

Vajpayee visits LoC of Nicosia

KAMLENDRA KANWAR
NICOSIA: OCTOBER 9

A N INTERESTING part of Prime Minister Vajpayee's Cyprus visit was a trip on Tuesday to the Green Line, a result of the near-slicing and freezing of the capital into two in 1974.

The Turkish Cypriots, who constitute 18 per cent of Cyprus' population, took away 37.5 per cent of the territory of Cyprus in the north following an invasion of the country by Turkey.

On Tuesday, the barbed fence that separates the two parts stood mute testimony to the divide between Cypriot Muslims and Greek Cypriot Christians.

The artificial dividing line runs 224 km and the two parts are separated by a UN-administered buffer zone whose width varies from 5 to 10 km.

payee's special plane landed, is in the UN-administered zone.

The so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was initially formed with 120,000 Turkish Cypriots.

With a third of them later migrating to other lands, today the territory has about 80,000 Turkish Cypriots, another 35,000 Turkish troops and significantly, about 120,000 Turks.

In Nicosia, the partition of the city led to a situation where localities and houses were sliced into two.

At the Ledra Palace check-point there is a memorial to a Greek Cypriot woman whose village was heavily bombed by the Turks in 1974 and who sheltered 12 Greek Cypriot soldiers at grave risk to herself secretly for a month before the soldiers were captured.

Since the UN put its foot down, the soldiers were later released.



The PM with Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides and the First Lady at a banquet in Nicosia on Tuesday. PTI

The area is policed by a 1,200-strong UN Peace Keeping Force which has been in existence since 1964. Its mandate is renewed every six months through resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Three Indian generals, General Thimayya, Gen Prem Chand and Gen Gi-mayya, headed the force in its early days. The Cypriots recall with great nostalgia that it was General Prem Chand of India who prevented the country's airport from falling into the hands of the invaders. Today, the airport, where Vaj-

10 OCT 1998

10 OCT 1998

India, Cyprus find a common foe

9/10
Nilova Roy Chaudhury
in Nicosia 6/1-4

Oct. 8. — India and Cyprus have a very important thing in common. Both have serious problems with Pakistan. India's bone of contention with Pakistan is the Kashmir issue. For Cyprus, Pakistan is the only country to recognise and support the Turkish occupation of the northern part of the island nation, which still continues. Also, it has sponsored resolutions through the Organisation of Islamic Conference commending Turkey's occupation, for which Cyprus is extremely sore.

As foreign secretary Mr Kanwal Sibal said, Pakistan has a history of supporting dubious regimes, including the Taliban. Talks between Cyprus President Mr Glafcos Clerides and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee were characterised by "extreme



Cyprus President Mr Clerides and Mr Vajpayee take the guard of honour in Nicosia on Tuesday. — AFP

warmth and cordiality".

Mr Sibal said: "There was full and unstinted support from Cyprus on every issue" of concern to India. With Cyprus set to join the European Union in 2004, this support carries weight. The EU has been critical of many of India's actions, in-

cluding the Pokhran blasts in 1998 and the Gujarat riots earlier this year.

At the banquet hosted by the Cprus President, the Prime Minister said: "We appreciate the consistent support of Cyprus on issues of vital concern to India." Cyprus staunchly advocates

India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and has supported the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism sponsored by it in the UN. Commending the support of "a time-tested ally", Mr Vajpayee said: "We know Cyprus will support us."

▲ 9 OCT 2002

THE STATESMAN

Cyprus backs India for UN seat

KAMLENDRA KANWAR
NICOSIA, OCTOBER 8

CYPRUS today pledged full support to India's quest for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council while India reciprocated with support for Cyprus' inclusion in the European Union.

The statements read out by PM Vajpayee and Cyprus President Clerides after talks between the two leaders on the second day of Vajpayee's trip, however, made no mention of Kashmir or Pakistani cross-border terrorism.

The two leaders also did not field any questions from the press. Asked why Pakistan's support for terrorism was not mentioned,

Foreign Secretary Karwal Sibal said that Cyprus had unreservedly supported India's stand on Kashmir in the talks. He said it was the view of both leaders that religion could not be used to justify armed attacks.

Sibal reminded journalists that Pakistan was the only country to have recognised the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983.



PM Vajpayee being welcomed by a girl from the Indian community in Cyprus on Monday. PTI photo

Shourie and is designed to send out a signal to those arrayed against investment.

On Iraq both India and Cyprus

Consequently, there is little love lost between Cyprus and Pakistan.

In his statement earlier Vajpayee had reiterated India's support for the sovereignty, integrity and unity of Cyprus and had hoped that the issue would be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Cyprus and as provided for in the UN resolutions.

Clerides said Cyprus was beholden to India for the support it has been extending against occupation of the country's territory by Turkish Cypriots.

The two countries signed a MOU on IT and services and cooperation in Science and Technology. Also signed were agreements on cooperation in posts and electronic communication, on public health and medical sciences and on cultural, educational and scientific cooperation. The agreements were signed by Union Disinvestment Minister Arun Shourie.

The fact that no other minister has accompanied Vajpayee to Cyprus (the External Affairs Minister will join them in Copenhagen) is a reflection of his

is resolutions and that if Iraq complied, sanctions against it must be lifted. A book containing Greek translations of a selection of Vajpayee's also released.

