

China invites U.S. panel on religious freedom

WASHINGTON, DEC 20. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent federal agency advising the Administration and Congress, has welcomed the news from U.S. officials that China will invite the Commission to visit the country. "Since its inception, the Commission has made several formal requests for an official invitation to visit China.

The Commission is pleased to hear that Chinese officials have agreed to invite us without conditions, and we look forward to visiting the country as soon as possible to examine religious freedom conditions and discuss the Commission's recommendations to improve those conditions," said Commission Chair, Felice D. Gaer, in a press release on Friday.

U.S. officials are currently in China engaging in a bilateral dialogue with senior Chinese

officials on human rights, including religious freedom. The Commission received confirmation of the news about the invitation to visit China from the State Department. "The Commission's trip to China will be a crucial step in expanding from this dialogue to action addressing respect for religious freedom," said Mr. Gaer.

The Commission's requests to other countries for visits to examine religious freedom conditions have been met positively.

With this invitation from China, India is now the only country that has refused a request for an invitation to the Commission to visit.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to give independent recommendations to the executive branch and the Congress.

China to counter US missile plan

Press Trust of India

Settle issue politically

BEIJING, Dec. 19. — Expressing concern over the US plans to deploy a missile defence system in East Asia, China today said it would take "necessary steps" to ensure the country's security.

"China, in accordance with its national defence needs, will make the necessary deployment," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Mr Liu Jianchao said when asked what would China do to counter the missile defence system planned by the USA.

"We have always held that the threat posed by the weapons of mass destruction can be effectively solved through cooperation of the international community," Mr Liu said in response to Mr George W Bush's statement that the USA will deploy a limited missile defence system by 2004.

The missile defence system should not impede upon the strategic stability of the world. It should neither undermine global or regional security, Mr Liu said.

Commenting on the joint US-Japan plan to set up a missile defence system in East Asia, Mr Liu said Washington and Tokyo

BEIJING, Dec. 19. — China today said the accuracy and authenticity of the Iraqi report on its weapons of mass destruction should be determined by the UN's inspection team and finally decided by the UN Security Council. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Mr Liu Jianchao said: "The Iraqi issue should be politically settled within the UN security framework."
— AFP

should act prudently.

"In our view, the development of missile defence by relevant countries in the Asia Pacific should not impede upon the security interests of other countries. Like other countries in the region, we are worried about the possible negative impact on regional stability and security by the development of the ballistic missile defence," he said.

Bush's missile defence plan has been widely criticised by countries like China and Russia with Beijing officials saying it could lead to a renewed arms race in the world.

THE STATESMAN

20 DEC 2002

U.S. officials visit troubled Chinese area

BEIJING, DEC. 18. The United States officials on Wednesday headed to China's Muslim region of Xinjiang to underscore that Washington's listing of a regional group as a terrorist organisation is not a blank cheque to suppress human rights.

The United States added the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) to its list of terror organisations earlier this year, a move rights groups feared China would use to justify a long-running crackdown on dissent by ethnic Uighurs in the north-western region.

"It is our understanding that our decision on ETIM is being presented by some Chinese officials as a licence — that the U.S. has bought into the notion that Uighurs are terrorists," Lorne Craner, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Affairs, said on Tuesday.

"We want to dispel that notion," he said by telephone.

After two days of talks with senior Chinese officials on human rights and democracy issues in the capital Beijing, Mr. Craner said he would meet senior Government officials from Xinjiang and Muslim religious leaders. Uighurs campaigning

abroad for a homeland in Xinjiang called East Turkestan have welcomed Mr. Craner's decision to visit the region, but some analysts see the trip as an exercise in damage control.

China threw its weight behind the U.S.-led war on terror following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, but called on the rest of the world to support its own war against Turkic-speaking, ethnic Uighur separatists.

Beijing says ETIM was supported and directed by Osama bin Laden, chief suspect of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some Western diplomats said Washington's listing of the group was aimed at garnering support from China, a permanent U.N. Security Council member, for future plans in Iraq.

Foreign rights groups have urged U.S. delegates to do more than merely reiterate a long-standing message that China end rights abuses in the region and instead push Beijing to allow unrestricted access to U.N. and private rights experts. Reuters

THE HINDU

19 DEC 2002

Pentagon in China talks

CAROL GIACOMO

Washington, Dec. 8 (Reuters): For the first time since President George W. Bush took office nearly two years ago, the Pentagon will tomorrow hold formal, senior-level talks with the Chinese military, aiming for more cooperation in fighting terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

In an attempt to gain more from military-to-military ties than it believed the US derived in the past, the Bush administration will also ask the Chinese to explain the intent of their continuing offensive missile buildup opposite Taiwan, Pentagon officials said.

The Chinese military "is a critical component of the overall Chinese security establishment... so we would say to them you have an obligation... to exercise your influence to make these things happen," a senior Pentagon official said in an interview.

He stressed that Washington would try to capitalise in the meeting on areas where the US and China have common interests rather than stir up trouble over differences.

Some administration officials, including at the Pentagon, are deeply sceptical of China's intentions as it modernises its military, benefits from continued economic growth and rises in influence in Asia and elsewhere.

Tomorrow's meeting will in-

volve teams headed by Douglas Feith, US undersecretary of defence for policy, and Chinese General Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of the PLA general staff.

Xiong, in Washington for two days, is also expected to meet other administration officials.

Sino-American ties improved substantially after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, as Beijing provided cooperation in the US war on terrorism.

The administration cut off a four-year-old senior-level dialogue with the People's Liberation Army after a damaged American EP-3 surveillance plane landed on Hainan Island in April 2001 following a collision with a Chinese fighter jet in international air space off the Chinese coast.

Beijing held the US air crew for 11 days in a confrontation that strained relations early in Bush's term.

Since then, the two countries have had dozens of military-to-military contacts — at conferences, in exchange visits — but Washington allowed this only on a case-by-case basis and then under restrictive limits.

"We have had this EP-3 incident, which is behind us. Now we want to see if both sides are prepared to get on with it and... demonstrate reasonable continuity and some regularity and predictability in a mil-to-mil relationship at a reasonably senior level," said the Pentagon official.

9 DEC 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

HD-15
25/11

Sino-U.S. ties set to look up

By P. S. Suryanarayana

BEIJING NOV. 24. Even as the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference has extended "full support" to the newly-elected leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the event does not eclipse the focus here on the emerging direction in Beijing's equation with Washington.

The endorsement of "firm solidarity" with the new leadership has been accompanied by a call to all the members of the Consultative Conference to help the CPC's new General Secretary, Hu Jintao, and his team uphold Deng Xiaoping Theory on China's modernisation and related issues and implement the "important thought" of "Three Represents" on the new identity of China's ruling party that enjoys a monopoly of power.

The Consultative Conference is an integral aspect of China's present political order. While the principle of "Three Represents", an essentially domestic issue, is associated with Jiang Zemin, China's President who was until recently the CPC's General Secretary too, his foreign policy of crafting a delicate and 'constructive' equation with the U.S. is no less an important aspect of the political discourse here.

In a political-economic sense, a key element of Mr. Jiang's guidelines can be juxtaposed with China's relationship with the West in general and the U.S. in particular. This relates to the guideline that the CPC should represent the advanced production forces in China. The current level of America's interest and involvement in China's

economic modernisation provides the link between the norms of "Three Represents" and the new direction in China's foreign policy towards the U.S.

With the U.S. navy, in particular, evincing a heightened interest in interacting with China at this time, the issue under spotlight is Mr. Jiang's comment on the potential for an 'unceasing' progress in Sino-American engagement.

The Chinese President has spoken of the possibility of progress through a process of "seeking common ground while setting aside differences". However, while Mr. Jiang's prescription of this potency is designed to promote a forward-looking approach towards the U.S., there is one issue on which China will not compromise.

Wang Hongwei, possibly China's most influential strategic expert, told *The Hindu* that the Taiwan issue holds the 'key' to the future of Sino-American ties. Another but related view within the strategic affairs community in Beijing is that China, as much as Russia or India, is eager not only to 'influence' the U.S. foreign policy but also to improve relations with Washington.

Yet, the strategic consensus in China is that the future of Sino-American relationship will largely be determined by the policies that the U.S. might adopt in the run-up to the end-game in the re-unification of Taiwan with China.

According to LuWen, author of "ABC of the Taiwan question", a peaceful reunification is the "best choice". However, as a top American diplomat underlined, Washington still maintains that its lack of support for



Chinese soldiers stand guard as U.S. sailors stand on the bow of the USS Paul F. Foster after it berthed at Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province, on Sunday. The visit is the first by a U.S. navy ship to mainland China since a U.S. EP-3 spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter near southern Hainan Island in April 2001. — AP

the notion of Taiwanese independence would not necessarily mean a proactive opposition to this idea. While this strategic nuance is not lost on the Chi-

nese authorities, the present mood in Beijing is to make the best of the emerging entente with Washington on anti-terror issues.

THE HINDU

25 NOV 2002

Bush, Jiang to focus on N. Korea

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 24. In the midst of a hectic campaign schedule, the U.S. President, George W Bush, will take some time off for diplomacy and foreign affairs on Friday and Saturday, first playing host to the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, at the ranch in Crawford, Texas and later travelling to Mexico for the annual meeting of the 20 other leaders of the Asia Pacific. Mr. Jiang joins a small group of world leaders that Mr. Bush has invited to his ranch; and the meeting as such is seen as yet another milestone in the bilateral relationship which got off to a very rocky start at the start of this Republican administration.

With his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Bush has not only to talk about the ongoing war against terrorism and Iraq, but also the usual routine comprising human rights, religious freedom and labour practices. This time around, he has yet another headache by way of North Korea even as his administration officials are going about as though no one is losing much sleep over Kim Jong Il and his nuclear programme. The U.S. and China, in the view of the President's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will have to see what "...common strategies we can employ to try

and get the North Koreans to live up to their international obligations". Dr. Rice, for instance, has made the argument that Pyongyang cannot want to give the impression of wanting to join the international community mainstream, "and on the other hand, brandish an illegal nuclear weapons programme that is in clear violation of international obligations" North Korea undertook. But North Korea's problem cannot be laid solely at the doorstep of Mr. Jiang; and Mr. Bush is quite aware of this.

Mr. Bush, for this reason, is expected to bring this up in a high profile fashion with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin; and with key East Asian leaders in Japan and South Korea who will also be in Mexico for the meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. Also, in his meetings with Mr. Jiang and Mr. Putin, the U.S. President is expected to bring up the latest Iraq resolution before the United Nations Security Council. Russia is vehemently opposed to the American proposal and China is not exactly pleased with the contents. The prospect of a Russian veto loom large if the Bush administration prematurely presses a vote on its resolution. Normally, leaders of the APEC talk about economic issues including harmonisation and

standardisation of customs procedures and enhancing communications.

But since the horrific terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, terrorism has taken the centre stage, especially as it pertains to financing of international terrorism. This year in Mexico it is not going to be different for Mr. Bush will speak about the topic in general and in the particular way it affects the economies of the Asia Pacific.

In one sitting this weekend in Mexico — and in all the sideline meetings that senior Cabinet officials like the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, will be having — Mr. Bush will have the opportunity to address terrorism and as it affects South-East Asia in particular.

The President will be seeing the leaders of Indonesia and the Philippines whose countries have been hit hard by terrorists. Mr. Bush will ask others to tighten up measures against outfits who threaten national and international interests.

