

## Advani's no scr to Pak invitation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

GHAZIABAD/NEW DELHI, March 9. — Reiterating India's stand that talks with Pakistan won't lead to easing of tension, Mr LK Advani today declined the offer of Pakistan's interior minister, Mr Meenuddin Haider, to visit the country to discuss bilateral issues. He said there was no scope for talks unless the 20 terrorists were handed over.

Addressing a gathering at the 33rd CISF Raising Day Parade at Indira Puram, Mr Advani said: "*Ab baat cheet ki zaroorat nahi hai, zameen par kaam ki zaroorat hai*" (Before resumption of bilateral talks, Pakistan has to take some hard decisions)."

The Karachi-born Union home minister said he cherished every moment of his first visit to Pakistan in 1978 and would love to go there again. "I'm grateful that the Pakistani government has invited me again. But India's experience with Pakistan has not been very satisfactory in last few years."

Attacking Pakistan's policy of supporting terrorism in India, he said: "Why should we talk to Pakistan when nothing will come out of it. The list of the most

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<sup>5/10/103</sup>  
wanted terrorists contains name of the accused who're directly involved in the Kandahar hijacking and Bombay blasts case... Interpol too has issued a red-corner notice against the accused. If they don't want the terrorists to be extradited to India then Pakistan, as a member country of the Interpol, is duty bound to follow the guidelines and hand over the terrorists to Interpol."

In the evening, Mr Advani addressed a meeting that kicked off the BJP's campaign for municipal elections in Delhi. He said: "What discussions can be held? There's no scope for discussions unless the 20 terrorists are handed over. Just hand them over."

He listed five pre-conditions that Pakistan must fulfil. It must hand over the terrorists and stop training of militants, arming the subversives, helping militants or their kith and kin financially and helping infiltration of ultras.

**Sushma's denial:** Mrs Sushma Swaraj today denied that Mr Haider had extended the invitation for Mr Advani when he met her, PTI adds from Islamabad.

**Pak offer:** Pakistan today offered to hold military-level talks with India for withdrawal of its troops from the border, to be followed by de-induction of Indian troops.

THE STATESMAN

## 'DEPLOYMENT OF OBSERVERS AN OPTION'

# Pak. offers accord to check misuse of territory

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 9. The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, has said that in the context of India's allegations of infiltration and cross-border terrorism, Islamabad was ready to ink an agreement with New Delhi not to allow its territory to be used for hostile activities.

In an interview here with two Indian correspondents including that of *The Hindu*, Mr. Sattar said, "we are prepared for an agreement that specifically says neither country would allow its soil to be used for terrorist activities against each other".

Mr. Sattar said the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, made a similar offer at Kathmandu, venue of the SAARC Summit in early



January this year, and it was for India to respond. The other way to deal with the problem was to agree on a "mechanism for deployment of observers".

In response to a specific question on why Pakistan was not willing to consider a proposal for unilateral pullout of its troops from the frontline positions on the border, Mr. Sattar said that if Islamabad did not take necessary precaution it would only increase the temptation for the other side.

At the same time, he said, Islamabad was willing to consider withdrawal of troops first if New Delhi was willing

**Ready for extradition treaty on prospective fugitives: Page 8**

to follow suit. "The details of such a withdrawal could be negotiated at the military level. The question of sending troops to their peacetime locations alternatively could be taken up".

Pakistan was not the first to move its troops to the border. Unlike India, it had not deployed its forces in full strength on the borders in view of its commitment to the U.S.-led coalition on the western border facing Afghanistan.

Mr. Sattar, who served twice as Pakistan's Ambassador in New Delhi, recalled his experience in the Eighties when he was deputed by Islamabad to negotiate disengagement and withdrawal of forces on the border to defuse the tension. "Where there is a will, there is a way. These things can be worked out".

The tension between the two countries could not abate till the forces were withdrawn and both sides began the process of dialogue to resolve all the outstanding issues. The whole effort of dialogue at Agra was to lay the foundation for a structured dialogue and, lamented that unfortunately, there could be no agreement.

## Advani turns down Pak. invitation

By Our Staff Reporter

GHAZIABAD, MARCH 9. The Union Home Minister, L. K. Advani, today turned down an invitation from his Pakistani counterpart, Moinuddin Haider, to visit Pakistan for discussing any issue, including the handing over of 20 terrorists sought by India, on the ground that there was "no need to talk" as it was time Islamabad demonstrated that it wanted to end cross-border terrorism.

Addressing the Raising Day Parade of the Central Industrial Security Force here, Mr. Advani said though he felt nostalgic about his birthplace, Karachi, the visit would not materialise as he believed that there was "no need to discuss the list of 20 terrorists."

Elaborating, he said "they (Pakistan) know about those

involved in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar and they know about those involved in the Mumbai serial blasts." India had "provided details on the well-known terrorists in the list, about whom the world also knows." There was an Interpol red-corner notice on most of these terrorists and India would like Pakistan to hand them over as it was also a member of the Interpol.

Referring to Lt. Gen. (retd.) Haider's invitation, Mr. Advani recalled that he had stayed in Karachi for 20 years. "I feel happy at being invited to my place of birth. In the past 50 years, I have visited it only once. That was in 1978 and I had felt really good visiting my old house, school and the lane in which I was brought up." But, "I can only thank them for the invitation."

GROUND SITUATION DOESN'T ALLOW REVIEW: SUSHMA

# Pak. ready to lift ban on Indian flights: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 7. The standoff between India and Pakistan dominated the second SAARC Information Ministers Conference here with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, making an announcement to immediately lift the ban on air links between the two countries, if India was prepared to reciprocate the gesture.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Sushma Swaraj, was caught unawares by Gen. Musharraf's offer and maintained that she was not authorised to respond either positively or negatively to the announcement.

Later, at a separate press conference with the Indian correspondents, Ms. Swaraj took exception to Gen. Musharraf raising bilateral issues at the SAARC forum and maintained that the SAARC charter did not permit a discussion of bilateral and contentious issues at its meetings. She said there was no change in the ground situation to warrant a review of India's "diplomatic sanctions".

The drama began with the Bangladesh Information Minister and chairman of the ministerial conference, Abdul Mayeen Khan, complaining at the inaugural session

about the long journey he and his entourage had to endure to reach Islamabad due to the ban imposed by India on Pakistani flights from using its airspace. In the course of his brief speech, he made a plea to Ms. Swaraj to lift the flight ban on her return to New Delhi.

Picking up the threads from where the Bangladesh Minister left, Gen. Musharraf began his speech with profuse apologies to all the SAARC Ministers for the detour they had to take to reach Pakistan and said he had suffered the same ordeal when he went to attend the SAARC summit at Kathmandu in the first week of January.

"Let me tell you, this is not my doing. I hope that when we meet the next time, it would be shorter and faster travel. I wanted to tell the Indian Information Minister that I am prepared to remove the barrier on flights right away if she has the authority to respond", he said.

Gen. Musharraf said there was need to expand the "restrictive scope" of the SAARC for the resolution of bilateral and all conflicts. His argument was that without resolution of the differences among the member-countries, there could be no harmony and progress. The greatest hurdle in the progress of the SAARC was in "antag-

onistic relations and disputes" among member-countries. "Is co-operation possible in the face of political disharmony?" he asked and answered in the negative. Quoting a Persian proverb "they met, they talked and dispersed" in support of his contention, he said that without resolution of the conflicts among the member-countries, the SAARC could not be expected to make real progress.

As soon as Gen. Musharraf ended his speech, a visiting Indian journalist got up to ask him if he was willing to take some questions. To the surprise of all those present, he came to the podium and said he was prepared as long as they were from the visiting journalists.

Asked what in his opinion was needed to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf said that both sides should withdraw their forces from the frontlines. "We are engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball situation. Both sides have the capability and so it is a dangerous situation".

Gen. Musharraf said the tension needed to be defused through an immediate understanding and Pakistan was open for any kind of dialogue. "Let India withdraw its forces, we would follow suit without any loss of time".

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# Musharraf rubs salt into Delhi wound

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FROM OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

**New Delhi, March 2:** The shadow of Gujarat today fell on India-Pakistan relations with a "distressed" Pervez Musharraf calling upon Delhi to strengthen security for minorities and said the flare-up highlighted the dangers posed by the politics of communalism.

The military ruler's statement came a few hours after Islamabad claimed that two high commission officials were beaten up by a mob and confined for several hours before being turned over to police.

India dismissed the charges as baseless. It accused the two of spying and said they were caught "red-handed" while receiving sensitive defence documents from an Indian contact, who, too, has been arrested.

In his statement, Musharraf termed the Godhra train carnage "deplorable" but said it could not be a licence for reprehensible brutalities and violence. He said the world could not afford to be biased in responding to extremism and combating the evil in whatever form it manifested and wherever it existed.

According to the Pakistani version, the two officials — Sultan Mahmood and Gulzari Abassi — left the high commission this afternoon for the New Delhi railway station to buy a ticket for an official who was to return home via Amritsar. Commission officials now travel by train to Amritsar before driving down to the Wagah border, following travel curbs.

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## Pak row

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The two were allegedly surrounded by a group of 15 to 20 people near the station and thrashed. Abassi, who contacted the high commission on his cell-phone before it was snatched away, reportedly said they had been surrounded by a mob.

In the evening, the high commission was informed that Mahmood and Abassi were arrested for espionage. They were later handed over to Pakistani officials after interrogation. Delhi has asked Islamabad to make arrangements to immediately take back the two officials.

Indian officials said the two were arrested while receiving sensitive documents on troop movement.