202 130 5

India-Mauritius MoU in postal, telecom sectors

Business Standard

NEW DELHI, Sept. 30. —India and Mauritius have identified key deliverables in the field of telecom and postal sectors by institutionalising a framework for co-operation.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed in Port Louis, Mauritius between Mr Pramod Mahajan, communications and information technology minister and Mr Deelchand Jeeha, information technology and telecommunications minister, the government of Mauritius.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Mahajan gave an insight into the recent initiatives of the Indian postal department.

He said the effort of the government would be to make post offices a hub for providing the tools that would facilitate the working of the community in the field of information technology, telecom, banking and insurance services.

The Mauritian IT minister said the MoU was important for the future transformation of Mauritius into a cyber island.

He said Mauritius was keen to share the experi-

ences of the Indian postal services in the areas of life insurance, computerisation and softwares for multi-purpose value-added products and services. He said the MoU would pave way for convergence to actually happen in Mauritius.

One of the key features of the MoU is that the India Post will work together with the Mauritius Post for the introduction of 'Meghdoot 98' in Mauritius.

Mauritius had expressed interest in 'Meghdoot 98', developed by the India Post to computerise postal services.

Mauritius has also expressed desire to introduce postal life insurance in cooperation with the India Post, to which India has given its concurrence.

Under the MoU, both the countries have also agreed for strategic cooperation in the area of convergence of technologies in the telecom sector. Main thrust will be on exchange of information in the field of spectrum management and standardisation.

The MoU also outlines undertaking partnership projects and joint ventures in the Third World countries.

THE STATESMAN

1 OCT 2002

Cyprus talks end in deadlock

UNITED NATIONS: Talks sponsored by the United Nations aimed at resolving the 28-year conflict in Cyprus failed to achieve a breakthrough on Friday.



threatening to delay the European Union expansion scheduled for 2004. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, met Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders in Paris. After the talks, Mr Annan said he believed that "the gaps dividing the parties can be bridged". The European Union has set an end-of-year deadline for a decision on whether Cyprus

will be among up to 10 nations joining an expanded European Union in two years. Greece has said that if Cyprus is not included it will veto the entire expansion process. Turkey has countered that it will annex the north of the island if Cyprus is accepted in the E.U. before a peace deal is reached. (Picture shows the Greek Cypriot leader, Glafcos Clerides (left), shaking hands with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, in Paris on Friday. The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, is at the centre.)— ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

Crackdown on Papuan rebels

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 1. A "firefight" broke out today between Indonesia's security forces and local rebels in the country's far-eastern province of Papua (formerly Irian Jaya) following yesterday's terrorist attack that claimed the lives of two U.S. citizens as also an Indonesian national near the site of an American-managed gold-and-copper mine. It was stated authoritatively that at least one rebel was killed and a security officer wounded in today's "firefight".

While the details of yesterday's ambush-and-kill operation by some unidentified gunmen remained sketchy, today's encounter between the security personnel and suspected rebels of the Papua province, too, remained less than fully explained until nightfall. However,

er, yesterday's incident and today's sequel attracted unusual attention in the diplomatic and political circles in the region, mainly on account of the current international focus on South East Asia as a possible fallback sanctuary of the Al-Qaeda terrorist outfit. Indonesia has only recently renewed its pledge to "eliminate terrorism".

While a "faction" of the Papuan rebel group the separatist Free Papua Organisation (OPM in the native acronym) is believed to have been involved in today's "firefight" with the Indonesian security forces, a direct link between the outfit and yesterday's terrorist attack has not yet been established. There has so far been no evidence to indicate any opportunistic link between the OPM and the Al-Qaeda. The two have no known ideological affinity. The bottom

line is that the OPM has actually revolted against the mainly-Muslim Indonesian state on ethnic and religious considerations.

It is against this background that the new terrorist attack in Papua has raised questions about the possibility of a "proxy operation" on behalf of the Al-Qaeda, given that Americans and other Westerners were the victims.

On a separate but related plane, attention remained centred on a U.N. internal report that identified the banking systems of a few South East Asian countries as the possible repository of the Al-Qaeda's clandestine funds.

Indonesia is not directly mentioned in the reports from the U.N. headquarters on the world body's internal document.

China forges ties with Taiwan's ally Nauru

Beijing: In the on-going diplomatic ding-dong between Beijing and Taipei, China on Sunday wrested Taiwan's ally Nauru by forging full-fledged ties with the world's smallest independent republic.

The joint communique to establish diplomatic relations between China and the tiny Pacific island state was signed in Hong Kong by Chinese assistant foreign minister Zhou Wenzhong and Nauru President Rene Harris, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Stating that Nauru has severed its diplomatic relations with Taiwan, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan said normalisation of relations between

China and Nauru conforms to the fundamental interests of the people of the two countries.

Commenting on the diplomatic victory, he said it would open up broad prospects for furthering friendly and cooperative ties of mutual benefit between China and Nauru. "Both China and Nauru are developing countries and they share identical points in many fields," Mr Kong said.

Meanwhile, Taiwan accused China of using "dollar diplomacy" to persuade Nauru to switch diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing and claimed the decision was not fully supported in the tiny Pacific nation. PH

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 JUL 2002