And at a time when there is considerable wariness in the international community over the fashion in which this American administration has gone about Iraq, Mr. Bush will be seeking greater understanding and cooperation, not just from the terrorist angle but from the perspective of the weapons of mass destructions as well.

U.S. to force vote on Iraq draft

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 24. The Bush administration is hanging tough with its new Iraq proposal at the United Nations, saying that it will force a vote in spite of serious objections from Russia and France. If differences are not sorted out, this contentious vote could come as early as the beginning of next week.

Indications from New York are that Moscow has objected to the new language more than France which has apparently said that it would not block the passage of the resolution. Russia was against any new resolution on Iraq, but for prepared to settle for two, one on use of force if the new weapons inspections failed.

In the last six weeks or so, France has been the major author of the two-phase Security Council process. According to one version, France has said that it would go along with the other provisions of the U.S. resolution if that had the backing of the weapons inspectors and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA.

A clear majority of diplomats representing the United Nations Security Council are said to be in favour of a new Iraq resolution which will lay out tough standards on the return of inspectors to Iraq along with a message to that country that disarmament is a must. Only Syria has opposed any new resolution. That said, a good many nations in the 15-member Security Council are said to be concerned over taking recourse to military action in the search of a solution to Iraq crisis. The United States needs a total of nine votes and no veto for its resolution to get by the Council.

While Washington may have the nine votes, the resolution, as it stands today, will be vetoed by Russia.

The top Russian diplomat at the United Nations, Sergei Lavrov, has rejected the new American draft resolution, saying it amounted to an unacceptable authorisation of force; and that there was language in the resolution that the weapons inspectors would find difficult to comply with. "Unfortunately, so far we have not seen changes in the text which would take into account these concerns", Mr. Lavrov remarked. On a broader level, Russia has said that it wanted to see evidence of Iraq's weapons programmes and is not convinced that Baghdad is involved in terrorism, the two major accusations of the Bush administration.

Meanwhile, arriving for the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meeting in Cabo San Lucas in Mexico, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has said that Washington will stand by its "basic principles". Iraq, in the view of Gen. Powell, will not be allowed to "sit back and smile" after failing to meet its obligations.

"This is not a new concept or language", the top Bush Cabinet official said. Even before the President, George W. Bush, arrives in Mexico for the retreat of the 21 leaders of the Asia-Pacific, his diplomatic task has been cut out for him. Mr. Bush will be talking about Iraq with two of his major sceptics — the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, at his ranch in Crawford, Texas this Friday; and over the weekend in Mexico with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

Beijing for constructive cooperation with U.S.

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 23. As the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, "looks forward" to his prospective summit with his American counterpart, George W. Bush, later this week, Beijing has sought to turn the spotlight on the new possibilities of a "constructive and cooperative" relationship.

China's mood on the eve of the summit at Mr. Bush's ranch at Crawford in Texas is one of expectations about the evolution of a strategic relationship.

A paradigm shift towards the status of definitive allies is not something that China is hinting at as either a win-

win outcome or even a political wish. Outwardly, the most significant aspect of the prospective summit is that Mr. Jiang, a perceived architect of Beijing's present foreign policy that bristles with a U.S.-orientation, might be making his last visit to America as China's head of state, given the possibility of a change at the helm of the Communist Party of China at a national congress next month. Viewed in this perspective, the Crawford summit might be an occasion for the Chinese President to firm up his foreign policy legacy in tune with his perception of Beijing's vital interests.

Ever since the former U.S. President,

Richard Nixon, travelled to Beijing for talks with Mao Tse-Tung in the 1970s, the interactions between the chief executives of these two countries have turned into a political folklore of both mystique and substance. The folklore of combative and complicated relationship has even spawned the "investigative history" that has been intriguingly named by Patrick Tyler, the author, as "a great wall". It is against such a complex backdrop that Mr. Jiang and Mr. Bush will try to look at bilateral relations in the present overriding context of a globalised "anti-terror campaign".

The issue of international terrorism

apart, the two leaders have before them a quite obvious agenda. For Beijing, the issues of America's strategic bottom-line as regards Taiwan and China's economic integration with the international system are of prime concern.

In some contrast, Iraq and North Korea are the complicated 'terrorism'-linked cases of intransigent states that Mr. Bush would like Mr. Jiang to look at through the American prism.

As two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, both China and the U.S. will pay considerable attention to both Iraq and North Korea. However, Beijing's historical ex-

perience on the Korean questions in its neighbourhood will point to the relative primacy of the Pyongyang puzzle. Significantly, China has made common cause with the U.S. about the need to convert North Korea into a nuclear-weapons-free zone. Other issues such as those pertaining to the "human rights situation" in China might, just might, also figure.

On the whole, though, Mr. Jiang's approach may be determined by two aspects. Authoritative Chinese sources told *The Hindu* that China, historically, "is not a hegemonistic power" and that the U.S. might do well to ascertain why it "has enemies" to contend with.

INDIAN

2002

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China for reciprocity in campaign

13/9

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 14. "Reciprocity and mutual benefit" will constitute the touchstone that China intends to deploy in seeking anti-terror cooperation with the United States. This was spelt out by the Chinese Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, during his conversation with the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, on the sidelines of the ongoing U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

The significance of this formulation goes beyond its transparency as a matter of normal state-to-state expectations. Mr. Tang outlined these guideline-norms in the specific context of his acknowledgment that China and the U.S. had established "sound cooperation" in the past year since Washington began its anti-terror campaign. Mr. Tang thanked Gen. Powell for the latest American gesture of designating the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, a separatist group in China's Xinjiang province, as a

foreign terrorist organisation for the purposes of U.S. laws. While this development, as also China's cooperation with the U.S. in intelligence-sharing activities, can be seen to illustrate the definition of "reciprocity and mutual benefit", the litmus test is ahead when Beijing will apply these norms to determine its response to the evolving American move to extend the "war against terrorism" to Saddam Hussein's Iraq at this point.

On Taiwan, which is as central to China's foreign policy as the anti-terror campaign is to America's, Mr. Tang asked Gen. Powell to ensure that the U.S. "refrains from sending any wrong signal to the forces which preach (the notion of) independence of Taiwan". Two other aspects of China's heightened diplomatic activism on the global state at this time relate to Mr. Tang's enunciation of a "new security concept" and a "strategy on common development" in his address to the U.N. General Assembly.

The "new security concept", first spoken

of at the recent ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei, was now commended as a "workable and effective" proposition in international law. The principles of "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation" would feature the new security concept. On the U.S.-sponsored anti-terror global agenda, for which this concept would be highly relevant, Mr. Tang said, "Efforts should be made to prevent the arbitrary enlargement of the scope of counter-terrorism campaign". A five-point "strategy" for economic development was outlined by Mr. Tang with a call to change the "rules of the game" in a manner suited to the needs of the developing countries. The five points are the establishment of a development-oriented "global partnership", promotion of "balanced economic globalisation", encouragement of "self-development" by the developing countries, adherence to "sustainable development" and "enhancement" of the "all-round development" of people across the world.

U.S. hails China's missile curbs

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 27. The United States has commended China for drafting new regulations modelled on the guidelines of the Missile Control Technology Regime to prevent the export of the knowhow and systems that could help deliver weapons of mass destruction. Without going into specifics such as the suspected Sino-Pakistan missile-related tie-ups, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, said, at the conclusion of his current visit to Beijing, that Washington would hold further talks with the Chinese experts on this "positive development" to determine whether some of the existing American sanctions on China could be lifted.

Mr. Armitage held extensive talks in Beijing to prepare the ground for a prospective summit between the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, later this year their third direct meeting in what is becoming a series. Toning up the atmosphere for the planned summit, Mr. Armitage underlined that "the U.S. does not support (the idea of) Taiwan independence". The recent statements by the Taiwanese President, Chen shui-bian, about steps towards a possible independence would not affect the proposed Sino-U.S. summit, he

noted. The U.S. and China "don't entirely agree on the issue of Taiwan" he said.

The U.S. policy was anchored to not only the one-China principle and the three related Sino-American communiqués but also to Washington's own Taiwan Relations Act. However, China and the U.S. had now begin to disagree without being disagreeable. Mr. Armitage underscored that America refusal to support the notion of Taiwanese independence "is different from saying we oppose it". Expressing satisfaction over the extent of China's cooperation with the U.S. in the ongoing global "war against terrorism", Mr. Armitage announced that Washington had now categorised the "East Turkestan Islamic Movement" (ETIM) as a foreign terrorist organisation. China has been seeking to crush the ETIM activists in its Xinjiang province. Mr. Armitage expressed the hope that this move by the U.S. might have an impact on the lines of a similar action against Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

However, he said that China had been urged to respect the rights of minorities while seeking to tame the ETIM. Another dimension of Sino-American cooperation in the anti-terror campaign would relate to the proposed "discussion about container handling security and container security", he said.

28 AUG 2002

China protests US curbs on trade relations with Iran

Associated Press

BEIJING, July 22. — China objected today to what it called "unjustifiable sanctions" imposed by the United States on nine Chinese companies suspected of transferring sensitive equipment to the Middle East.

In a statement faxed to news agencies by its foreign ministry, China said the American-imposed sanctions were unfair and ignored Beijing's commitments to following the rules on weapons transfer.

"China objects to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. China always abides by its international obligations," the statement said.

"We have a series of laws and regulations in place, and strictly enforce the rules on exporting such

items." It added, "the Chinese side objects to the United States' unjustifiable sanctions."

The US State Department said Friday that the American government would impose sanctions against nine Chinese companies and one from India for transferring sensitive equipment to the Middle East, principally Iran.

Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher confirmed 10 foreign entities were facing sanctions but declined to identify the nationalities. Other officials said on condition of anonymity that the firms were Chinese and Indian.

The *Washington Times* reported Friday that the sanctions involve three cases of sales of advanced conventional arms and chemical and biological weapons components to Iran.

China
opposes
USA's 'first
strike' policy

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, June 13. — China has opposed the new "strike-first" military doctrine of the USA and attempts to expand the scope of the current counter-terrorism operations to countries like Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

"In order to maintain peace and stability, we should conform to the trend of the times and abide by the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and other norms governing international relations," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Mr Liu Jianchao said.

Chinese media lashed out at USA's new policy and accused Bush administration of abusing its status as the sole superpower to wield global hegemony. *China Daily* said Mr Bush shocked the global community with his declaration of the policy on 1 June.

THE STATESMAN

14 JUN 2002

No change in ties with China, says Russia

Sw. vs

MOSCOW, JUNE 3. Russia's efforts to build closer ties with the United States and NATO shouldn't damage its relations with China, which views stronger co-operation between Moscow and the West as a positive development, the Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, said on Monday.

"I explained to Beijing the essence of the documents signed, and the response was positive and showed understanding," Mr. Ivanov told reporters in Moscow after returning from Beijing, according to the Interfax-Military News Agency. Mr. Ivanov, who met the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin and other Chinese officials, said closer ties with the United States and a new agreement with NATO "doesn't do any harm to the Asian vector of the Russian policy." He noted that Russia's state emblem, the double-headed eagle, symbolises its policy of forging

close ties with both the East and West. "There must be no tilts in foreign policy," he said.

Although China has not criticised the agreement making Russia a limited NATO partner, it has in the past dismissed the alliance as a Cold-War relic that has no reason to exist.

Moscow and Beijing have continuously described their co-operation as a strategic partnership intended to offset the purported American dominance in global affairs. Last July, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and Mr. Jiang signed a friendship treaty formalising the burgeoning ties between the two nations after decades of Cold War rivalry.