THE TELEGRAPH

3 MAR 2002

# Pak. criticises Narayanan's remarks

By B. Muraidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 26. In a sharp reaction to the observations made by the President, K.R. Narayanan, in his address to the joint session of Parliament on Monday, Pakistan rejected charges of cross-border terrorism.

In a statement here, a spokesman of the Pakistan foreign office said that contrary to the observations made by the President, Islamabad had taken a number of steps to defuse tension and pave the way for resumption of dialogue with India.

"We believe in peaceful resolution of all disputes, including Kashmir. We hope better sense would prevail on the Indian government".

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Rashid Qureshi, termed the speech as "unfortunate and disappointing". He charged the President with having spoken in an aggressive and hostile language. Maj. Gen. Qureshi said the BJP had conducted the just-concluded election by carrying out "baseless" propaganda against Pakistan. "But, it suffered a humiliating defeat. This proved that the people of India had rejected the hostile posture of the BJP leadership."

He said that the election outcome was clear indication of the desire of the people of India for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute and other issues with Pakistan. "But, it seems, the Indian leadership has not learnt any lesson from its defeat and rejected the sentiments of its own people."

On Mr. Narayanan's observations that dialogue and terrorism cannot go hand in hand, Maj. Gen. Qureshi said "Pakistan rejects these allegations with all force, at its command. Pakistan wants to make it clear that it would never deviate from its principled stand in its fight

against terrorism and curbing of extremism. No tactics of India would ever succeed in intimidating Pakistan".

He said the international community had already condemned the aggressive posture adopted by India, by advising New Delhi to enter into a dialogue with Pakistan, and desist from escalating tension or re-

sorting to any act of adventurism.

Maj. Gen. Qureshi said Pakistan would never hold talks on the terms dictated by India. Such conditions, he said, did not reflect India's sincerity; rather they carried New Delhi's vested interests.

The spokesman said, "In fact,

## India dismisses Pak criticism

NEW DELHI, FEB. 26. India today dismissed Pakistani criticism of the President, K.R. Narayanan's address to Parliament, saying it was trying to attribute meaning which "are not inherent at all in the position that we have expressed".

"Pakistan needs to address very squarely the centrality of the need to eliminate terrorism, no longer export terrorism to neighbouring countries and stop providing safe haven to terrorist groups and individuals operating from its soil," an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson told reporters.

"The President's statement was a very clear articulation of our position that Pakistan will have to take meaningful action to address our concerns relating to cross-border terrorism and infiltration before dialogue can be resumed," she said. — PTI

the expectations of the Indian people stand frustrated on the actions of the BJP leadership."

He said if the Indian Government was interested in the peace and stability of South Asia, the President would have advised his Government to withdraw its forces from the borders and immediately resume talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute.

In a separate statement, another government spokesman said Pakistan had already taken "a series of steps" to curb extremism and combat terrorism, and its bold resolve has already won acclaim internationally.

"It's amusing to hear from India that Pakistan has done nothing to warrant de-escalation at the border. Pakistan wants lessening of tension, but the ball is now in the Indian court," he said.

# Pak told to give details on Omar

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**Statesman News Service**

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19. — India today asked Pakistan to provide details of what Omar Sheikh had been confessing in police custody. A key suspect in the abduction of reporter Daniel Pearl, Omar is wanted in India for his alleged role in the attacks on J&K Assembly and Parliament.

Pakistan's deputy high commissioner, Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, was summoned to the foreign ministry and told that Islamabad should comply with New Delhi's request on the basis of "current international law and the widespread consensus to fight terror."

India is using every opportunity to press home the point that Pakistan needs to comply with the UN Security Council resolution 1373, which makes it mandatory for all member states to cooperate and "to afford the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or proceedings relating to terrorist acts, including assis-

tance in obtaining evidence in their possession," the foreign ministry spokesperson said.

Mr Jilani said he would convey India's request to his government, but pointed out that a

## 'Double agents'

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 19. — Pakistan has said Masood Azhar and Omar Sheikh are "double agents" who created problems for the country after they were released by India. "Sheikh and Azhar have been creating problems for Pakistan... which has benefited the country's enemies," the interior minister, Mr Moinuddin Haider, said. Daniel Pearl, he said, was still alive and was in Karachi. — PTI

Pakistan foreign office statement yesterday had refuted his claims.

Delhi police, however, rejected reports that Omar had masterminded the attack on Parliament. They felt this could be a ploy by the ISI to mislead the world into believing that no Pak-

istani agency, but a *jihadi* group was behind the attack.

Officers said the kidnapping of Pearl could have been planned by the ISI to prove that such acts were being carried out by individuals and that President Pervez Musharraf was trying his best to rein them in. An officer said: "Isn't it interesting that Omar was arrested just 12 hours before Gen Musharraf's visit to the USA."

Officers who had probed the Parliament attack said the four suspects arrested on the charge of being involved in the conspiracy didn't talk about Omar. Besides, jihadi groups always claim responsibility for their actions. "The Jaish claimed responsibility for the attack on the Srinagar Assembly. It's unlikely that Omar would have kept quiet for so long had he been involved in the attack on Parliament," an officer said. In 1994, when Omar had kidnapped four British nationals, he immediately claimed responsibility.

**FBI furious with ISI over Omar issue: page 2**

THE STATESMAN

20 FEB 2002

# Reasons for pessimism

It is in the nature of the Indian pro-nuclear bomb lobby that when one set of casual and superficial arguments in favour of the bomb falls flat, then another set of arguments in its favour is, with equal casualness, marshalled and put forward. After May 1998, there was a veritable flood of claims that regional stability would be enhanced by first India and then Pakistan going openly nuclear. The wondrous workings of nuclear deterrence would usher in not only greater nuclear security but would also reduce the likelihood of conventional military conflicts and tensions.

There were those in the anti-nuclear camp who pointed out that this was inverted logic. That militarization and nuclearization were the symptoms and expressions of political hostility and could not, by themselves, undo or decrease that hostility since they could never address the deeper causes sustaining those hostilities.

But their voices were simply ignored or dismissed. Three-and-a-half years down the line, who was right? Can anybody doubt or deny that relations between India and Pakistan are more embittered now than they have been in decades? That the presence of nuclear weapons, far from being the soothing balm they were purported to be, have simply added a new and dangerous layer of tension to a situation of abiding unease?

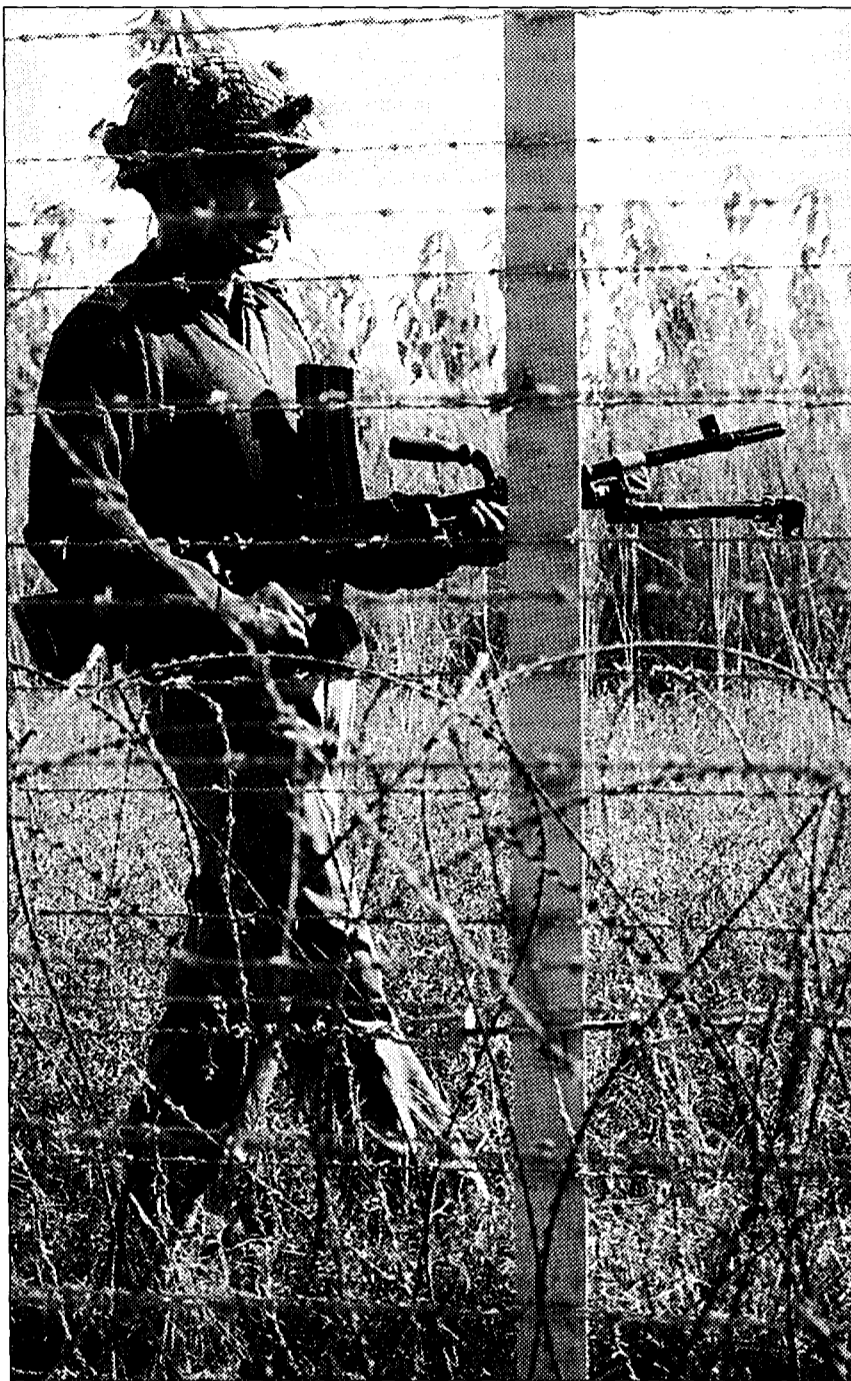
The easy way to explain away this deterioration in India-Pakistan relations is to assign all the blame to Pakistan — its perfidy, its abetment of terrorists, initiation of Kargil, and so on. But why then did the pro-bomb lobby in India claim such healing powers for the nuclearization of the region, a process which was initiated by India, not Pakistan?

