the oceans and higher than the mountains," the paper said. According to the Jane's Defence magazine, India has about 800 combat aircraft against Pakistan's present strength of 35°. The new deliveries increase the Pakistan Air Force's strength to 400.

THE HINDU

9 JAN 2002

Pak. upbeat over Chinese support

By B. Muralidhar Reddy 40

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 5. Pakistan is seeking to portray the meeting between the President, Pervez Musharraf, and the Chinese Premier, Zhu Rongji, at Beijing as a signal of Chinese support at a juncture when it was facing 'another war' on its border.

The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), the State-run news agency, in a dispatch from Beijing, said the meeting was a 'strong signal' from the Chinese leadership in the light of the military build-up between India and Pakistan.

The APP said that diplomatic circles in Beijing attach high importance to Gen. Musharraf's brief stop-over in Beijing and his meeting with Mr. Rongji, in the wake of growing tension between India and Pakistan.

"Gen. Musharraf's second trip to Beijing, hardly a week after he concluded his five-day state visit, generated a lot of interest and speculation. Most of the diplomats believe the meeting was a strong signal of Chinese support to Pakistan at the crucial juncture when Pakistan was facing another war on its border."

According to the news agency, Gen. Musharraf took the benefit of his stop-over in Beijing to brief his Chinese friends about the massive military built-up by India along its border. "It was well known to all that Pakistan and China are close friends and neighbours and they often consult each other on strategic matters affecting the region. The diplomatic circles lauded the diplomatic offensive launched by Gen. Musharraf for de-escalating the tense situation prevailing on the border. They termed the Musharraf-Rongji meeting as an important development to avert threats of war in the region."

It said that during the hourlong meeting with Mr. Rongji, the Pakistan President gave an account of the current situation of the relations between Pakistan and India. He told the Chinese Premier that Pakistan hopes for peace and opposes war, and willing to ease the tension through dialogue.

Mr. Rongji appreciated Pakistan's measures against terrorism and active participation in the international coalition. He also endorsed Pakistan seeking dialogue and peace, the agency said.

curbing terrorism' 'Pak.

KON BEIJING, JAN. 4. Amid the tense In-5 do-Pak. relations, the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, has assured China that he is taking "necessary measures" to combat terrorist activities from the Pakistani soil, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said today.

"Gen. Musharraf said based on the national and ethnic interests of the country, the Pakistani Government has already taken and is taking necessary measures to combat terrorism and contain extremism," the Foreign Ministry said in a report on its website on yesterday's meeting between Gen. Musharraf and the Chinese premier, Zhu Rongji.

Gen. Musharraf, who met Mr. Zhu during a "transit stop" in Beijing on way to Kathmandu to

attend the 11th SAARC summit, mainly discussed the tense situation in South Asia and the ongo-

ing war against terrorism.

He also gave an account of the current situation of relations between Pakistan and India, and stressed that Islamabad hoped for peace, opposes war and was will-

ing to ease tension through dialogue, the report said.

Commenting on the situation in South Asia, Mr. Zhu expressed appreciation for the Pakistani side's adherence to seeking dialogical statements. side's adherence to seeking dia-logue and peace amid the current tension between Pakistan and India, the report said. — PTI

- 81 Crackdown in Punjab province

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 4 For the first time since the latest crackdown on jehadi outfits, Pakistan extended the net to the Punjab province, considered the hub of some of the main Pakistan- based militant organisations.

Reports from different parts of Punjab suggested that in the last 48

hours, authorities had rounded up activists and cadres of the Lashkare-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Tehreek-e-Jafria. It was not clear under what law these persons had been picked up and what kind of action the Government intended to take against them.

Another report on Page 11

THE HULLING

- 5 JAN 2002

Going to Nepal with an open mind: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 3. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, said here today that he was visiting Nepal with an open mind and looked forward to opportunities at the SAARC meeting.

"I am going with an open mind to contribute my maximum to the meeting", he said at the airport, before emplaning for Beijing. After overnight stay there, Gen. Musharraf is expected to reach Kathmandu by a special Chinese aircraft sometime tomorrow morning.

Gen. Musharrraf told the Pakistan Television (PTV) representative that he was optimistic about holding useful discussions that would contribute to the peace, stability and tranquillity of the region.

His decision to stop over at Beijing and hold discussions with the Chinese Premier, Zhu Rongji, has been a subject of intense speculation in diplomatic circles. His discussions with the Chinese leaders would obviously be focused on the heightening Indo-Pakistan tension. The decision to go via China was sudden. Immediately after New Delhi made it known that it would allow Gen. Musharraf to overfly to reach Kathmandu, Islamabad had made such a request. But later it was announced that he would travel via China and would not like to make use of the Indian airspace, as it was not available to other Pakistani citizens.

In response to a question about his proposed meetings with the Chinese leaders, Gen. Musharraf said "we will hold discussions on the prevailing situation".

In an interview to Saudi Gazette and Okaz he warned that Islamabad would respond in kind if New Delhi initiated any military action that violated Pakistan's land or air



The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, being greeted by the Chinese Premier, Zhu Rongji, on arrival in Beijing on Thursday.— AP

frontiers. "Pakistan wants peace and stable relations with India at present, and in the future" he said and claimed that for normalisation of ties, Pakistan had taken the initiative time and again.

He referred to his visit to Agra and the Summit between him and the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee. "In return, I had invited him (Mr. Vajpayee) and his Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan, so that the talks can continue," he said.

Pakistan has tried its best to resolve all problems, especially Kashmir the 'major burning issue'. "There are no other issues that can be compared in intensity and magnitude to the Kashmir issue".

He accused India of avoiding talks on Kashmir. "Why don't they want to talk about Kashmir? Why do they keep saying Kashmir is not the core issue, or that there

are other issues?" He said Pakistan would continue to strive for dialogue and the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance "with the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

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