Since September 11, however, Russia's rhetoric about the need to build a "multipolar world" has given way to Mr. Putin's energetic efforts to befriend the United States and other Western countries. Mr. Putin gave a quick blessing to

the U.S. military deployment in formerly Soviet Central Asian nations for operations in Afghanistan — a move that has irked China, nervous about the U.S. thrust into the resource-rich, strategically placed region near its borders.

Some Russian politicians and the media have voiced concern about a growing pro-Western tilt in Mr. Putin's foreign policy, saying that it could hurt relations with China. The newspaper warned that cooling in Russian-Chinese ties could affect military co-operation between the two countries.

Since the 1991 Soviet collapse, China has become the top customer of the ailing Russian weapons industry, buying billions of dollars worth of fighter jets, missiles, submarines and destroyers. Russia's arms exports to China total about \$1 billion a year, Interfax-Military News Agency said on Monday. — AP

04 JUN 2002

THE HINDU

China, USA fail to break ice over Taiwan

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, May 5. — Chinese Vice-President Mr Hu Jintao has failed to get a firm assurance from the USA on the vexatious Taiwan issue while triggering a fresh controversy over resumption of their rocky military-to-military ties.

Mr Hu, expected to succeed Mr Jiang Zemin as the general secretary of the Communist Party this year and as China's President next year, went on a maiden trip to Washington to raise his international profile and start building relations with key US officials who have adopted a pro-Taiwan stance.

Commenting on his just-concluded visit to the USA, Chinese vice-foreign minister Mr Li Zhaoxing said Mr Hu exchanged views with American leaders on the issues of Taiwan, human rights and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Mr Li said Mr Hu reiterated the USA should proceed from a broad view of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits and the development of Sino-US relations.

The USA should play a constructive role in China's peaceful reunification process, Mr Li quoted Mr Hu as saying during talks in Washington. If any trouble occurs on the Taiwan question, it would be difficult for China-US relations to move forward, and a retrogression may even occur, Mr Hu warned during a major public speech during the week-long trip.

Mr Hu met US President Mr George W Bush, Vice-President Mr Dick Cheney, national security adviser Ms Condoleezza Rice, secretary of state General Colin Powell and defence secretary Mr Donald Rumsfeld. During talks between Mr Hu, and Mr Rumsfeld, the two leaders agreed to start talks to see if the two sides can improve military cooperation, restricted after Mr Bush took office.

A Chinese spokeswoman had claimed that the two sides agreed to resume military exchanges. But US officials later said the Chinese characterisation was misleading because the Rumsfeld-Hu decision was only an agreement to hold talks which may lead to the resumption of military exchanges. According to an editorial in Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*, the US clarification of the Hu-Rumsfeld meeting was clearly a snub. However, the Chinese minister said the two sides agreed to reach consensus on a wider range of issues and appropriately handle their differences on the basis of mutual respect, equality and seeking common ground while reserving differences.

China, U.S. to resume military exchanges

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 2. The man likely to be China's next leader and top U.S. officials agreed to resume military exchanges and increase co-operation after first-ever meetings that both sides called a success.

Mr. Hu Jintao started his two-day trip to Washington with a working dinner with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. The Chinese Vice-President also held talks with the Vice-President, Dick Cheney and the Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld. Mr. Hu and Mr. Rumsfeld agreed that military exchanges between the two countries should be restored, Mr. Hu's spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, said.

For more than a year there has been little contact between the U.S. military and China's People's Liberation Army. Last year, the collision of a U.S. spy plane with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea and the administration's later approval of a substantial arms package for Taiwan caused some tensions.

The high point of Mr. Hu's trip to Wash-

ington was his 30-minute meeting with the President, George W. Bush. Administration officials said Mr. Bush reiterated the long-standing American policy on "One China". Mr. Bush is believed to have raised the subject of religious persecution in China, urging Beijing to be sensitive to the "concerns" of the Catholic church and the Dalai Lama. "There will be areas where we'll disagree. Those issues are in the area of ...religious freedom and human rights," the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said.

Mr. Hu, in a speech on Wednesday night to a pro-business group — his only public appearance in Washington — called Taiwan "the most important and sensitive issue at the heart of U.S.-Chinese relations," and said "properly handling" it was the key to good relations. "If any trouble occurs on the Taiwan question, it would be difficult for China-U.S. relations to move forward and a retrogression may even occur," Mr. Hu said.

"Selling sophisticated weapons to Taiwan or upgrading U.S.-Taiwan relations is inconsistent with (American) commit-

ments, serving neither peace and stability nor the U.S.-China relationship and the commitments of the two countries," the Chinese leader said. The Bush administration was aware that Mr. Hu would stick to the standard Beijing line on major foreign policy issues. But it nevertheless thought the Vice-President's trip was important as it would get an idea of the thinking of the next leader of China. The "get acquainted" session has to be seen in the backdrop of the belief here that Mr. Hu is likely to become party general secretary this autumn and assume the Presidency next year.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, there was disappointment that the Vice-President refused to accept four letters from Members of Congress urging China to release political prisoners. "I am extremely disappointed that the Vice-President refused to accept these letters. I had been hopeful that we could at least talk about human rights issues in China and Tibet, but Vice-President Hu's refusal demonstrates how serious the problem remains," the House Democratic Whip, Nancy Pelosi said.

Terrorism: U.S. not happy with China

HPD-15
By Amit Baruah 19/4

SINGAPORE, APRIL 18. At a time when China has said a "deep chill" has set into its relations with the United States, Washington has called on Beijing to share more intelligence information with it to tackle the problem of terrorism.

Admiral Dennis Blair, U.S. Pacific commander, told reporters in Hong Kong today that Beijing was coming up short on specifics when it came to polling information in the battle against terrorist groups. "With other governments that we're operating with more closely, like the Philippines or Singapore and Malaysia, it's very detailed, tactical information of the type you need to take action....I think we need to get to that level with Beijing, and it's not quite there yet," the Admiral, who has been visiting the region, was quoted as saying.

Beijing is critical of recent developments in ties with the U.S. and believes that Washington is undermining the basis on which the relations were restored — the U.S. commitment to a "one China" policy.

"When we have all countries doing that

(sharing information) in a very effective way, we will go a long way towards winning this campaign," the U.S. official, who lays down office on May 2, said. "You need specific information: what airplane flight is that person going to be flying from Beijing to Manila on and what alias is that person going to be using and let's have a picture," the Admiral said about the kind of cooperation the United States wanted from China. Apart from their criticism of the U.S. paying host to top Taiwan leaders, China expressed concern over Washington's plans to stay for a long time in Afghanistan and other parts of Central Asia. American troops are likely to linger in the Philippines longer than the six months scheduled; a policy option that has support from the Philippine President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, herself.

These developments are being closely watched by Beijing, which had expected more understanding from Washington in its battle against the Uighur separatists in Xinjiang province.

Interestingly, Admiral Blair said the U.S. was interested in the use of the strategic

Vietnamese base of Cam Ranh Bay, which the Russians are expected to return to Hanoi later this year.

The Americans, however, are unexpected to receive any special treatment from the Vietnamese as far as the use of the Russian Cold War base is concerned given the past history of animosity between Hanoi and Washington.

It is evident that after a period of neglect, the Americans have woken up to the Asia-Pacific region with a vengeance.

There have been scores of visits to this part of the world — the Americans are slated to begin a security dialogue with the Indonesians later this month and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, will be in Washington in May.

There is little doubt that underlying all this diplomatic activity is the dominant concern about tackling terrorism especially when it affects American nationals. In the weeks and months to come, American involvement in the Asia-Pacific region can only increase. Such developments will be closely watched in the capitals of the region — especially in Beijing.

US must handle Taiwan properly, China tells Kissinger

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, April 14. — Chinese Prime Minister Mr Zhu Rongji today stressed that smooth development of Sino-US relations hinged on Washington's "properly handling" the Taiwan issue and told former US secretary of state Mr Henry Kissinger that Washington's "healthy relations with Beijing will benefit world peace."

"The two countries can smoothly develop their bilateral relations only if the Taiwan issue is properly handled, Mr Zhu said during a meeting with Mr Kissinger."

Mr Kissinger is here to commemorate the 30th anniversary of late US President Mr Richard Nixon's historic visit to China that tilted Cold War balance away from the then Soviet Union. He played major role in the landmark visit resulting in the thaw in freezing Sino-US relations.

Mr Zhu asserted Chinese Government's stand on the Taiwan issue, hoping the US government would abide by the three Sino-US Joint communique, official *Xinhua* news agency reported.

The Chinese Prime Minister said that China and the USA share common interests and a healthy and stable relationship between the two nations will benefit world peace and development, it said.

Beijing views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the Chinese mainland, even by force.

Earlier yesterday, Chinese Vice-President Mr Hu Jintao had cautioned the US of "stagnation" and "regression" in bilateral ties if the Bush administration violated key bilateral agreements.

Mr Hu, considered heir apparent to President Jiang Zemin, made these remarks while meeting with Kissinger.

China accepts clarification

BEIJING, APRIL 7. China today accepted a clarification from the U.S. Government that the President, George W. Bush, had inadvertently referred to Taiwan as "country" and "republic" in a recent speech.

"The U.S. has said that it was an oral mistake that the U.S. President George W. Bush called Taiwan as 'country' and 'republic' in his recent speech. The U.S. stance on Taiwan issue has not changed," the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, said.

Ms Zhang said the U.S. has officially clarified its stance on Taiwan issue to China, the offi-

cial Xinhua news agency reported. Beijing views Taiwan as a rebel province which should be reunited with the mainland, by force, if necessary.

The spokeswoman said the U.S. also said that the way it called Taiwan would no more be used. The U.S. has not changed its stand of observing the "one-china" policy and the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués.

On Saturday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it has asked the U.S. for an explanation on why Mr. Bush had referred to Taiwan as a country during a speech last week in Washington.

— PTI

THE HINDU

China okays 'spy ship'

sr 71 salvage plan

YOMIURI SHIMBUN/ANN

TOKYO, April 6. — China has agreed to a Japanese plan to salvage a suspected North Korean spy ship that sank in the East China Sea in December, it was learned Friday. Tokyo had informed Beijing of its plan to salvage the ship, which lies in China's exclusive economic zone, in May or shortly after.

“Li Peng, chairman at the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, on Thursday told

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to ‘solve the matter in a manner satisfactory to both countries’. We agree with this approach,” chief Cabinet secretary Mr Yasuo Fukuda said yesterday. In essence, the Chinese statement is an agreement to the Japanese salvage plan.

The government will send divers from 25 April to search the sunken vessel and determine how it can be salvaged. The government will also make an environmental impact study of the process.

APR 11 1994

China drags U.S. to WTO on steel

BEIJING, MARCH 15. China, the world's top steel-maker, today appealed to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) against the U.S. decision to steeply raise the import tariffs on steel, citing violation of WTO rules and trade protectionism.

The Chinese Government has proposed to the WTO that consultations be held with the United States on its recent decision to raise tariffs on steel imports, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation said in a statement here.

The Chinese Government requested the U.S. side to decide the time and site for consultations, it said. China was "deeply shocked" by the Bush Administration's three-year package plan that imposes tar-

iff quota limits and slaps tariffs of upto 30 per cent on steel imports.

"This decision not only goes against the WTO rules, but also will have a serious impact on China's normal steel exports to the United States, hence causing huge losses to the steel makers of China," the statement said.

MOFTEC Minister Shi Guangsheng had said on Tuesday that "we are closely following the development of the situation, and the Chinese side will retain its rights to further reaction, including appeal to the WTO trade dispute mechanism."