But instead of admitting that they had it all wrong, this lobby has sought to provide new justifications. We are now told that the politics of nuclear brinkmanship, practised after December 13, 2001, has paid real dividends, showing how politically useful nuclear weapons can be. Yet, in May 1998 and for some time thereafter, our very same nuclear and strategic experts were telling us that, unlike during the Cold War, in south Asia there would be no danger of nuclear brinkmanship; that India, as a responsible nuclear power, would never dream of practising nuclear brinkmanship.

Drawing up a balance-sheet of the pluses and minuses of the politics of brinkmanship after December 13 is a more complicated affair than might appear at first. But attributing the "achievements" of such brinkmanship — like Pakistan's acknowledgement of its role in fomenting terrorist activities in Kashmir, its curtailment of terrorists' activities, Pervez Musharraf's historic speech of January 12, 2002 — to the brandishing of nuclear weapons is totally off the mark.

The simplest way to recognize the fallacy of this claim is to ask what would have happened if the United States of America had not been in the picture and pressurizing Pakistan after the events of September 11, 2001? Could India have then got what it wanted from

India and Pakistan must seek to resolve the Kashmir issue independent of the US and should stop trying to ally with it so desperately, writes Achin Vanaik



Testing times

Pakistan by threatening a war that might possibly escalate to a nuclear confrontation? The answer should be obvious — it would not.

Furthermore, could India have realistically defied the US and waged a conventional war, keeping as a bargaining counter the possibility of using its nuclear weapons? Again, the answer is obvious. There is no way that India could have launched a war, though in such situations there is always a danger of the dynamics of militarist confrontation getting out of hand.

The key factors then were not India's nuclear weapons or its so-called nuclear brinkmanship, but the US presence in Pakistan and the god-send provided by the

December 13 attack, following as it did in the wake of September 11.

If the US could behave as it did after the September 11 terrorist attack, then how could it justifiably oppose similar behaviour by India? It did so, nonetheless. But to compensate for this, the US conceded what it had earlier refused to — it pressurized Musharraf to finally blacklist those terrorist organizations

India had specified, and to take action against them domestically.

But can we now look forward more optimistically to a resolution of the Kashmir issue and thus a dramatic improvement in India-Pakistan relations? Far from it. After the May 1998 tests, the Kashmir issue, as a possible nu-

clear flashpoint, was automatically internationalized. Most Indian strategic experts, however, continued to insist that there would be no such internationalization, or that India would successfully resist such pressures.

Very soon however, a small minority of "experts" and commentators began, as expected, to argue that internationalization of the issue was now inevitable and that instead of opposing it, India should intervene to shape this "internationalization" in its favour. This minority has now seen its ranks swell. And this trend will continue because the fact of the matter is that there is now an irreversible change, especially after September 11 — Kashmir has become not so much internationalized as "Americanized".

The implications of this have still not fully sunk into our "strategic community" nor into the common sense of our elite. So anxious is a large majority of the Indian elite to forge an alliance with the US that it is desperate to convince itself that this will be mutually beneficial. Such an arrangement cannot ever be between equals, but one in which the US will call all the shots.

The language that our strategic experts use to cover up this reality or to make it more palatable is the utterly foolish, indeed laughable, claim that there is an ever closer "convergence of national interests" between the two countries. The US will not sacrifice Pakistan for India or vice versa, but will manipulate both for its own purposes.

This will become increasingly clear with regard to the Kashmir issue. The US security establishment will now proceed to develop a range of policy options and perspectives with regard to "settling" the Kashmir issue in ways that link it to its own distinctive geo-strategic perspectives in central Asia. That these might coincide with the hopes of the Indian or Pakistani establishments, or with the aspirations for a truly just solution held by the Kashmiri people on both sides of the border is, to put it mildly, extremely unlikely.

If there is to be a just resolution of the Kashmir issue and with it the advent of a stable and peaceful relationship between India and Pakistan, then four pre-conditions have to be fulfilled.

First, Pakistan has to move in a more secular and democratic direction. Here Musharraf has made a historic beginning but his success is very much in question. Second, the Indian elite, who are becoming increasingly communal and hawkish, must move steadily in the opposite direction. This would require the decisive defeat of the forces of *Hindutva*, which is far from visible.

Third, the governments of both India and Pakistan have to adopt a more creative approach to resolving the Kashmir issue. This requires recognizing that the people of Kashmir themselves have a say in the determination of their future. Again, there is no serious evidence of any such trend. Fourth, India and Pakistan must stop trying to "partner" the US against each other. That is, they must not only seek to resolve the Kashmir issue independent of the US, but should also stop trying so desperately to ally with it.

The reality, however, is the very opposite. There are more reasons then to be pessimistic than optimistic about the future of the region.

The author has recently co-authored the book, *South Asia on a Short Fuse: Politics and the Future of Global Disarmament*

After the May 1998 nuclear tests, the Kashmir issue was automatically internationalized, or rather "Americanized"



# Pak news report on Omar confirms findings: CBI

**Times News Network**  
NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday said that a report in a Pakistani newspaper on the confessions of terror suspect Sheikh Omar Saeed corroborated its own findings of his links with Aftab Ansari. The Pakistani daily *The News* had reported that Omar had confessed to his involvement in terrorist strikes in the Indian parliament, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly building in Srinagar and at the American Center in Kolkata.

CBI sources said that besides these findings, Ansari had also revealed that Omar enjoyed the protection of the Pakistani government and was close to top officials of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). CBI officials believe that Omar had hired several persons like Ansari in India, whom he was planning to use for future attacks.

A CBI official said with the kind and quantity of information Omar had about the ISI's involvement and on terrorist groups, he would have been elim-

inated by the ISI before he was taken into custody. But the U.S. authorities had stepped in after he had confessed his involvement in

by the Sindh police has, for the first time, provided concrete indications that extremist religious forces in Pakistan are gearing up to frustrate Islamabad's objective to free Pakistan from radical Islamic forces.

The Pearl kidnapping was carefully staged to launch a counter-offensive by extremist forces opposed to Gen Pervez Musharraf.

According to indications available, some of the recent terrorist attacks in India were aimed at provoking the Indian leadership into taking serious action against Pakistan, so that Gen Musharraf was forced to make conciliatory moves with radical Islamic forces at home.

The Pakistani daily said that during interrogations in Karachi and Lahore in the last week, Omar had spoken of his role in the Pearl kidnapping case and of the terrorist strikes in India, and provided specific details of his trip to

Afghanistan a few days after September 11 for a personal meeting with Osama bin Laden near Jalalabad.

## Report is baseless: Pak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday termed as fictitious and baseless the news report that the key suspect in U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl's kidnapping case, Sheikh Omar Saeed, had confessed his involvement in the suicide attacks on the Indian parliament, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly and the American Center in Kolkata.



Sheikh Omar

Commenting on the report in the Pakistani English daily, *The News*, foreign office spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan told mediapersons that the report should not be given any credence at all.

"If we get involved in denying and commenting on every speculative report that appears in the press, it becomes very difficult. Give credence only when a government spokesman tells you on record something about it," he said. (PTI)

the kidnapping of American reporter Daniel Pearl.

*The News* had reported that Omar's continuing interrogation

# Musharraf rules out handing over of 'fugitives'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 16. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has ruled out handing over the 20 'fugitives' wanted by India and said Pakistan would not give any face-saving device to enable India to withdraw its troops from the frontlines.

Addressing Pakistani correspondents just before leaving Washington, Gen. Musharraf said, "they have this list of 20 people now. I am not going to do their bidding. As for the withdrawal of troops from the borders, it is our own deterrence that they had come and they have realised that there is nothing they can do because of our strength". He also claimed that while the U.S. advocated the settlement of the Kashmir dispute bilaterally, 'behind the scenes' it was trying to facilitate a solution.

On the Indian troop mobilisation, he said that "they have to go back. They will have to create their own face-saving device. We cannot give it to them. They came of their own accord so they have to find a rationale for going back." He was of the view that after his decision on January 12 to ban the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, India should have withdrawn its troops from the border.

"We took action in our national interest and banned the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, the two organisations India was accusing of attacking its Parliament. After my January 12 speech, India should have withdrawn troops from our borders themselves. They did not. They have their political reasons too".

Gen. Musharraf said he was reasonably sure that when the State elections in India were over, New Delhi should be withdrawing its troops from the frontline.

Gen. Musharraf said some religious organisations in Pakistan had assumed the the-

kedari of jehad (contractors of holy war) in many countries and had become active participants in international politics. "Such meddling was wrong". Banned organisations such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba had been found to have links even in places such as Chechnya.

Answering a question, Gen. Musharraf said he still considered the 'resistance of the Kashmiri people to Indian oppression as a freedom struggle'.

On the role of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), he said that the political leadership might have manipulated it in the past. But at present it was under military command and no one could dare go against the Government's wishes. He argued that it was wrong to call the ISI a government within a government.

He ruled out forming a political party or seeking elections, but said it was being examined how his term as President could be constitutionally extended.

On the outcome of his visit to the U.S., he said people had the habit of having high expectations and then feeling disappointed when these were not met.

While no progress had been made on the F-16 issue, a Defence Consultative Group had been set up for discussions to continue. Gen. Musharraf said that Pakistan had come out from almost a "pariah" status to a place of respect in the international community.

He ruled out any adverse effect on the Pakistan-China relationship because of Islamabad's growing ties with the U.S. and pointed out that the U.S. President, George Bush, was himself due to visit China shortly. He also referred to the Chinese Prime Minister's recent visit to India, and said it had not affected Beijing's ties with Islamabad.

THE HINDU

17 FEB 2002

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Jaish, Lashkar *the*kedars of jihad, says Musharraf

# Pak will not hand over 20

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 16. — Pakistan wouldn't hand over the 20 terrorists and criminals wanted by India, Gen Pervez Musharraf has said. "They have this list of 20 people. Now I'm not going to do their bidding," he told Pakistani media in Washington before leaving for home yesterday.

He also claimed that the USA was making "behind the scenes" efforts for mediation on Kashmir. "Gen Colin Powell was very much involved in the process." The comment follows statements from the Bush administration that it would not like to have any mediatory role on the issue.

In Dubai, the Pakistani foreign minister said those on the list of 20 wouldn't be handed over because they had committed crimes 20 years ago and were not in-

volved in the attack on Indian Parliament. "India's demand is nothing more than a bid to malign Pakistan."

Mr Abdul Sattar asked India to seek extradition on the basis of Saarc convention. "India should use the forum of Saarc to raise the issue of list of 20, or India and Pakistan should put an extradition treaty on the agenda for talks."

Seeking to distance himself and Pakistan from terrorist outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, Gen Musharraf said these organisations had taken the "*theke-dari*" for "*jihad*" in many countries and had become active participants in international politics. "Such meddling is wrong... It's because of this that Pakistan is being accused of promoting terrorism."

He said: "We banned the Lashkar and Jaish in our

*Indo Pak*  
national interests. After my 12 January speech, India should have withdrawn from our borders. They didn't. They've their political reasons too."

On the "Kashmir movement", he repeated his stand that it was a freedom struggle and not terrorism.

**'No talks now'** The Prime Minister rejected Gen Musharraf's offer of talks on Kashmir, saying there was no dispute on the province because it was an integral part of India, UNI adds from Gorakhpur. He said there wouldn't be any talk with Pakistan unless it stopped organising terror acts in India. If talks are ever held, it'll be on PoK.

**Border firing:** Indian and Pakistani border guards exchanged fire at several places on the International Border in Jammu and Kathua districts last night, UNI said from Jammu.

THE STATESMAN

17 FEB 2002

# India's diplomacy pays off

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. — Pro-active Indian lobbying before General Pervez Musharraf's Washington visit played a crucial role in the USA denying advanced military supplies and political support on the Kashmir dispute to Islamabad, diplomatic sources here said.

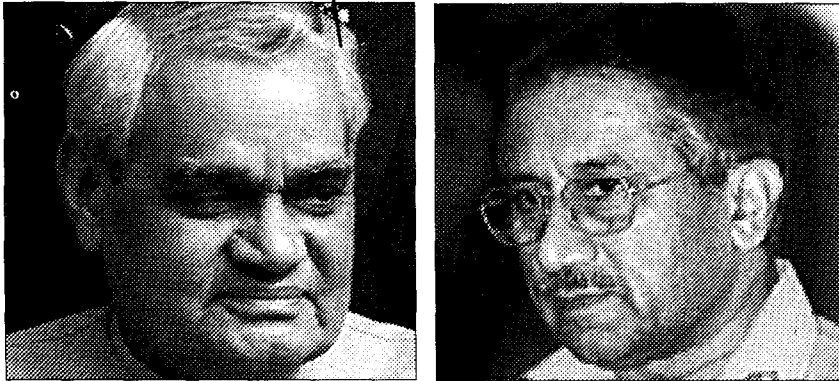
On the other hand, Washington gave the Pakistani President "a firm message" that Pakistan should stop infiltration across the border in Kashmir and act on the list of 20 most wanted men given by New Delhi, a high-level Indian official here said.

India is "reasonably satisfied" that New Delhi's concerns were adequately reflected during Gen Musharraf's talks with American officials, the official said.

Gen Musharraf, concluding his visit on Thursday, characterised it as "zero negative, all positive." But an Indian official on Friday said the Pakistani President failed to win any major concessions during the visit.

"He is going back with a handful of

## TIES WITH WASHINGTON



Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and General Pervez Musharraf

dollars, but nothing else," the Indian official said. He said Bush administration officials brushed aside Gen Musharraf's wish list that included new F-16 fighter planes, Washington's mediation in the Kashmir dispute, and trade concessions.

The most important setback for Gen Musharraf was the failure to get Washington to "mediate" or at

least "facilitate" talks with India on Kashmir. Both on the question of Kashmir and the supply of advanced military equipment Washington has said a "firm no" to Gen Musharraf, the Indian official said.

In days before the Musharraf visit, Indian diplomats did the rounds of the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon and "our friends

in Congress," urging them to keep India's concerns in mind while considering Gen Musharraf's requests.

"Overall, (India is) pleased that our point of view has been reflected" in the outcome of Gen Musharraf's talks, the diplomatic source said.

The Indian efforts were also reflected in the stern questioning Gen Musharraf faced from members of Congress during his visit.

The Indian official also noted that Gen Musharraf, who had won praises from the US officials for his cooperation in the war on terrorism, suffered "a dent in his credibility" during the visit.

Americans didn't buy the General's claim on the first day that India was preparing for a nuclear test. Nor did his claim that India was behind the kidnapping of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl stick, especially after the delayed announcement of the suspect's arrest, and the confusing statements on whether the reporter was alive.

The Indian official, however, noted that the visit was a public relations success for the Pakistani President.

THE STATESMAN

17 FEB 2002

BUSH PROMISES PERVEZ A BILLION BUT NO ARMS

# Pak plea to USA untenable: India

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Feb. 14. — "There is no room, no space and no need for third-party mediation" in talks between India and Pakistan, a foreign ministry spokesperson said today reacting to General Pervez Musharraf's request for US mediation.

(President Musharraf today asked the USA to mediate on the Kashmir issue and said India's demand for handing over 20 terrorists by Islamabad could be addressed when the two sides start negotiating on all issues, including Kashmir. Addressing the National Press Club in Washington, he said that Kashmir was the only issue between India and Pakistan. There were no other issues or disputes, the others were "irritants that can be solved in time, adds PTI.)

Though Pakistan dismissed Sheikh Omar's claim that Daniel Pearl was dead, the pressure on the Pakistani President, in Washington for summit-level talks, to act on his words mounted.

According to MEA officials, the list of 20 criminals and terrorists India wants from Pakistan is nothing compared to the kind of pressure the USA is exerting on Gen Musharraf to hand over the "missing" leaders of the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

With "the immense pressure of Indian troops mobilised along eastern borders, an extremely unhappy *jihadi* constituency back home and the fact that plans for 'strategic depth' in engagement with Afghanistan are in tatters, I wouldn't want to be in Gen Musharraf's shoes," a senior official said.

Burdened with economic crisis at home and the opposition from jihadi elements within his administration, Gen Musharraf wants the USA to provide economic aid and military hardware, suspended since Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in June 1998. Officials in Delhi felt that the best way he could pitch for new weapons was by raising the bo-

gey of India's "belligerence."

The USA needs Gen Musharraf's cooperation in its 'global alliance'. But after 11 September, it had put forth seven key demands to Pakistan. The Pakistani President has agreed to all of them but hasn't managed to deliver most of them.

The demands included the end of logistical support for Osama bin Laden, blanket overflight and landing rights in Pakistan, access to Pakistani naval and air bases and borders, detailed Intelligence and immigration information, curbing all domestic expressions of support for terrorism against the USA and its friends and allies and the destruction of the Taliban and the Al-Qaida network.

President George W Bush has promised \$1 billion in debt relief to Pakistan, but stopped short of agreeing to sweeping arms and trade benefits as a reward for Islamabad's help in the war on terrorism, adds PTI.

At a joint press conference held after an hour of talks at the White House, President Bush said: "President Musharraf is a leader with great courage and vision and his nation is a key partner in the global coalition against terror."

High on his wish-list were arms purchases and trade concessions, including a Pakistani proposal that Washington suspend tariffs and quotas on textile and apparel products by the end of 2004.

President Bush didn't meet any of the requests. However, he promised to increase market access for \$142 million in Pakistani apparel imports.

The USA will also provide Pakistan with \$1 million dollars for international military education and training in the fiscal 2003. The two countries have re-established defence consultative group to discuss military-to-military relations besides resuming dialogue on nuclear security issues.

Gen Musharraf appeared to back away from a statement that he thought Osama died of kidney disease. He said: "He could have died or he's alive in Afghanistan. I wouldn't like to say beyond that."

## On the rebound?

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 14. — Pakistan today played down President Musharraf's allegation that India might have conducted a fresh nuclear test, saying that his charge was based on a "report" and "there was nothing more to add to that." Asked whether Gen Musharraf's allegation during his address to the thinktanks in Washington yesterday was based on a report sent by the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the foreign office spokesman, Mr Aziz Ahmed Khan, told reporters here that the reference was based on a "report" which he declined to identify. — PTI

THE STATESMAN

15 FEB 2002

# PM rules out mediation

Statesman News Service

AGRA/NEW DELHI, Feb. 13. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today rejected any third-party mediation on Kashmir.