Relevant businesses and trade unions in China have strongly reacted to the US decision. — PTI

15 MAR 2002

THE HINDU

China slams US missile defence test

Beijing, March 14

SHOCKED BY reports that China was a potential target of US nuclear attacks and Washington's plans to hold a sixth missile defence test tomorrow, Beijing has again demanded explanation from the United States.

"I have read the comments of President George W Bush. We hope that the United States responsible for an explanation," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said.

China reacted strongly to the reports on Monday. Asked whether China is satisfied with the statement of Bush, who yesterday sought to downplay the strong reaction from Beijing and Moscow, Zhang said that any cold-war mentality would not bring peace and development reiterating the stand taken by the President Jiang Zemin.



JIANG ZEMIN

"We believe that any cold war mentality or acts do not go with the trend of the times and it will not serve the international situation that is seeking peace and development," Zhang said.

Her comments follow the publication by Los Angeles Times of a secret policy document, known as nuclear posture review, in which the bush administration has ordered the pentagon to draft contingency plans for the use of nuclear weapons against the seven countries, including Russia, China, Libya, Syria, Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

She pointed out that China has repeatedly stressed that under the new international situation, when non-traditional security matters are posing a threat to stability, various countries should adopt a new concept of security which is based on equality and consultations.

Such a new concept of security should be used to conduct state-to-state relations, Zhang said. On Monday, the Chinese foreign ministry in a statement had expressed deep dislik over

the Los Angeles times report and had demanded an explanation from Washington.

"Like many other countries, we are deeply shocked by the report by the us department of defence, which lists China among the seven nations as targets of possible nuclear strikes. We hold the US responsible for an explanation," the statement said.

"China is a peace-loving nation, posing no threat to any other country," the statement said adding China has always stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

At the briefing, Zhang also expressed China's opposition to the planned sixth missile defence test by the United States.

"We are not in favour of the missile defence system by the United States," Zhang said.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Pak, China sign military pact

Islamabad, March 12

PAKISTAN AND China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance military cooperation and collaboration in the defence production sectors, while Pakistan Air Force formally inducts the newly acquired Chinese multi-role F-7PG aircraft on March 27.

The Pakistan-China MoU, one among several signed between the two countries during the past few decades focussed on the production of military equipment in Pakistan, reports in the official media here said.

The details of the MoU were, however, not released to the media. The MoU was signed by the visiting Chinese delegation headed by deputy chief of general staff general Xiong Guangkai and top Pakistan defence officials yesterday. The Chinese delegation, which has been holding talks with Pakistan officials, including President

Pervez Musharraf also met Pakistan's Secretary of Defence (retd) Lt-Gen Hamid Nawaz Khan yesterday. "They hoped the cooperation between China and Pakistan would progress further in future," an official announcement said.

During their meeting, current regional situation also came under discussion, it said adding that Chinese officials appreciated Pakistan's support in the international efforts towards elimination of terrorism and peace in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan geared up to formally induct a squadron of Chinese multi-role F-7PG aircraft, which it has acquired recently. According to earlier reports, China stepped up the supplies of the plane during the height of Indo-Pak crisis in January this year. The plane will be formally inducted into the Pakistan Air Force on March 27 at Quetta, it said.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 MAR 2002

Clarify report, China tells US

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, March 12. — Beijing today said it was awaiting an official and "clear-cut" explanation from Washington on a leaked US defence report on the possible use of nuclear weapons against seven countries including China.

"I don't have anything more to say. We are waiting for more and clear-cut explanations from the USA," foreign ministry spokesman Mr Sun Yuxi told reporters here.

"Like many other countries, China is deeply shocked by this report. The US side bears the responsibility to make an explanation on this matter," he said. "China is a peace-loving country and poses no threat to any other nation," he added.

A top US official, however, denied that a recent review of the US nuclear posture had raised the possibility of nuclear war but warned that an attack on the

USA with weapons of mass destruction would bring about "a devastating response". "The idea that this somehow lowers the threshold for nuclear war couldn't be further from the truth," said national security adviser Ms Condoleezza Rice, appearing on PBS's *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* programme late yesterday.

"No one wants to use nuclear weapons and this President has gone a long way to encouraging and pressing the case for things like missile defence, which might make it unnecessary to worry so much about these weapons," she added.

The CIA warned today that the USA was facing a more serious ballistic missile threat than during the Cold War, predicting that North Korea, Iran and possibly Iraq could target it with missiles in the next 15 years.

The *Los Angeles Times* published a classified Pentagon report that the military had been asked to draft plans to use nuclear weapons against China, Iran,

Sino-Pak deal on military cooperation

ISLAMABAD, March 12. — Pakistan and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance military cooperation and collaboration in the defence production sectors, while Pakistan Air Force formally inducts the newly acquired Chinese multi-role F-7PG aircraft on 27 March.

The Pakistan-China MoU, one among several signed between the two countries during the past few decades focussed on the production of military equipment in Pakistan, reports in the official media here said. The details of the MoU were, however, not released to the media. The MoU was signed by the visiting Chinese delegation headed by deputy chief of general staff General Xiong Guangkai and top Pakistan defence officials yesterday.

The Chinese delegation, which has been holding talks with President Gen Pervez Musharraf also met Pakistan's secretary defence (ret'd) Lt-Gen Hamid Nawaz Khan yesterday. — PTI

Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Russia and Syria.

The review, presented to Congress in January, identifies new contingencies in which US nuclear weapons might be used, specifically "an Iraqi attack on Israel or its neighbours, or a North Korean attack on South Korea, or a military confrontation over the Taiwan Strait".

Mr Yuxi said China had always held that nuclear weapons should be "comprehensively prohibited and thoroughly destroyed". "Countries with nuclear weapons should undertake unconditionally not to be the first to use them, and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states or nuclear-weapon free regions," he said.

Pak wants

18/3
SI-2

U.S. says list targets China

WASHINGTON, MARCH 10. In an apparent damage control exercise, the U.S. while confirming reports of preparing for possible nuclear attacks against seven countries including Russia, said the new guidance gives greater emphasis to potential use against China, North Korea and several "threatening" Middle Eastern States than against Moscow.

The Pentagon's review sought to justify a change in tra-

ditional U.S. targeting, away from a focus on the Russian threat, the officials said.

It drew a distinction between more likely "immediate" contingencies and less likely "potential ones", they added.

Officials told *The Washington Post* that they placed a conflict with China over Taiwan, a war with North Korea and confrontations with Iraq, Iran, Libya or Syria in the "first category," viewing these nations as more

likely than in the past to require plans for nuclear weapons use.

The possibility of a nuclear war with Russia has been "relegated to the status of a lesser contingency," they said adding only Russia has the only nuclear arsenal that rivals America's in size. While scenarios involving these countries already feature to some degree in existing nuclear plans, they are now being given added weight, they said. — PTI

Dinner at the Darbys

I WAS having dinner at the Darbys when Sheila Darby said, "Guess what Caroline wants to be when she grows up?"

We all looked at Caroline, who is 16 years old. She said, "I want to be a whistle-blower." "That's an honourable profession," I said. "But you have to work hard to catch a person who is up to no good." "That's what I told her," her father, Joe, said. "You have 15 minutes of glory and then you can't find a job."

Caroline said, "Sherron Watkins of Enron is my role model. All the girls at school think she's fantastic."

I said, "Whistle-blowers have come into their own now that Sherron has spilled the beans. But no one at Enron backed her up. Whistle-blowing is a very lonely business."

Joe said, "I don't want TV cameras on my lawn all day and all night."

Caroline said, "That's the part I like the most. I could be interviewed on the 'Today Show' and 'Good Morning America,' and by Tom Brokaw. He could say I was a member of the Greatest Generation."

Sheila said to Caroline, "If



ART BUCHWALD

you're going to be a whistle-blower, you're going to need a decent education. No one is going to believe you if you don't have a college degree."

Joe said, "There are corporate whistle-blowers who report on their bosses stealing from the pension fund. No one in the company will talk to them at the water cooler anymore."

Caroline asked, "How do I practice being a whistle-blower?"

I suggested, "For starters, you could snitch on your 14-year-old brother, Tommy."

Caroline said, "I saw him smoking a cigarette outside Tyson's Corner mall."

I said to the Darbys, "She's a natural whistle-blower."

Tommy was angry and yelled at Caroline, "I was not

and you know it."

Joe said, "If I were you, Tommy, I'd take the Fifth Amendment."

Caroline said, "By the time I grow up, Sherron Watkins will have used up her 15 minutes." I replied, "Not necessarily. Don't forget she has a book to write and her story will be made into a TV movie."

Joe complained, "That means we'll have to give up all our privacy. Sherron Watkins may be a very successful whistle-blower, but there are thousands of tattletales you've never heard about. They lost their jobs and their health insurance."

Sheila said, "I like what Caroline wants to do. If she can find a crooked accountant or a smarmy lawyer when she grows up, we should encourage her."

Tommy said, "I would rather be a crooked accountant. You make more money." Caroline told him, "If you were, I would send you to jail."

Tommy answered, "Says who?"

I interrupted and said, "I would rather have a whistle-blower than a crooked lawyer in the family." Sheila said, "Wouldn't we all?"

AD-14

'Sino-U.S. ties on verge of setback'

29/3

BEIJING, MARCH 28. A month after the U.S. President, George W. Bush, visited Beijing, Chinese media said the United States had shattered the euphoria that surrounded his trip with a series of insensitive and offensive moves. "Here we are on the verge of another setback in Sino-U.S. ties," the *China Daily* said in an editorial today.

"Beijing feels betrayed."

The editorial reflects a turnaround in China's rhetoric on the United States since the Bush visit, which media just weeks ago hailed as bringing relations closer than ever.

Topping the list of China's concerns was the U.S. decision this month to allow the Taiwanese Defence Minister, Tang Yiau-ming, into the U.S. for talks with defence officials. China regards the island as a renegade province to be reunited with the mainland by force if necessary.

"The current row, unless resolved in a timely and constructive manner, will definitely undermine the already slight Chinese confidence in genuine

friendship between the two countries," the state-run newspaper said.

Beijing is also upset about a Pentagon report saying China was one of several targets in America's nuclear weapons planning, and "undisguised attempts" to bring Taiwan into the World Health Organisation, it said. "Friendship is out of the question in the absence of reciprocity," the editorial said.

The Chinese Vice-President, Hu Jintao, is scheduled to visit the U.S. in April, but the Foreign Ministry, reflecting China's displeasure over the U.S. moves, has declined to confirm that the trip was still on. But political analysts said they would be surprised if Mr. Hu declined the U.S. invitation because of the latest row. "It would take something much bigger than this," said one diplomat in Beijing. The Chinese President and Communist Party chief, Jiang Zemin, and other senior leaders are due to step down from their party posts late this year, and from their Government jobs next March. — Reuters

THE HINDU

29 MAR 2002

China bans visit by U.S. warship

110-19 2913 By Amit Baruah *g w w*

SINGAPORE, MARCH 26. In a sign of deteriorating Sino-U.S. relations, the Chinese Government has banned a Hong Kong port call by an American naval vessel.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said in Beijing today that the decision was based on an "overall consideration of all the various factors". China has been unhappy with the state of bilateral relations with the U.S. for sometime now - an unhappiness that has grown following the recent visit of the Taiwan "Defence Minister" to Washington. The Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said that decisions on port calls were taken on a case-to-case basis.