“President Musharraf is trying to involve President Bush (in Kashmir). He even told the Kazakhstan President to persuade India to start a dialogue with Islamabad. But we have taken the whole world into confidence.... For the resumption of dialogue, Pakistan should demonstrate its seriousness by stopping infiltration,” the Prime Minister said in Agra. “If the Pakistani military regime can’t control its own people, then what is the point in talking,” he asked.

“I brought Musharraf *saheb* here (in Agra) so that he could marvel at the beauty of the Taj Mahal, and talk peace and try to build a new relationship with India. But he wanted only Kashmir. How can he get it? No Prime Minister of India can give away Kashmir, because it’s our integral part,” Mr Vajpayee said.

He also dismissed Gen Musharraf’s allegations on test-firing of another nuclear device as “old tactics to mislead the world” and said the Pakistani President was trying to spread rumours in Washington. “We had clearly said we will not go for any more nuclear tests. Where is the need for that? Even the USA didn’t believe the Pakistani President’s claim,” he said.

According to India’s assessment, General Pervez Musharraf’s allegations are becoming wilder because of the intense pressure he is under.

The MEA rejected the “timed release capsules of diversionary propaganda from Pakistan”. According to the foreign office spokesperson, “we reject these allegations completely. This is obviously a season of kite flying in Pakistan because they have been making a series of such bankrupt allegations.”

The defence ministry said: “Clearly, there has been no blast.” But there was understanding among officials about the General’s compulsions for “clutching and flailing in the air”; first attempting to link Indian intelligence agencies with the abduction of Daniel Pearl, and now the charge on N-tests.

THE TELEGRAPH

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1997

# U.S. and Indo-Pak. relations

HD-10

By C. Raja Mohan

19/2  
*September 11 has provided India with a rare chance to work with the U.S. in changing Pakistan's national course towards political moderation, economic modernisation and regional harmony.*

AS PERVEZ Musharraf picks up rewards in Washington this week for services rendered in the last few months to the United States, India will not be too far down the General's agenda with his American interlocutors. To be sure, the Bush Administration will have a lot of questions to ask Gen. Musharraf on Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar and the large numbers of Al-Qaeda who are all at large. Settling the residual issues from the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and nudging Pakistan to clean up its internal act in relation to terrorism and democracy would indeed be at the top of American talking points with Gen. Musharraf. And so will be the question of how to de-escalate the current military confrontation between India and Pakistan. Gen. Musharraf will also look for a favourable formulation on Kashmir in the final statement from his talks with American leaders. Is there reason for India to worry? Not really.

India and Kashmir are never off Pakistan's checklist wherever its leaders travel abroad. But America has had a special place in Pakistan's desperate quest for strategic parity with India and in leveraging its relations with the rest of the world against New Delhi. India has always been uneasy with Pakistan's unending efforts to bring up their disputes in interactions with great powers. Instead of getting irritated with this, New Delhi needs to grant Islamabad's wish and encourage the U.S. to underwrite an early and final settlement of the Kashmir dispute. There is indeed a good chance that Pakistan might not find itself entirely comfortable when its wish is granted. At this point, however, the Bush Administration remains ideologically reluctant to get actively involved in dispute settlement between India and Pakistan. It is also aware of the deep political reservations in New Delhi about direct third party intervention. The primary American objective remains de-escalation of tensions in the subcontinent and the promotion of a dialogue rather than nudging India and Pakistan towards a resolution of

the Kashmir question. It is really up to India to decide on how to play the American card in finding a solution to the Kashmir question.

Any mention of triangulating the Kashmir dispute, of course, sends many Indians into a paroxysm of protest against "internationalisation" and "third party mediation". For far too long, India has allowed issues of procedure to overshadow the political outcomes it needs to focus on. In his new year musings this January and the last, the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said the Kashmir issue is indeed at the top of his mind. Mr. Vaj-

## WORLD VIEW

payee has underscored the importance of such a settlement in letting the two countries to put aside the bitter legacy of Partition and move forward. Mr. Vajpayee has got India to take a big intellectual leap. We have moved from the unrealistic hope of the last 30 years that the problem of Kashmir will disappear if we just ignore it to a recognition that it has not. India has no alternative but to mobilise its political will and creative genius to find a way to settle the Kashmir issue — both in its internal and external dimensions. Having defined the objective, modalities do become important. India's preference since 1972 has been for a bilateral settlement of the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan. But that approach has not worked. The essence of the problem was in Pakistan's reluctance to give up the instrument of cross-border violence. New Delhi says it is ready for a substantive negotiation on Kashmir, if Pakistan is prepared to bring the level of cross-border violence down. But Islamabad wants to negotiate with a gun pointed at New Delhi's head. India could not persuade Pakistan to change this approach either at Lahore in Feb-

ruary 1999 or at Agra in July 2001. It was the changed international context after September 11 and the American diplomatic pressure and the Indian military mobilisation after December 13 that extracted at least a verbal commitment from Gen. Musharraf to put the gun down.

India's opposition to involving others in a peace process with Pakistan was based on its bitter experience of going to the United Nations in 1948 and the subsequent Anglo-American attempts to interject themselves into the dispute. But the end of the Cold War and September 11 have profoundly altered the international context.

The improvement of India's relations with Britain and the U.S. in recent years, their current unambiguous pressure on Gen. Musharraf to give up cross-border terrorism have begun to work in India's favour. India, then, has at hand a historic opportunity to mobilise the international community in favour of a quick and reasonable settlement of the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan. To an extent, India's current strategy towards Pakistan has instinctively understood this. India's threat to go to war was as much a pressure tactic against Pakistan as it was aimed at getting the U.S. to move Gen. Musharraf to give up cross-border terrorism. New Delhi has also begun to recognise that external involvement need not necessarily work against India's interests. As we saw in the summer of 1999, the American intervention helped force Pakistan to unconditionally vacate its aggression across the Line of Control in the Kargil sector. Beyond that, the Clinton Administration also got Pakistan to acknowledge the "sanctity" of the LoC in a joint statement issued on July 4, 1999. And the intense American

engagement with New Delhi and Islamabad since December 13 has also been instrumental in getting Gen. Musharraf to proclaim that he will not allow Pakistani soil to be used for terrorism against any nation.

India needs the international community's support in getting Gen. Musharraf to implement his words and create the conditions for a military de-escalation, negotiations on all bilateral disputes including Kashmir and a normalisation of bilateral relations. This does not mean, India either goes back to the U.N. or changes the shape of the table to bring in a third party. What it does mean, however, is that India effectively uses the current fortuitous global context to develop the strategy of drawing in the international community to change the behaviour of Pakistan. India is seeking this support not on the basis of expediency but on the basis of accepted norms of international conduct.

Does the Indian strategy of bringing the Americans into its conflict with Pakistan put the hyphen back into Washington's approach to New Delhi and Islamabad? There is some disappointment in New Delhi that just when it seemed to have a chance to peel off from Islamabad in American calculus and establish an independent non-hyphenated relationship, the events of September 11 put Pakistan back into the Indo-U.S. equation. But this dependency is misplaced. Indo-U.S. engagement under the Bush Administration has indeed brought forth a framework for bilateral cooperation that looks beyond the narrow confines of the subcontinent. That broader Indo-U.S. agenda by no means contradicts the importance of resolving the long-standing disputes within the region. September 11 has provided India with a rare chance to work with the U.S. in changing Pakistan's national course towards political moderation, economic modernisation, and regional harmony. India cannot accomplish this difficult task on its own; it must grab the opportunity to cooperate with the world in transforming the subcontinent.

THE HINDU

A FOUR-PHASE PROCESS SUGGESTED

# Musharraf for third-party mediation on Kashmir

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 13. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, started his official working visit to the United States by saying that to have peace in South Asia, it was critical for the Kashmir issue to be resolved; and that it could not be done unless there was third-party mediation or facilitation.

"Bilateralism has failed and, therefore, there is a requirement for mediation or facilitation in resolving the disputes between India and Pakistan," Gen. Musharraf told a gathering at the Reagan International Center here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting organised by the Wilson Center and the Carnegie Endowment, Gen. Musharraf said there was a recognition, even in India, that Kashmir was the main dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad; and that the issue needed to be addressed.

"And in addressing all the issues, we have to address the Kashmir dispute also. If we think peace can be brought about by ad-

ressing all issues and sidelining Kashmir, that is a fallacy — it cannot happen."

Calling for a "realistic look at whatever is happening," Gen. Musharraf said Pakistan expected "sincerity and focussed negotiations" from India to resolve the Kashmir dispute and other issues. "An unpopular — an imposition of an unpopular — unworkable solution will remain untenable."

In response to a question, he said, "... if anyone denies that Kashmir is the main dispute, I think he is just being insincere. I would go to that extreme. So sincerity says that we recognise what the main dispute is."

Gen. Musharraf said he was not here to discuss a solution to Kashmir with the American leadership. "It may be one part, the de-escalation from the borders with India and going for initiating a process of a dialogue. But we are not going to get involved in a solution to the Kashmir dispute as such."

A "contentious" issue such as Kashmir

had to be resolved through a step-by-step approach, he said, suggesting a four-phase process: starting of the process of a dialogue; accepting the "centrality" of the Kashmir dispute for it to be resolved; eliminating whatever is unacceptable to India or Pakistan; and finally, going in for the solution "of whatever remains."

Arguing that the present tensions and the escalation were not Pakistan's doing — these happened because of India — Gen. Musharraf said "we have reacted. The excuse has been the attack on Parliament, on the Indian Parliament, which is certainly condemnable. We have condemned it. But it cannot be used as an excuse for brinkmanship, for taking the tensions so high that we get so close to going to war. I think that is rather irresponsible."

Speaking on the domestic situation in Pakistan and outlining his vision for the future, Gen. Musharraf said while the people of Pakistan were religious, they were not extremist.



The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, speaking at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington on Tuesday. — AFP

## Musharraf talks of 'Indian n-test'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 13. Even as the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, was putting forth his known views on Kashmir as being the "core" or the "main" dispute between India and Pakistan on Tuesday, he made a few observations which raised eyebrows at the Ronald Reagan International Center and elsewhere. "The missile test carried out by India and some information, some news even of, may be, a possibility of a nuclear test, is most untimely and may I also say provocative," Gen. Musharraf said.

But, intentionally or otherwise, he was vague on whether he was referring to a "nuclear test" already carried out by India or one on the cards — an unnamed Pakistani official has been quoted by an agency as

saying that Gen. Musharraf had Intelligence information suggesting that a test by India might be "imminent." Asked by Robert Hathaway of the Woodrow Wilson Center to be more specific on what he knew or suspected and whether he had shared the information with the United States, Gen. Musharraf said "there were certainly indications and I did share this information, yes, with the U.S. leadership. I can't give conclusive evidence of it. If at all there is a possibility, it should be checked."

**'No information from Pak.'**

But the Bush administration officials are distancing themselves from Gen. Musharraf's allegations. "We haven't received any information from the Pakistani Government on this," a State Department official said.



The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, at an election rally in Agra on Wednesday. — PTI

## Charges false: PM

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, FEB. 13. India today rejected any third-party mediation in Jammu and Kashmir and dismissed as "kite-flying" the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf's charge that New Delhi might have conducted a secret nuclear test. "These allegations are absolutely false, totally unfounded and baseless," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Nirupama Rao, said, adding "it is a season of kite-flying in Pakistan."

In Agra, the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, said at an election rally that Pakistan was indulging in a "disinformation campaign." Such remarks were widening the gulf between the two countries, Mr. Vajpayee said, adding that Islamabad's negativism was obstructing the possibility of resuming the Indo-Pak dialogue. The recent observations of Gen. Musharraf had further vitiated "the atmosphere between the two countries and jeopardises the possibility of any talks either on Kashmir or on normalisation of relations." He said "there can be no talks with Pakistan unless it shows action to create a congenial atmosphere by stopping infiltration and cross-border terrorism."

Ruling out the possibility of further nuclear tests, Mr. Vajpayee said India had already announced a moratorium. He also criticised Pakistan's attempt to draw India into the kidnapping of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, and its suggestion that the December 13 attack on Parliament was self-engineered.

THE HINDU



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BID TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON TERRORISM

12 2

# Pak. issued fresh demarche

By Atul Aneja

**NEW DELHI, FEB. 11.** Two days after the deportation of Aftab Ansari from the UAE, India has reiterated that Pakistan should take action on the list of 20 terrorists and criminals that it had been sent.

In a fresh verbal demarche issued to the Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner, Jaleel Abbas Jilani by Arun Singh, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, India regretted that Islamabad was yet to take action on the list of terrorists that had been handed over to it.

Pakistan had maintained that India had not provided it enough evidence that would merit action on these individuals.

But New Delhi, citing the UAE precedent, said that the fight against terrorism should take recourse to extensive political cooperation as well. Official sources said that Aftab Ansari, who has been implicated in the

shooting incident outside the American Center in Kolkata last month was "deported" by the UAE authorities on the basis of political understanding and not "extradited" as that would have involved time-consuming legal procedures.

Analysts here said that by issuing a demarche today, India was attempting to focus international attention on the continued use of Pakistani soil for terrorist activity.

In fact, by officially expressing its concerns, India was reinforcing the attention Pakistan had drawn following the deportation of Aftab Ansari. Ansari, according to officials here was apprehended bearing Pakistani travel documents in Dubai. He was also in contact with the Pakistan-based Omar Sheikh, who is suspected to have masterminded the high-profile kidnapping of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, in Karachi on January 23.

With Gen. Musharraf set to begin an official visit to the U.S. on Tuesday and the American public opinion already incensed with the abduction of Mr. Pearl, the assessment here is that India's observations are unlikely to go unnoticed in Washington.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Nirupama Rao, said that Pakistan was also obliged under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 to act on the list of 20. This resolution calls upon all countries to root out terrorism from their territory. "No support of any kind including safe havens should be provided to terrorism" under the framework of international law and the existing global consensus on countering terrorism, she stressed.

India, Mr. Jilani was told, wanted Pakistan to follow up on the Pakistani President's January 12 address in which he had asserted the need to crack down on terrorism. "If Pakistan was

sincere in its recently declared commitment to fight against international terrorism, it must apprehend and hand over these persons," the spokesperson said. India, Mr. Jilani was told, still awaited a response from Islamabad on its two similar demarches of December 31 and January 18.

## 'Put pressure'

PTI reports:

The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, today hoped that pressure would mount on Pakistan to hand over the 20 terrorists and criminals sought by India.

"The pressure on Pakistan should mount... We are also laying stress on the list (of fugitives given by India)," he told reporters in an informal chat here.

Appreciating the attitude of the UAE in deporting Aftab Ansari, Mr. Vajpayee said, "this process has to be carried forward".

THE HINDU

12 FEB 2002

# Pakistan exposed once again, says PM

*9/2/02*  
Times News Network *SM*  
BATHINDA: The recovery of Pakistani travel documents from Aftab Ansari, the prime suspect in the January 22 attack on the American Center in Kolkata, has furnished further proof of Pakistan training, harbouring and exporting terrorists to destabilise India, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said.

Addressing an election rally here on Sunday, Mr Vajpayee said Ansari's repatriation from Dubai was a full endorsement by the civilised world of the war against terrorism. It exposed the hollowness of Islamabad's resolve to fight terror, he said, since Pakistan's military rulers were yet to act sincerely on India's demand that 20 terrorists and criminals hiding in that country be repatriated.

"We have never said that Islamic coun-

*11/2*  
tries are sponsoring terrorism, but Pakistani rulers have been misleading the world and trying for decades to infuse religious extremism in their country to use it for sponsoring terrorism," he said. "In the past, we had provided ample evidence of Pakistan's hand in the violence in Kashmir but the U.S. understood our concern only after September 11."

Ridiculing Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's claim that India is involved in the kidnapping of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, Mr Vajpayee said such statements betrayed Gen Musharraf's "mental bankruptcy".

He said India wanted a change in the nature of Pakistan's society, politics and power structure. Pointing out the contrasts in the politics of the two neighbours, he said, "I'd never expected to be

Prime Minister, but because of our democracy I'm here before you. But in Pakistan, prime ministers are sent to either jails or to the gallows."

The Prime Minister also criticised the Congress with an oblique reference to the coffin scam, in which the army is said to have overpaid for coffins of soldiers killed in the Kargil conflict. While country was facing the menace of terrorism and many other challenges, the opposition party, instead of putting on a united face, was raising "baseless and unsubstantiated issues to demoralise the armed forces", he said. "We supported the Congress when we were in the opposition but I don't expect the Congress to reciprocate at this hour of crisis. When our soldiers were fighting the enemy in Kargil, the Congress was raising controversies."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 FEB 2002

HPD-1  
10/2 ✓

# Indians could have done it, says Musharraf

9<sup>20</sup> PAK

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 9. When even investigators in Karachi are saying that India's involvement in the abduction of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, is far-fetched, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, is arguing that the Indian Intelligence agencies might have indeed had a hand. And he has gone on to suggest that the Islamic radical, Sheik Omar Saeed, could be acting in concert with New Delhi.

Gen. Musharraf's observations in *The Washington Post*, made before leaving for the United States, could in some ways set the environment for his official visit starting on Tuesday. The General, scheduled to meet the U.S. President, George W. Bush, at the White House on February 13, can be expected to repeat his thinking on Pearl's abduction.

Gen. Musharraf told the paper that "it is very much a possibility that it has been done by the Indians, orchestrated by the Indians. That's what we are looking into." And on why he believed that Saeed — and, perhaps even the leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, Masood Azhar — could be acting in concert with India, he said, "it makes sense to me because... the Jaish leader was in jail for seven long years in India and he wasn't even tried... And this man (Saeed) was also there.

"We all know Intelligence is a very bad game and it can come

out with any kind of game to justify, organise or orchestrate such kind of activities. These are common activities orchestrated by the Indian Intelligence agencies," Gen. Musharraf said.

Pearl's "over-involvement" could have also landed him in trouble. "According to my information, Pearl was also trying to get overly involved with people who are, may be, dangerous. I wonder whether it was be-

cause of his over-involvement that he landed himself into this kind of a problem,"

He regretted the damage the abduction had done to Pakistan's image.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department spokesperson, Richard Boucher, announcing the February 12-14 visit of Gen. Musharraf, said Washington would be discussing a range of bilateral issues.

## Pak. denies report on Pearl release

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 9. Embarrassed over media reports on "rescue" of the abducted American journalist, Daniel Pearl, there was a spate of denials by Pakistan today on the "authenticity" of the news. It maintained that Pearl was in the custody of unidentified kidnapers. Speculations about an imminent breakthrough in the case have been appearing in the Pakistani media for several days now. However, what probably lent credibility to the report in the English daily, *Dawn*, (which said the *Wall Street Journal* reporter was leaving for London today) were the comments by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, on Friday, that the authorities were close to solving the case and his confidence that Pearl would be released soon.