Separately, a spokeswoman for the U.S. consulate in Hong Kong said: "The Chinese Government denied a request for the USS Curtis Wilbur...to visit Hong Kong (from) April 5 to 9. This would have been a routine port call." "There was no reason given for the disapproval and I am not going to speculate about it," she added. The Chinese press has been full of anti-American sentiment lately, with one official commentary going as far as to say that a "freezing wind was blowing in China-U.S. relations".

China has also accused the U.S. of not adhering to three joint communiqués, which Beijing maintains is the basis of the relationship with Washington. The U.S., Beijing has said, much adhere to the "one China" principle.

AP reports:

China today refused to say whether its Vice-President and expected future leader will still make a planned visit to the U.S.

The trip by Hu Jintao was announced when the U.S. President, George W. Bush, visited Beijing in February, and was expected to take place in April or May. The visit is hotly anticipated in Washington because Mr. Hu is the heir-apparent to Jiang Zemin, who is expected to retire as China's President and head of the ruling Communist Party over the next year.

But the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue, declined to answer today when reporters asked at a regular press briefing whether Mr. Hu's visit was still on. Instead, she accused Washington of committing a "series of erroneous acts interfering in China's internal affairs" following Mr. Bush's visit.

THE HINDU

27 MAR 2002

China threatens to cancel planned naval ship visit to America

By Harvey Stockwin
Times News Network

HONG KONG: Less than a month after President George W. Bush's visit to Beijing was supposed to strengthen Sino-American ties, China is publicly threatening a deterioration in relations, by cancelling planned reciprocal naval visits.

The threat was made explicitly in the official People's Daily today and also carried in the English language China Daily. "The Chinese side will make a strong reaction felt in the area of military exchanges between the two countries, and is preparing to cancel plans by the Chinese navy to visit the U.S. late

this year," the two papers said.

"U.S. naval ship visits to China would also be affected" the reports also said.

This was actually the first news that formal and reciprocal naval visits were in the offing. The reason for the public threat to cancel them was the recent visit by the Taiwan Defence Minister Tang Yiau-ming to the United States, the first such visit in a long while.

While in Florida last week, Tang met U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia James Kelly. These were also the highest level contacts between Taiwan and the US in a

long while.

Should China carry through with this threat and cancel the planned visits then it would seem likely that the projected visits to the U.S. by Vice-President Hu Jintao in April or May and of President Jiang Zemin in October could also be affected.

The unusual public threat is also probably the result of other issues annoying the Chinese. The recent leak of secret American documents on nuclear policy to the three leading U.S. newspapers, in which it was disclosed that China was a possible nuclear target, has aroused China's "strong indignation and firm opposition".

China alleges nuclear blackmail by U.S.

By Amit Baruah *g.w.*

SINGAPORE, MARCH 17. In yet another attack on the U.S. for its Nuclear Posture Review, China accused the U.S. of "nuclear blackmail".

The Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Li Zhaoxing, summoned the U.S. Ambassador, Clark T. Randt Jr., on Saturday and delivered "solemn representations" to him. The protest comes close on the heels of a meeting between the Taiwanese "Defence Minister", Tang Yiauming, and the U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz. "China wants to make it very clear that China will never yield to foreign threats, including nuclear blackmail," Mr. Li was quoted as telling Mr. Randt.

"The days when China could be bullied are gone forever," Mr. Li said in response to the policy review which targets China and six other countries as possible targets for an American nuclear attack. Accusing the United States of breaching three joint communiqués, which laid the basis for improved relations with China, Mr. Li said: "The United States must abandon the idea of Taiwan as an unsinkable aircraft carrier." "People cannot but ask... where does the U.S. side intend to lead China-U.S. relations... you talked about hoping to see a peaceful settlement between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. Is what you are doing promoting

peace? You repeatedly said that the United States pursues a One-China policy and abides by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués. Is any part of your acts consistent with these joint communiqués?"

"Pampering and supporting Taiwan independence can only meet with the resolute opposition of all the Chinese people and will be doomed to failure," The Xinhua News Agency quoted the Vice-Foreign Minister as telling Mr. Randt. He reiterated that the Chinese people loved peace and did not interfere with the internal affairs of any country. "If there is anything good in threatening the Chinese people, it can only be one thing: the Chinese people's vigilance against certain people will be further heightened...."

"The West has a saying that makes a lot of sense: there is no free lunch.... both history and reality tell us that the China-U.S. relationship has always been a two-way street and serve both sides. It is not a favour that one gives to the other," Mr. Li stated. "The East also has a saying that fits into the situation here: a man who is not trustworthy cannot stand: How can a nation stand on its feet among the community of nations if it does not honour its own words," the Vice-Foreign Minister said.

Referring to the U.S. President, George W. Bush's recent visit to Beijing, the Chinese

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Minister said his Government valued the results of the tour. "We hope that the U.S. side will join us in materialising the spirit of the Beijing summit and advancing the constructive and co-operative relationship between the two countries," he said, adding that it took "two hands to clap". "As things stand now, the attitude of the U.S. side is the key," the Vice-For-

ign Minister said, placing the onus for good relations between Beijing and Washington squarely on American shoulders. Two statements from the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman and the latest remarks of Mr. Li are a clear indication that Beijing does not take lightly the nuclear posture review and the invitation to the Taiwanese "Defence Minister".

THE HINDU

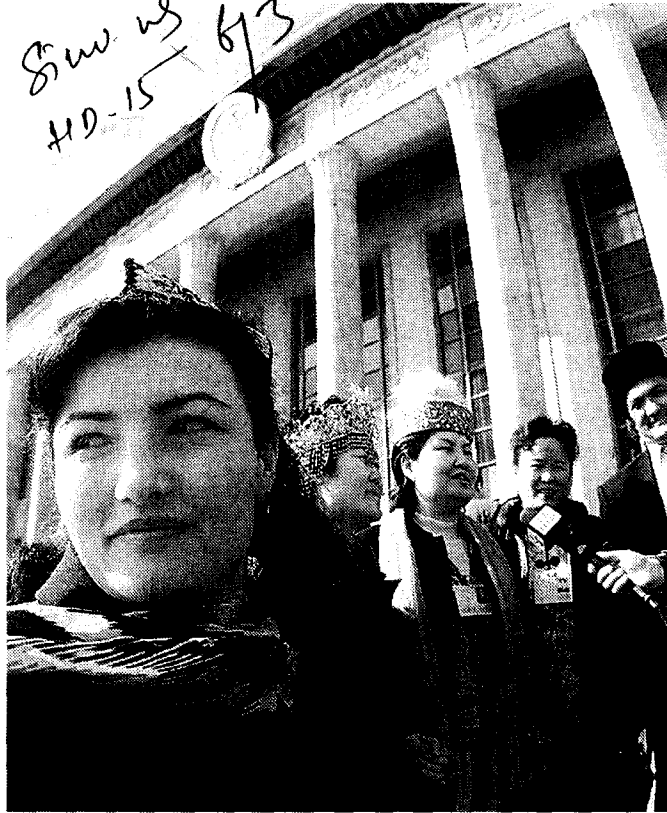
18 MAR 2002

Stop interfering, China tells U.S.

BEIJING, MARCH 5. China today rejected the latest U.S. human rights report as "made up" and urged Washington to stop interfering in the internal affairs of other nations on the pretext of human rights.

"It has made up facts," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan told reporters. "It is an attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights. The Chinese Government and people express their strong dissatisfaction and firm objection to this," Mr. Kong said. "We have to point out that there are instances of large human rights violations inside the U.S.," Mr. Kong said. The U.S. report said human rights violations were widespread under the communist regime.

"The U.S. administration turns a blind eye to the situation while pointing an accusing finger to the internal affairs of other countries by distorting the human rights situation in other countries," he said. "It is unreasonable and out of ulterior motives," Mr. Kong commented. The U.S. State Department's annual global human rights report, which described China as an "authoritarian State", said particularly serious human rights abuses persisted in Tibet and in Xinjiang. "The Government's human rights record throughout the year remained poor and the Government continued to commit numerous and serious abuses," the U.S. report said. Muslim Uighur activists in Xinjiang had come under particular pressure, the report said. China blames the Uighur separatists for a spate



Delegates representing Muslim minorities from China's western provinces being interviewed following the opening session of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. The Premier, Zhu Rongji, reiterated his Government's commitment to the war against terrorism and said it would not relent in its crackdown on mostly Muslim separatist forces at home. — AFP

of bombings and assassinations in Xinjiang and abroad and says the east Turkistan force is directly linked to Osama Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the September 11 attacks. During his visit to China late last month, the

U.S. President, George W Bush urged Beijing to expand religious freedom. However, Mr. Kong emphasised that the Chinese Government was devoted to promoting and safeguarding fundamental freedoms—PTI

THE HINDU

10 MAR 2002

China's silence on bugging of Jiang's jet raises eyebrows

By Harvey Stockwin
Times News Network

HONG KONG: One of the curious aspects of U.S. President George Bush's visit to China was the way in which no references were publicly made on the alleged bugging of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's plane. It is not yet known whether it was raised in private, during the "frank and candid" summit talks.

A month ago the *Financial Times* in London and the *Washington Post* reported that a special Boeing 767 jet, ordered as a VIP aircraft for Mr Jiang, had been found to contain 27 bugs. Over 30 Chinese officials, mainly air force personnel were detained consequently. The assumption then was that the Americans were behind the bugging and that the incident would cloud Sino-American relations before Mr Bush's visit.

But the Chinese never officially mentioned the incident, prompting many Chinese to believe the bugging was the latest manifestation of the intricacies of China's internal politics.

The continued Chinese silence over the fate of the Boeing, which is probably lying stripped and unused at an airbase in northern China, has caused speculation that the bugging was carried out by a Chinese faction anxious to eavesdrop on Mr Jiang during the current succession struggle within the Chinese Communist Party. The bugs had also been found in Mr Jiang's bathroom and bed.

Another report in *The Washington Times* just before Mr Bush left for East Asia, said that Mr Jiang believed it was Li Peng, the second ranking Chinese leader, who was behind the bugging incident. Experts believe the story was leaked by the intelligence and research section of the State Department. Mr Li, then on a visit to Macau, denied this report.

The only indirect reference to the affair in China's controlled press came in an article in *China Daily*. It said that when former U.S. President Richard Nixon made his trail-blazing visit to China in 1972, Chinese leader Mao

Zedong gave strict orders that Mr Nixon's quarters at the official Diaoyutai State guesthouse were not to be bugged.

The article claimed that Mao disapproved of bugging and regarded it as a

dirty trick. Observers here believe the reference has been made to downplay suggestions that the Chinese themselves were responsible for bugging Mr Jiang's Boeing. However there are few takers for the argument that the Chinese will not resort to bugging rooms of foreign dignitaries.

There was a protracted diplomatic argument about where Mr Bush should stay during his recent Beijing visit. The Chinese wanted him to stay at Building number 18 at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, which had housed previous American Presidents. But the White House insisted on the presidential party staying at a five-star hotel.



Jiang Zemin George W. Bush

Bush invites outgoing, incoming Chinese leaders

By Harvey Stockwin
Times News Network

HONG KONG: During his recent 30-hour visit to China, U.S. President George W. Bush made two moves loaded with implications for Chinese internal politics—though there is no way of knowing whether Mr Bush's team carefully calibrated their gestures with China's domestic realities in mind.

Thirty years earlier, when former president Richard Nixon made his moves to re-open Sino-American ties, succession issues were also to the fore within China. But little U.S. attention was paid to the violent death of Mao Zedong's then designated successor, Lin Biao, who died opposing the Chinese opening to the U.S. around the time that Henry Kissinger made his secret visit from Islamabad to Beijing.

To this day, there is no knowing for certain whether Lin Biao was killed in a plane crash in outer Mongolia, fleeing to the Soviet Union, or whether he was assassinated after dining with Mao Zedong within the Chinese leadership compound in Zhongnanhai, as one published account has it.

Chinese internal politics are no longer so turbulent, but they remain just as secretive. So there is no knowing for certain what the

impact of Mr Bush's visit to China will be on intra-factional manoeuvring within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

But that Sino-American relations does have such impact would appear to be born out by the care the regime has taken to get the controlled media to portray the visit in a more positive light than the available facts would seem to justify.

Mr Bush's first move was to invite Chinese President Jiang Zemin to make a second visit to the U.S. this October.

It was known that President Jiang was anxious to receive such an invitation and it duly arrived.

On the one hand, he will be visiting Washington just before the APEC summit in Mexico city. On the other, he will be received at the White House just before he ceases to be general secretary of the CCP at the 16th Party Congress which will be taking place this autumn. President Jiang is also due to end his presidency at the sessions of the National People's Congress due to take place in the second quarter of 2003.

President Jiang almost certainly

sought the invitation in part to demonstrate his clout with the sole superpower, as he seeks to remain in control of the succession process now underway in Zhongnanhai, and possibly, to retain his post as chairman of the CCP's Military Commission.

It is widely assumed that President Jiang would have preferred to have this clout emphasised by an invitation to visit the Bush ranch at Crawford, Texas, in the same way as Russian President Vladimir Putin did earlier this year.

But the Bush-Jiang body language during this visit failed to indicate the warmth and rapport that was clearly displayed by Presidents Bush and Putin. So far, an invitation to Crawford has not been forthcoming for President Jiang, and very likely there will be those within the CCP who will not be afraid to point this out.

While President Bush did not fully endorse the leader going out, he did not neglect the leader coming in. President Bush confirmed the invitation from vice president

Dick Cheney to vice president Hu Jintao to visit the U.S. sometime in the next few months.

Mr Hu is slated to become CCP general secretary and state president when President Jiang steps down from both posts. Slowly the vice-president is emerging more into the spotlight as with his visit to Russia and major European nations last year. Mr Hu accompanied President Bush on his visit to Tsinghua University for a televised exchange on February 22nd with students.

Mr Hu spoke briefly on Sino-American relations before President Bush, and said nothing exceptional. What was noteworthy was the way in which he spoke, demonstrating a media presence which the older leaders generally lack. While President Jiang, for example, is forever referring to his notes, and reading from them, Mr Hu memorised his lines and spoke throughout in a relaxed style looking straight at the cameras.

Mr Hu thus indicated to his Chinese audience, many of whom were seeing him for the first time, that he has communication skills. Whether he has any fresh ideas to go with this talent remains for now one more Chinese secret, though presumably Mr Hu's visit to the U.S. may provide a few more clues.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 FEB 2002

China fears an 'unstable' North Korea could destroy Seoul in a day, if provoked

By Michael Sheridan

BEIJING: The Chinese have told the United States that they fear that Kim Jong-il, the North Korean dictator, has become so dangerous and unpredictable that he could destroy the South Korean capital, Seoul, in a single day if provoked.

Diplomats in Beijing said the United States had been forced to rethink its tough talk against the isolated Stalinist state, named by President George W Bush as part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

The U.S. military has acknowledged that precision bombing could not guarantee to suppress all North Korea's missile launchers ranged on Seoul in time to prevent a devastating assault, the diplomats said.

Mr Bush was told of the Chinese fears during a two-day summit in Beijing. Chinese leaders claimed they had no influence over Kim. They said their information indicated that Kim's moods were so volatile that he would not hesitate to plunge the region into war if the United States attacked North Korean missile sites and plants making weapons of mass destruction.

Although its domestic economy is in ruins, the North Korean elite has earned an estimated dollars 600m from recent weapons sales. The regime possesses chemical and biological weapons and has been accused of passing military technology to rogue states in the Middle East.

Chinese officials, trying to persuade the Americans to avoid rash action, painted a pic-

ture of deepening irrationality inside North Korea. They spoke of an extravagant personality cult surrounding the bouffant-haired leader who is said to consult shamans, or diviners, to help him make decisions.

Last week the official North Korean news agency announced a miraculous appearance by two clouds shaped like the national flower — kimjongilia — in the sky above the dictator's



Kim Dae-jung Kim Jong-il George W. Bush

reputed birthplace, the sacred mountain of Paektu. It also reported that by a divine coincidence, snow fell for 60 days on Mount Paektu, reaching a depth of 60cm on the morning of February 17, Kim's 60th birthday.

The Chinese have become increasingly worried about Kim's erratic behaviour since the failure of a recent state visit to China. The trip backfired when the Chinese showed Kim their showpiece city of Shanghai, with its new business districts. Kim was apparently horrified by what he regarded as chaotic new freedoms that would threaten total government control at home.

There were signs of a worsening reign of terror after Kim ordered the executions of two officials involved in negotiations with the outside world. Both were members of the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, a group that handles Pyongyang's bargaining for aid to relieve the country's famine and poverty. Britain and several other western nations, although not the United States, have sought to engage the North Koreans by opening embassies in Pyongyang.

Some western diplomats are warning of a looming crisis as American pressure to squeeze concessions from Kim appears to have led to a fall in food deliveries. The last food aid shipment into North Korea, where an estimated 2m people have perished from famine since 1996, entered the country in early December.

South Korea's president Kim Dae-jung, who won the Nobel peace prize for his attempts at reconciliation with the North, told Mr Bush that Seoul could be destroyed if a conflict broke out. The North Koreans have retreated into deeper isolation after they interpreted a series of events as a sequence of threats to Pyongyang.

When the United States deployed an air wing into South Korea as part of its action in Afghanistan, the North Koreans thought it heralded an imminent attack. Their nerves were also jarred when South Korea went on a terrorist alert after September 11. A long-scheduled missile test by Japan added to the tension.

Kim is also said to be furious with Japan after the collapse of a credit union that collected funds in Japanese yen from ethnic Koreans for transmission to Pyongyang. (The Sunday Times)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

26 FEB 2002

U.S.-China ties revive, but don't take off

By Harvey Stockwin
Times News Network

HONG KONG: Chinese President Jiang Zemin sang 'O sole mio' and danced with national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. American President George W. Bush walked a little further along the Great Wall than Richard Nixon did in 1972, and twice spoke directly to the massive nationwide Chinese TV audience.



George W. Bush

But, in the end, history did not repeat itself. The Bush visit in 2002, unlike the Nixon visit to China in 1972, did not produce the symbolic gesture, or any new agreement, indicating renewed dynamism in Sino-American relations. Instead, it underlined the contrast in the development of the relationship then and now.

First and last, 1972 was a time of Sino-American strategic consensus. After the 1969 Sino-Soviet border war, both Beijing and Washington decided that the Soviet Union was the main threat and that they should assist each other in combating it. There is no such strategic clarity today.

Obviously, there is a certain degree of Sino-American consensus on the need to fight terrorism. But Bush has yet to clarify the strategy that lies behind his war against terrorism. Until he does, Chinese caution will limit the degree of Sino-American cooperation on this issue.

Clearly, China focuses primarily on the terrorists it sees within China itself. Bush has already made it plain that prosecuting the war against terrorism cannot be an excuse for per-

secuting minorities, though he did not repeat this thought during the visit.

In 1972, China and the U.S. shared a common sense of weakness. Nixon and Kissinger sought to extricate the U.S. from the unwinnable war in Vietnam and, somewhat naively, they sought Chinese help in this process. Also naively, the Americans sought de facto alliance with Beijing in the belief that Chinese power was needed to tilt the overall balance of power against Moscow.

Realistically, Mao Zedong and Chou Enlai fully realised just how weak China was both internally and militarily, and knew that they desperately needed the image of an alliance with the Americans to keep the Soviet Union in check.

In this, Mao and Chou were more right than they probably knew. If Nixon's overtures had been rebuffed by Beijing, the U.S. might have listened to Leonid Brezhnev's pleas for joint Soviet-American action against China during the early 1970s. Today, by contrast, China and the United States are both wary about each other's strengths. China is guarded, as the Bush administration acts on the assumption that it has just won a war in Afghanistan, and appears willing to involve itself in more wars against the "axis of evil."

The strengthened U.S.-Japan alliance, the re-deployment of U.S. troops in the Philippines, increased American arms sales to Taiwan, the rapid improvement of both U.S.-India and U.S.-Pakistan ties, the setting up of American military bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and now the rapid rise in U.S. military expenditure—all these and other moves are bound to arouse traditional Chinese fears of encirclement by the lone superpower.

Conversely, myth and fact continue to blur the American view of Chinese reality. China is so often talked about as a rising economic and military power that the U.S. is more suspicious of Chinese clout and intentions than it probably needs to be.

In 1972, Nixon and Kissinger could seek to improve ties with complete disregard for the internal situation within China. China had yet to fully emerge from the horrors of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, yet this traumatic event was barely mentioned in their memoirs.

Conversely, no American leader today can completely disregard China's internal situation if Sino-American relations are to improve—least of all a politician like Bush with strong political roots in the U.S. "Bible belt."

Bush knows only too well that, given China's repressive policies, strong U.S. religious sentiments are cast a negative influence on Sino-American relations. More Chinese Christians were evidently arrested during the visit. Last, but not least, Nixon did nothing himself during his trip to assuage regional anxieties over his China opening, though top-level emissaries were sent to all allied capitals afterwards.

In contrast, this current visit assuaged regional sensitivities. Bush made up for the protracted China-only visit which President Bill Clinton made in 1998, at Beijing's urging, by himself spending more time in Japan and South Korea.

If Nixon had done that in 1972, Mao and Chou would have been miffed. In 2002, rather than complaining, Jiang was more concerned to establish some degree of normalcy in Sino-American relations.

End religious persecution: Bush

Reuters

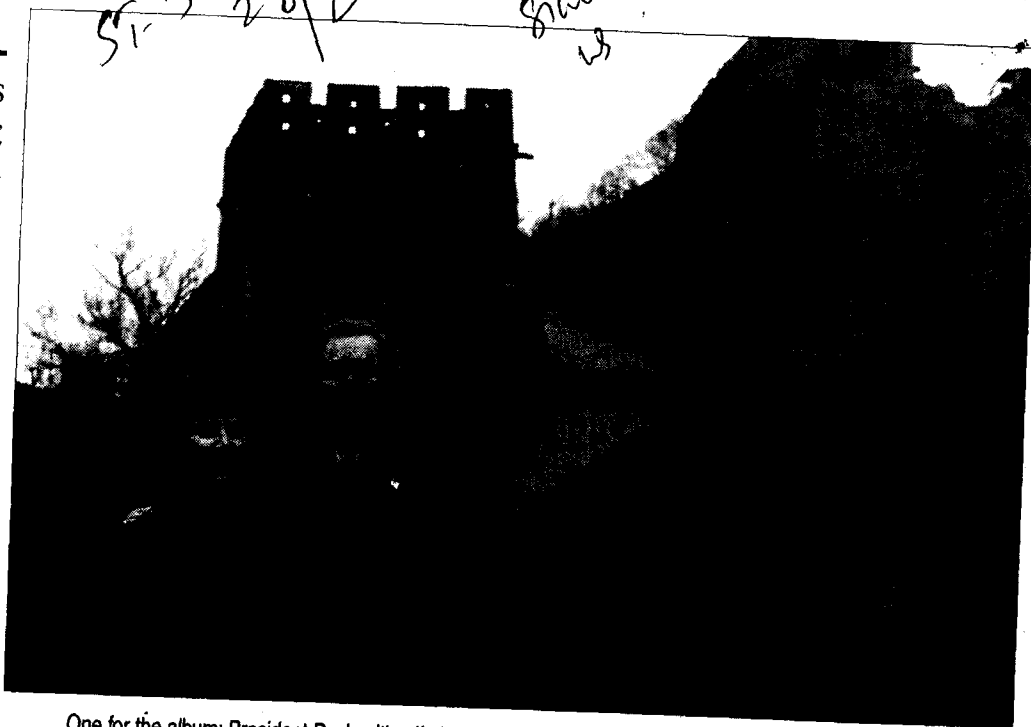
BEIJING, Feb. 22. — The US President, Mr George W Bush, today argued here that liberty does not bring chaos and said that he prayed Beijing would end religious persecution, in a nationally televised speech that held up the US system as a model for China.