In a front page report, the paper said it had acquired documentary evidence to show that Pearl was booked on a PIA flight, PK-757, for London, scheduled to leave Islamabad at 9:10 a.m. (local time) and gave a ticket number. The booking, it said, had been made on February 4, and that the officials refused to say when Pearl was rescued from Karachi and taken to Islamabad. It also quoted a police official in Karachi as saying "he could be some other Daniel."

A Government spokesman promptly denied that Pearl had been freed and was being sent to Britain.

THE HINDU

# Indo-Pak diplomatic war hits new high

H Bula Devi in New Delhi

SI-6 9/2

Feb. 8. — Geography and semantics have always characterised Indo-Pak relations. But they have now been extended to a small group of diplomats in both countries. It's a question of how far they can go.

On 27 December, restrictions were imposed on the movements of diplomats of both countries in India and Pakistan. But they appear to have eased following polite warnings and protests from both sides. Now, Indian diplomats in Islamabad can also visit Rawalpindi and Murree and Pakistani diplomats can move freely within the municipal limits of Delhi.

Prior to December 27, Pakistani diplomats posted in the High Commission here could move around in the municipal limits of Delhi and to go outside the Capital, had to seek permission which was generally granted. But on 27 December India imposed a ban on overflights by PIA flights and announced that no permission would henceforth be given for visits by Pakistani diplomats outside the municipal limits of Delhi. Pakistan immediately announced Indian diplomats should remain confined to Islamabad. Earlier they could visit Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Murree without seeking permission.

This became a problem and senior officials reportedly felt the matter had to be taken up with the Pakistani establishment because the restrictions were "violative and non-reciprocal". The logic given by the Indian side was that Islamabad-Rawalpindi-Murree fall under "one category" and movement in these areas had never required permission. Pakistan was eventually told that unless the restriction on movement in these areas was lifted, India too would be forced to limit the movement of Pakistani diplomats here to New Delhi Municipal Council limits instead of the earlier municipal limits of Delhi. Pakistan it is understood agreed and restored the earlier arrangement.

THE STATESMAN

- 9 FEB 2002

# Costing an Indo-Pak. war

HD-8 9/2 By P. R. Chari

THE MASSING of troops by India and Pakistan along their border has led to intense speculation world-wide that this could trigger a war between the two old adversaries: It has also fuelled great interest in the costs of this war. An air of unreality envelops this curiosity. No war can be recommended if the paths of peace have not been exhausted. No war should be launched on the grounds that it is affordable. No war can rationally be contemplated if the adversaries have conducted nuclear tests and have set themselves forth as nuclear weapon powers. Nevertheless, irresponsible persons occupying high office in India and Pakistan have been strident that a conventional war can be fought and won in South Asia; that it could escalate to a nuclear conflict has been dismissed as showing the pusillanimity of the faint-hearted and the flawed logic of the weak-headed. Faith, instead, has been placed in the maturity of the two leaderships and their doctrinal belief that nuclear weapons are designed not for use but for deterring nuclear attack; hence limited non-nuclear wars can be contemplated.

The errors in this process of ratiocination can be easily discerned; however, it would be argued here that costing an India-Pakistan war is accosted by daunting definitional problems. For one, what is the kind of war that will be fought? Would it be limited in time and space and weaponry used, as happened in Kargil? Or would it develop into a full-scale conventional war like in 1965 and 1971? Would it lead to a nuclear war, limited or general? In practice, the course of any conflict is unpredictable, given the prevailing fog of war; hence accidents can occur through inadvertence or misperception or leadership irrationality? These are essentially unanswerable questions, but answers to them are necessary if pricing a war is to be undertaken.

Despite these caveats the cost of past wars can offer some guidance about the cost of a future war. For instance, the Annual Report of the

Ministry of Defence for the relevant year costed in 1965 conflict at Rs. 50 crores. No details were provided. Following the India-Pakistan war in 1971, an in-house exercise was embarked on by the Ministry of Defence to estimate its cost, which reached a figure of around Rs. 3,500 crores. Various guesstimates place the cost of the Kargil conflict around Rs. 2,000 crores. Some part of these costs is re-

Should the costs of the military facilities and weapon systems destroyed be taken as their historical costs? Or, their depreciated costs, bearing in mind that such facilities and weapon systems have a discrete life? This exercise gets further complicated if the replacement cost of weapon systems is estimated on the basis of procuring later generation or state-of-the-art systems as part of the replacement

traffic, and the showdown of the civil economy, to this could reasonably be added the cost of civilian property destroyed. These costs are very difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy. There are also the indirect after-effects of the war. This could entail the levy of higher taxes, direct or indirect, to reimburse the Government for the expenses of the war, leading on to lower savings and investment in the economy, and the diversion of allocations from the development and social sectors to defence. Then there are the opportunity costs that need consideration, like FDI inflows becoming sluggish due to tensions and instabilities prevailing in the country — international capital is notoriously wary of entering regions where the safety of its investments could be prejudiced. This might partially explain why foreign capital is rushing to China but avoiding South Asia. All these indirect costs of a war are essentially non-computable, despite brave guesstimates being occasionally made by economists.

The current Indian policy, following the Pakistan encouraged attack upon the Indian Parliament, is premised on three prongs. They are to lodge a strong demarche with Pakistan; enlist the support of the international community to empathise with the Indian case, and mass troops along the international border/Line of Control to pressure Pakistan to desist from promoting cross-border terrorism into India. There is little to suggest that the massive troop deployment along the border will be curtailed soon. How India's satisfaction would be obtained before it withdraws its troops remains somewhat vague. The movement of large bodies of troops to the border, activating the border defences and satellite airfields, aggressive patrolling on and, in the air and on sea will entail additional costs, these would assuredly be reflected in the budget to be presented very soon to the country.

(The writer is Director, Institute of Peace and Conflict, Studies, New Delhi.)

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*No war should be launched on the grounds that it is affordable... the course of any war is unpredictable.*

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flected in the increased defence budgets for subsequent years; the effects of inflation on the costs of war are also apparent. However, all these were conventional conflicts; it requires no great perspicacity to appreciate that the cost of a nuclear conflict due to the ensuing destruction of lives and property would be virtually impossible to calculate.

Both direct and indirect costs have to be included in this exercise. They can be identified. The direct costs would include the expenses additionally incurred over and above the allocations made in the defence budget. Thus salaries and related costs should not be added, as they are committed expenses, whether the armed forces remain in their peace stations or their battle locations along the border. Consequently, only the transportation costs for dispatching additional troops to the border, activating the border defences and satellite airfields would be a legitimate charge towards the costs of a war. So would the additional air sorties to be flown and naval patrolling undertaken in the precautionary stage before and during the hostilities. The direct costs of the conflict would also comprise that involved in the destruction of military facilities, weapons systems and allied equipment. A fine point arises here.

programme. Then there are personnel-related costs involved for compensating the dependents of those who lose their lives; those personnel who suffer injuries and may need to be medically boarded out must also be compensated and rehabilitated in some other vocation. Estimated the direct costs of a war, therefore, requires several itemised factors to be added up, although an element of uncertainty in the final bill reached will always persist.

Experience suggests that the defence establishment uses the post-conflict situation to get its wish list accepted. This happened after the Kargil conflict, which highlighted critical shortages of mundane items such as snow goggles, lightweight rucksacks and tents, night vision devices and hand-held thermal imagers. How far these deficiencies have been met is a matter of conjecture. However, the Services have pressed for high-cost weapons platforms such as long-range fighter-bombers and aircraft carriers, which the Government is intent on procuring. The uncertainties involved in this exercise increase enormously if the indirect costs of a war are computed. They include such diverse items as the loss to industry and the general economy due to the disruption of road, rail and maritime

THE HINDU

# India awaiting 'satisfactory response'

By Atul Aneja

**NEW DELHI, FEB. 7.** India today said that it was awaiting a "satisfactory response" from Pakistan on the list of 20 fugitives that it had sent to Islamabad.

This was conveyed by the External Minister, Jaswant Singh, during discussions on South Asia with Oman's visiting Foreign Minister, Yousif bin-Abdullah. India, Mr. Singh said, would be prepared to resume normal interaction with Pakistan only after the latter took effective steps to counter terrorism.

Mr. Singh said that India was awaiting Pakistani "cooperation" in stopping all infiltration across the Line of Control and the International Border.

Government sources here said that India might be willing to consider sending to Pakistan a senior military officer, such as the Director General of Military Operations, to work out a joint arrangement to check cross-border infiltrations. However, this could happen only if Pakistan sent the "right" political signals to India. As of now, New Delhi was "disappointed" by

the address of the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) earlier this week.

On the list of 20, the Government is likely to intensify the pressure on Pakistan to take action on the underworld don, Dawood Ibrahim. In fact, sources here said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had, on India's request, recently detained Salim Chaplu, a close associate of Dawood gang.

While India is likely to continue pressing for action against Dawood Ibrahim, there is, nevertheless, a recognition in the security establishment here that Islamabad may find it difficult to hand him over to India. In fact, extradition of the key individuals in the list of 20, the sources say, is unlikely as such a move could expose Pakistani intelligence's translational links with the underworld. This Islamabad can ill-afford as it could further intensify the already enormous U.S. pressure on it to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism on its soil.

8 FEB 2002

# Pervez ups the ante, India calls it interference

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Feb. 5. — Under intense international pressure ever since reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped from Karachi 10 days ago, General Pervez Musharraf today reverted to his familiar anti-India rhetoric.