In an address that alluded to his own powerful sense of religious faith, the US President urged China to expand the personal and political freedoms, to tolerate diversity and dissent, and finally to respect the rule of law.

"Life in America shows that liberty, paired with law, is not to be feared," Mr Bush said in a speech delivered today at Beijing's Tsinghua University, one of the country's premier technical and engineering institutions.

"In a free society, debate is not strife. And disorder is not revolution," he said, addressing the long-standing Chinese argument that greater political and personal freedoms could bring chaos in a nation of more than one billion people.

In a strategy used by many former US Presidents, Mr Bush extolled the US system rather than explicitly criticising China's political system and human



One for the album: President Bush with wife Laura in front of the Great Wall of China on Friday. — AP/PTI

rights record and he suggested that many Chinese have a "misleading and harmful" view of America.

"Change is coming," he said. "China already has secret ballot and competitive elections at the local level. Nearly 20 years ago, Deng Xiaoping said China would eventually expand democratic elections all the way to the na-

tional level — and I look forward to that day."

In a rare and unscripted moment of candour during a news conference with the US President yesterday, Mr Jiang said he had read the Bible, the Koran and Buddhist scriptures despite being a non-believer.

The Chinese leader also brushed aside questions about

why Beijing had imprisoned more than 50 Roman Catholic bishops, saying China protected such freedoms in its constitution but those who broke the law must be punished.

"Although, I'm the President of this country, I have no right interfering in the judicial affairs because of judicial independence," the Chinese leader said.

USA supports one-China policy

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, Feb. 22. — The US President, Mr George W Bush, today assured Beijing that he supported its "One-China" policy under which Taiwan is considered as a part of China.

Emphasising that both China and Taiwan should avoid provocation, Mr Bush said, "I have reiterated my support for the policy. It's been my government's stand for a long time and we haven't changed it."

"We believe in the peaceful settlement of this issue. We will urge that there be no provocation. The US will continue to support the Taiwan Relations Act," the US President told students at China's prestigious Qinghua University on the last day of his visit to the Communist country.

"The US observes the One-China policy and hopes for a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question. Such a stand is consistent and will not change," he said," Mr Bush affirmed.

In a bid to overcome differences over Taiwan and non-proliferation issues, the Chinese leaders, including the President Mr Jiang Zemin, today once again met visiting the US President for last-minute hectic parleys.

The Chinese Vice President, Mr Hu Jintao, who is widely expected to become the next President of the world's most populous country, also had a meeting with the US President. Prior to the meeting, the Chinese Premier Mr Zhu Rongji had a meeting with the Mr Bush.

When silence raises a storm

Oliver August, The Times, London

BEIJING, Feb. 22. — China's President yesterday gave a baffling performance in front of hundreds of journalists that made his often tongue-tied American counterpart look eloquent by comparison.

President Mr Jiang Zemin stood in front of the assembled foreign and local journalists, whom he had formally invited to Beijing's Great Hall of the People for a "joint meeting" with US President Mr George Bush, and refused to answer all their questions.

Seeking guidance from his press secretary, Mr Jiang simply pretended, live on national

television, that he had not heard two separate questions about imprisoned Catholic bishops and religious freedom.

Chinese audiences, whether journalists, party members or peasants, are never allowed to ask the President a spontaneous question. Everything is screened and vetted.

So when Mr Jiang came face-to-face with the White House press, he only answered questions posed by reporters of the loyal Chinese state media. While Mr Bush improvised, Mr Jiang read out his scripted answers. The audience laughed and snorted — sheer heresy in the pantheon of Chinese communism.

Some 25 minutes after Mr Jiang had ignored questions from non-Chinese journalists, he changed tack, seemingly aware of the

consternation he had caused. He turned to Mr Bush and said in English: "You are much better at this."

Shortly before Mr Jiang finally addressed the question of religious freedom, the television lights in the Hall dimmed. Kremlinologists wondered whether the live transmission on Chinese state television had been cut, allowing Mr Jiang to answer the question without losing face in front of a domestic audience.

Last night, staff at the China Central Television insisted the transmission had not been cut. Asked when they would next have the chance to show a Jiang press conference live, they refused to answer. Just like their President.

THE STATESMAN

Bush, Jiang fail to clinch arms deal

Beijing, February 21

US PRESIDENT George W Bush visited China on Thursday, exactly 30 years after a landmark bridge-building trip by former President Richard Nixon and urged it to "strongly oppose" arms proliferation. But the two sides failed to secure an early deal on the spread of weapons technology and Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said talks on the matter would take time.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin, asked about how best to proceed on Iraq, urged Washington to be patient in its war on terrorism. Bush, visiting China for the second time in four months, is on the final leg of a three-nation tour that has taken him to Japan and South Korea.

"My Government hopes that China will strongly oppose the proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies," Bush told a joint news conference after talks with Jiang on the first day of his visit.

The United States has accused China of transferring weapons technology to North Korea and Iran, nations Bush has labeled with Iraq an "axis of evil" seeking to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Rice said she did not expect a deal to be reached during Bush's



REUTERS PHOTO

US President George W Bush pauses during a news conference with Chinese President Jiang Zemin at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday.

current visit to China, which denies the US charges. "The talks are getting a little bit better but it's going to take a while," Rice told reporters. Bush invited Jiang and his heir apparent and vice president, Hu Jintao, to visit the

United States — invitations that both accepted.

Bush said there had been no change in Washington's policy towards Taiwan, which China claims as a renegade province, and he said the people of China

should be free to choose how they live and worship.

"China's future is for the Chinese people to decide, yet no nation is exempt from the demands of human dignity," he said. "All the world's people, including the

people of China, should be free to choose how they live, how they worship, and how they work."

Bush, arriving from South Korea where he expressed support for President Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine policy" of reconciliation with North Korea, said the US was willing to meet the Government of the North's leader, Kim Jong-il.

'US, China for Korea unity'

The New York Times reports that Bush and Jiang said today that they would work together on reunification of North and South Korea, and that peace in the region was crucial to both them and the world. "We would be willing to meet with the North Korean regime, and I asked his help in conveying that message," Bush said, with Jiang at his side. "If he speaks to the leader of North Korea, he can assure him I am sincere in my desire to have our folks meet."

Bush met Jiang at the Great Hall of the People, a vast concrete and marble Stalinist building overlooking Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing. The two leaders entered the hall walking side by side along a red carpet. A military band in green uniforms played the US and Chinese national anthems.

Reuters & The New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Bush visit to China is a damp squib

By Harvey Stockwin
Times News Network

HONG KONG: The first major event of President George W. Bush's visit to China, on the 30th anniversary of President Richard Nixon's trail-blazing visit in 1972, was a big disappointment.



It was a joint press conference by Mr Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, which, by prior agreement, was to be broadcast live nationwide. But after the two Presidents had read their prepared texts, which mainly consisted of what Henry Kissinger used to refer to as "standard boiler plate", there was only time for a few questions.

In their prepared texts, they talked about a whole range of

issues which had been discussed at the summit. But since the summit itself lasted less than two hours, and would have been in any case halved by the need for mutual interpretation, obviously the "frank" and "candid" and "in-depth" discussions to which they referred had taken place between officials, well before the two Presidents met on Thursday. In this regard, it was probably of significance that

NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, who had not been sighted during the Mr Bush visits to Tokyo and Seoul, suddenly reappeared in the Mr Bush entourage.

At first, Mr Jiang completely ignored two tough questions tossed in his direction by two U.S. journalists, concerning China's arrest of 50 Catholic bishops, and Beijing's attitude towards Iraq being an objective of the U.S. war against terrorism.

But the Chinese political system seldom requires leaders to be publicly spontaneous. So Mr Jiang preferred to give detailed but pro forma answers to two questions from Chinese correspondents. The Chinese journalists read their prepared questions and Mr Jiang read his prepared answers. However, at the end of the press conference, Mr Jiang apologised in English for not

being as experienced as Mr Bush in dealing with the press and at least tried to answer those two questions, but with routine and evasive answers.

One revelation of regional importance did emerge from both Presidents. Mr Bush said that Mr Jiang had told him that when North Korean leader Kim Jong IL visited Beijing last year, Mr Jiang urged Mr Kim to respond to the initiatives of South Korean President Kim Dae Jung, urging

greater North-South dialogue.

Mr Jiang later added his belief that the two Koreas should compose their differences by dialogue, and that North Korea should do the same with the United States. Jiang thus neatly echoed the calls for dialogue and negotiation made by Mr Bush and Mr Kim Dae Jung on Wednesday in Seoul. Whether Mr Kim Jong IL will take any notice remains to be seen.

Mr Bush also made an interesting comment when he urged China to be a "force for peace" in "the Korean peninsula, Southeast Asia and South Asia". But he only indicated what he precisely meant by that in relation to Korea.

On the vexed issue of Taiwan the only "progress" was that both Mr Bush and Mr Jiang spoke of the need for a peaceful solution. Both appeared to modulate their respective positions so as not to accentuate continuing conflict.

BUSH IN CHINA / DIFFERENCES DOWNPLAYED

5/10/02
HD-14
22/2

'U.S. will adhere to One China policy'

BEIJING, FEB. 21. China and the U.S. today downplayed their differences on the Taiwan issue even as the U.S. President, George W. Bush, asked Beijing to help stop proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies.

"My Government hopes China will strongly oppose the proliferation of missiles and other deadly technologies," Mr. Bush said at a joint press conference with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, after their closed-door meeting. Touching on Taiwan, Mr. Bush stressed the need for a "peaceful settlement" to the issue and said the U.S. will adhere to the "One China" policy.

Mr. Jiang said, "To properly handle the Taiwan question is vital to the stability and growth of China-U.S. relations. In my meeting with President Bush, I have elaborated on the Chinese Government's basic position of peaceful reunification and the "one country, two systems" for the solution of the Taiwan question..."

Mr. Bush's visit to China on the last leg of his Asia tour comes exactly 30 years to the day after the landmark visit of the former President, Richard Nixon.

Mr. Bush praised Mr. Jiang for his assistance in fighting terror and thanked him for his "strong support" in the war. "We recognise that terrorism is a threat to both our countries and I welcome China's co-operation in the fight against terror-



The U.S. President, George W. Bush (left), with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, during an official welcome ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Thursday. — AP

ism," he said. U.S.-China relations are "mature" and "important" to the world, he said.

Describing Sino-U.S. dialogue as "candid", Mr. Jiang said his discussions with Mr. Bush achieved "positive" results on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern.

"In our talks today, President Bush and I reviewed 30 years of Sino-U.S. relations and had in-depth discussions on bilateral relations and the current international situation," Mr. Jiang said.

"We agreed to step up con-

sultations and co-operation in this regard on a two-way and mutually beneficial basis, and reinforce medium-and long-term mechanisms for anti-terror exchanges and cooperation between the two countries," he said.

"We have reached consensus on many important issues and achieved positive results in many areas," he said.

Mr. Jiang tried to side-step questions on the thorny issue of religious freedom at the press conference but when they persisted he said everyone should

abide by China's laws and faith in a religion was not going to exempt them from legal action.

"Whatever religion people believe in, they have to abide by the law, so some of the law-breakers were detained because they violated laws not because of their religious belief." — PTI

Taiwan pleased

AFP reports from Taipei:

The Taiwan Foreign Minister, Eugene Chien, today hailed Mr. Bush for not trading away the island's interests to Beijing.

Mr. Chien said the closed-door meeting between Mr. Bush and Mr. Zemin suggested there remained differences to be tackled. As to the Taiwan issue, Mr. Chien said: "The press conference showed the result of the discussions entirely match our forecast..." Mr. Chien voiced his gratitude to Mr. Bush for "having honoured his commitment" he pledged to Taipei before his Asian trip, which also took him to Japan and South Korea.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman had said ahead of Mr. Bush's departure for Asia that Washington had assured Taipei its interests would not be harmed. Taiwan's Foreign Ministry has set up an ad hoc group to monitor the trip around-the-clock and report to the President, Chen Shui-bian. Taipei's de facto Embassy in Washington has been given a similar task. Mr. Chien said he also hoped "Washington will continue to enhance its ties with Taipei while seeking to mend fences with Beijing."

THE HINDU
22 FEB 2002

US, China to counter terrorism jointly

Press Trust of India

SI-3 20/2

BEIJING, Feb. 19. — The United States and China would enhance cooperation in areas like anti-terrorism and non-proliferation during the upcoming visit of US President George W Bush to Beijing, US ambassador to China Mr Clark T Randt said. He said that after the 11 September attacks, counter-terrorism has become an example of how the USA and China can work together.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is another area where the two nations can cooperate, he said, adding both nations have realised stopping the spread of WMD is more important than ever in the face of evidence that terrorists are actively seeking to acquire such weapons.

“Undoubtedly, President Bush means by this visit to build on the momentum that began with his meeting with Mr Zemin in Shanghai (during the APEC summit),” he said.

The visit, the second by Mr Bush in two months to China, will be “another important milestone” in building the cooperative and constructive relationship between the USA and China, Mr Randt said noting the visit will coincidentally take place on the same day as former President Richard Nixon’s historical “ice-breaking” visit 30 years ago.

Brief terms for Speight aides

Reuters

SUVA, Feb. 19. — Ten rebels who helped coup leader George Speight overthrow Fiji’s first ethnic Indian-led government, were today jailed for 18 months to three years after treason charges were dropped for lesser kidnap charges.

Speight was sentenced to death on Monday after pleading guilty to treason for the racially-inspired 2000 coup, but his sentence was within hours commuted to life in prison.

“I want to be through with all of this today,” said high court judge Mr Michael Scott in passing the sentence on the 10 rebels.

Jimmy Speight, who stood by his brother armed with a machine gun during the coup, received three years jail, but other rebels received only 18 months in prison.

Two remaining rebels, who still face treason charges which carry a mandatory death sentence, have yet to enter a plea but lawyers involved in the case expect their charges to be reduced.

Speight and his armed men stormed the parliament on 19 May, 2000, and overthrew then Prime Minister Mr Mahendra Chaudhry, claiming ethnic Indians were undermining indigenous rights.

THE STATESMAN

20 FEB 2002

China for limited US arms sale to Taiwan

Reuters *Shanghai US 19/2*

BEIJING, Feb. 18. — When US President Mr George W. Bush flies into Beijing on Thursday, he is expected to demand China's leaders curb transfers of weapons technology to the nations he has branded "rogue states" sponsoring terrorism, especially Iran and North Korea.

China is willing to take limited steps to control transfers of military technology, such as issuing a list of "dual use" materials not to be exported, but is looking for US concessions in return, analysts said.

China wants the USA to curb arms sales to Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a rebel province, and to lift sanctions on Chinese entities accused of breaking non-proliferation pacts. "China is certainly under greater pressure to meet US demands on proliferation since the "axis of evil" speech," said one Western diplomat.

Even before the 11 September attacks on New York and Washington, US officials had highlighted weapons proliferation as their number one priority in relations with China.

On 1 September, Washington slapped sanctions on a Chinese firm it accused of transferring missile technology to Pakistan in violation of a November 2000 agreement with the United States.

Mr Bush's "axis of evil" speech has now thrown a spotlight on China's military ties with Iraq, Iran and old Communist ally North Korea.

THE STATESMAN

19 FEB 2002

57-3
189/2

China to match US N-technology

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WS

Oliver August,
The Times, London

BEIJING, Feb. 12. — Chinese scientists are close to a breakthrough in rocket technology that would allow Beijing to overcome the USA's proposed antimissile shield, American military analysts say.

The topic is expected to be discussed during US President Mr George W Bush's visit to Beijing next week.

The People's Liberation Army is believed to be in the final stages of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile with multiple warheads, matching Russian, American and British nuclear technology. A Washing-

ton analyst said: "It looks like the Chinese are much further (ahead) than we originally thought."

China's most advanced missiles have a range in excess of 8,000 miles, which puts them within striking distance of the USA. Chinese scientists are working on equipping these missiles with multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles (Mirvs), meaning the warhead can separate into more than a dozen individual weapons in space.

At present China has around 20 long-range missiles, a number experts say would allow the American shield to protect against the Chinese arsenal. The USA aims to be able to guard

against attacks by rogue states employing up to 24 missiles.

If Beijing upgraded all its missiles with multiple warheads, the analyst said, "it could easily overwhelm the shield. That would change the balance of power in Asia."

Beijing is said to have stepped up Mirv tests in recent weeks. Earlier this month the Japanese media reported a test flight, during which a Chinese missile completed the first half of its trajectory before disintegrating upon the deployment of the separate warheads.

It was a Dongfeng-31, with a range of more than 5,000 miles. China is also said to be preparing for a test of its naval version.

THE STATESMAN

THE STATESMAN

Mind your language: China tells Bush

China Daily/ANN *4/6*

BEIJING, Jan. 31. — China Thursday expresses disagreement with the comments by US President Mr George W Bush in his State of the Union speech which defined Iraq, Iran and Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the "axis of evil".

(Mr Bush today renewed his warning to Iran, Iraq and North Korea — which he has called an "axis of evil" — not to acquire

11/2
weapons of mass destruction, and urged the rest of the world to back his stand, adds AFP from Daytona Beach, USA.)

"The Chinese side is not in favour of using such terms in international relations," foreign ministry spokesman Mr Kong Quan said. "We always advocate ... the principle of equality of all countries when dealing in state-to-state relations, otherwise it can only undermine the atmosphere for seeking resolution and harm

George W
the maintenance of world peace and stability," he said.

Mr Kong welcomed another part of Bush's speech which focused on strengthening China-US cooperation.

In Tehran, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei branded US President Mr George W Bush "thirsty for human blood" today.

Editorial: Up the wrong tree?
Page 4

Hamas men killed

GAZA, Jan. 31. — Israeli forces today killed two Hamas gunmen after they ambushed a convoy in southern Gaza Strip. No one in the convoy was hurt.

Shortly after, two mortar shells hit a Gush Katif settlement, injuring one Israeli.

In another incident, Hizbollah guerrillas fired anti-aircraft guns at Israeli jets over south Lebanon. There were ~~no~~ reports of injuries and it was not clear whether they were fired from the air or ground. — Reuters

THE STATESMAN

Washington slaps sanctions on Chinese firms

Agencies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24. — The USA today slapped sanctions on three Chinese entities for violating US regulations restricting the transfer of weapons and related technology to Iran.

In a notice, the state department said restrictions had been placed on the Liyang Chemical Equipment company, the China Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company, Q.C. Chen and their subsidiaries for "engaging in activities that require the imposition of measures pursuant to section 3 of the Iran Nonproliferation Act 2000" which prohibits the sale of chemical and biological weapons components as well as missiles and missile technology.

Meanwhile, the USA today intensified pressure on nations aiding the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, insisting they be held accountable for violating international commitments.

THE STATESMAN

25 JAN 2002

China tight-lipped on bugging

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WB

HD-12
2/1

BEIJING, JAN. 20. China today remained silent about reports that a refitted Boeing 767 intended for the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, was bugged, as the Vice-President, Hu Jintao, told a delegation of former U.S. Ambassadors and academics that Beijing wants good ties with Washington.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official told AFP the Ministry did not have a response to the reports by *The Financial Times* and *The Washington Post* this weekend that Chinese intelligence officers found 27 spying devices hidden in a U.S.-built Boeing 767 intended to become Mr. Jiang's official plane.



The website "renminwan" of the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece *People's Daily*, instead, carried a less important story citing a *Washington Times* report on Friday that a U.S. spy plane came very close — within 150 meters — to a Chinese military aircraft off the east China coast on January 7.

Meeting the delegation of the former U.S. Ambassadors and professors from Harvard University yesterday, Mr. Hu said Sino-U.S. relations "now have opportunities for further development," the official Xinhua news agency said, with no mention of whether Mr. Hu discussed the bugging of the plane with the visitors.

Chinese security forces have launched an investigation into possible negligence within China United Airlines. — AFP

ALLAYING FEARS?: The U.S. President, George W. Bush (right), and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, greet each other in Shanghai in this October 21, 2001 file photograph— Reuters

SECRET

Plane incident won't derail Bush-Jiang meet: Powell

Reuters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. — The discovery of spying devices embedded in Chinese President, Mr Jiang Zemin's US-made jetliner has not derailed the American President, Mr George W. Bush's planned trip to China next month, the US secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell said today.

Gen Powell, answering questions on the reports that some 27 listening devices were discovered last autumn on the Boeing 767, said he hadn't had discussions with his Chinese counterparts on such an issue and declined further comment on the "so-called matter".

"We simply don't comment on these sorts of matters. In my discussions with Chinese leaders, this has never been raised," he told the *Fox News* today.

"So we're looking forward to

that trip, and I don't expect anything to derail that trip," he said in a reference to the next month's planned summit between the US President and his Chinese counterpart in Beijing.

The *Washington Post* yesterday said that the listening devices, were apparently embedded while the plane was being refitted in the USA.

The devices were found in the Presidential bathroom and the headboard of the Presidential bed, among other places.

In a separate report, London's *Financial Times* reported that the sophisticated, tiny, satellite-operated devices were detected by the Chinese officials, a little after the plane emitted a strange static whine during its test flights in China in September, shortly after it arrived from America after the refitting.

The US defence secretary, Mr

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Donald Rumsfeld, said in an interview with the NBC's 'Meet the Press', that he had no knowledge of the devices in the plane.

He added: "I doubt it (will have problems on the summit). We have two big countries and there are lots of interests in common and I suspect that life goes on".

The Michigan Democrat, Mr Carl Levin said that he had no information on the incident.

But the Democrat added that it was "foolish" if the intelligence agents indeed had embedded those permanent listening devices on the Chinese President's airplane.

"We run into trouble when we do that and it seems to me that it is not wise for us to do that unless they are an enemy, now that's different. Then you take certain risks you might otherwise (not) take," the US defence secretary told the CBS's *Face the Nation* programme.

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