Dressed in military fatigues, the Pakistani President said Islamabad would continue providing "political, moral and diplomatic" support to the "freedom struggle" in Kashmir which he accused India of denigrating and maligning. He was addressing a joint session of the PoK Assembly in Muzaffarabad on the occasion of "Kashmir Day".

India's response to the speech was equally hard-hitting. The foreign ministry spokesperson rejected the General's charges "outright" and said: "Comments about the Indian state of J&K amount to interference in our internal affairs."

"We had rather hoped," Mrs Nirupama Rao said, "that the General would utilise this opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to end cross-border terrorism, and also about not supporting terrorism in any form."

On his reference to the "freedom struggle", she said: "It raises serious questions on Pakistan's sincerity and commitment to fighting terrorism. India has always stressed the need for meaningful action from Pakistan and the need for it to 'walk the talk' on such issues: We haven't seen this happening."

On Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's comment yesterday that Indo-Pak dialogue could be held only when Islamabad had a democratic government, Gen Musharraf said: "Instead of engaging in brinkmanship, Prime Minister Vajpayee should accept my offer of a dialogue... Instead of responding positively to the hand of reconciliation extended by me, the Indian leadership has continued with its threatening noises and persists with its massive deployment of troops... which have brought the two countries to a position of eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation."

## Reduce terrorism, Powell tells Pak

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. — Echoing India's call to Pakistan, the USA today asked General Pervez Musharraf to reduce cross-border terrorism and crack down on terrorist outfits in a way that would convince India of his stand against terrorism.

The US secretary of state told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the General should act to scale down "the incidents over the LoC and round up terrorist organisations and do it in a way that'll give India confidence that they're both united in the coalition against terrorism and not let it degenerate into a campaign against each other."

General Colin Powell urged President Musharraf to implement the promises he made in his 12 January address to the nation to end terrorism emanating from his country. — PTI

India, he said, was trying to fool the world by playing on the Kashmiris' aspirations. He also accused India of trying to "impose a military solution" on Kashmir by projecting it as a case of cross-border terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism organised from outside.

He said Kashmir was central to bilateral ties and termed as "untenable and unacceptable"

India's stand that Kashmir is an integral part of the country. "Let there be no confusion in this regard."

He called for a negotiated resolution of the issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiris. "The issue can't be side-stepped or wished away. It has to be addressed very seriously."

He took the opportunity to renew Pakistan's "commitment to the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions."

Mrs Rao said: "Gen Musharraf's formulations, unfortunately, have reverted to yesterday's cliches confirming the apprehensions voiced earlier by us."

Gen Musharraf claimed that his recent decision to ban five extremist groups in his country was not taken under any pressures or to appease anybody. "The 12 January speech was my own idea... and actions taken in

the best interests of Pakistan.

Taking a dig at fundamentalist groups in Pakistan, he said no party had the right to follow its agenda vis-a-vis external affairs. They were welcome to offer their suggestions, he said, but the government alone "has the right to deal with India, Kashmir or Palestinian issues." He urged the people to trust him on these issues.

**Kashmir strike:** A spontaneous strike on the occasion of "Kashmir Day" disrupted life in Kashmir valley today, UNI reports from Srinagar. The strike was not called by any organisation, but most shops and other businesses were closed and vehicles were off the roads. Work in government offices, banks, and post offices too was affected. The Hurriyat thanked the Pakistani government and people for observing the day as "Solidarity Day with the J&K people."

THE STATESMAN

6 FEB 2002

## Pak. official tipped terrorists: Advani

By Our Staff Reporter  
NOIDA (U.P.), FEB. 4. Throwing a bombshell of sorts, the Union Home Minister, L.K. Advani, said here today that an official of the Pakistan High Commission and agent of the Inter Services Intelligence had gathered information on the security plans of Parliament from an insider. The ultimate plan was to take VVIPs hostage. Addressing an election meeting, Mr. Advani said the official had visited Parliament to gather information on the security inside the main building and was the source of information for the terrorists who had attacked Parliament on December 13, he said. *Indo Pak*

"If the five terrorists had succeeded in their attempt, it would have been an open field for them... Had the alert security personnel not acted in time and foiled the nefarious design, the extent of the bloodshed would have been unimaginable," he said. Mr. Advani said he would take up with the Lok Sabha Speaker, G.M.C. Balayogi, the issue of erecting a monument inside Parliament in memory of the security personnel who had sacrificed their lives to protect it.

THE HINDU

5 FEB 2002



# Talks hope ends in bickering at Munich

Frankfurt, February 3

INDIA AND Pakistan traded charges against each other at an international meeting in Munich to which both were invited in the hope they will meet on the sidelines to resolve their differences.

But Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar and Indian National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra ended up attacking each other, particularly over the five-decade-old dispute between the

two countries over Jammu and Kashmir.

In the process, both ignored a plea by Horst Teltschick, a former security advisor to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to start a dialogue on the sidelines of the International Security Conference.

But basking in the international limelight, with the television cameras focussed on them and an audience comprising foreign and defence ministers and security experts from leading

countries, Sattar and Mishra could only quarrel.

Sattar criticised the missile tests by India as "unwise and unnecessary", and accused New Delhi of using terrorism as an excuse to suppress the "legitimate movement for greater self-determination" in Kashmir.

He spoke of torture, arbitrary arrests and unprovoked firings by Indian security forces in Kashmir, where a separatist campaign raging since 1989 has left thousands dead. India ac-

cuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants.

Mishra, in turn, urged the democratic countries to conduct a "global and extensive" campaign against every form of terrorism, and said the West could not battle terrorism in one region and turn its back on it in another.

And in remarks clearly aimed against Pakistan, he wanted the world to ask how and where a large number of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters escaped to follow-

ing the US bombings.

He said India would take steps to pull back its troops from the border with Pakistan only after it saw tangible evidence of a reduction in terrorism against India sponsored by Islamabad. He flayed Pakistan for dubbing terrorists in Kashmir as "freedom fighters", and said terrorism had its roots in "militaristic adventurism and religious extremism, sponsored by totalitarian regime".

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STOP TERRORISM IN J&K, RUSSIA TELLS PAK

# Focus should be

*Indo-Pak*  
**on PoK: PM** *5/1*  
*9/2*

Special News Service

PATNA/NEW DELHI, Feb. 3. — Any dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad would be dominated by Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the Prime Minister said today. "PoK won't be a precondition for talks, but it'll surely be first issue on the agenda."

He told journalists at Patna airport that the USA was "aware" of India's stand on the issue. "We too are aware of the USA's stand. Pakistan doesn't come in the way of Indo-US ties."

General Pervez Musharraf had said "Kashmir runs into the blood of Pakistanis", while India's stand is that the province is an integral part of the country. So can there be a meeting point for the two countries on the issue? Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said: "It's *laaffazi* (play of words) by the Pakistani President. We don't believe in baseless talks."

He also rejected the suggestion that the LoC be made an international border. "There won't be any compromise on the LoC."

He ridiculed Pakistan's allegation of India's hand in the abduction of an American reporter and laughed at the reports on Mr LK Advani's involvement in a plot to kill Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Earlier, addressing a rally at Gandhi maidan, Mr Vajpayee expressed surprise over Pakistan's demand for Kashmir. "Pakistan failed to retain what it had. I'm amazed that it is now demanding Kashmir, an integral part of India." Pakistan had fought three wars with India on the issue, but "it has gained

nothing, nor will it gain anything from wars in future."

He said he not averse to talks with Gen Musharraf. "We want a friendly relationship with our neighbour."

Without mentioning Gen Musharraf's address to the nation, he said speech alone wouldn't lead to a dialogue. "India wants to see the speech translated into action. *Ham ka-thani or karni mein samanta dekhana chahte hain.*"

On the recent killing of two



Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee inaugurates bridge construction work. — AP/PTI

Pakistani terrorists at Hazaribagh, he said: "Pakistan must stop sending terrorists and detectives to our country." He assured the people that J&K would become as peaceful as Punjab is today. "The people of Punjab and the administration had succeeded in stamping out terrorism. The same will happen in J&K too."

Mr Vajpayee had a word of advice for the Opposition parties. He said the parties shouldn't raise hue and cry over security-related issues now because the Indo-Pak stand off has triggered an "emergency like situation that demands emergency measures".

On the Ayodhya issue, he said the court was looking into it and that the government wouldn't be moved by the VHP's demand for the construction of a Ram Temple where Babari Masjid once stood. "The court is seized of the matter and let it decide the issue." He also said the BJP would not make Temple an issue in the UP Assembly polls.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister inaugurated three railway projects, including the construction of the longest railway bridge on the Ganga, from Digha to Sonapur. The railway minister, Mr Nitish Kumar, attended the function.

**Plea to Pakistan:** India and Russia today asked Pakistan to take "sustained and irreversible steps" to end terrorism in J&K and create environment for resumption of talks in accordance with the Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration.

A joint statement issued at the end of a meeting between the Russian foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, and Mr Jaswant Singh said Pakistan's commitment against terrorism "can only be judged by concrete action." Mr Ivanov shared India's concern over the disappearance of Taliban and Al-Qaida leaders, saying they might be in various countries including Pakistan, or in the Afghan mountains.

THE STATESMAN

## Pak high on Indo-Russian talks agenda

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, February 2

THE INDO-PAKISTAN eye-ball-to-eyeball military standoff is going to figure high on the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh tomorrow.

Ivanov, who would be making his second visit here in less than eight months, is expected to carry with him a special message for Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee from President Vladimir Putin.

Ivanov's overnight stay here, during which he will meet Defence Minister George Fernandes, is expected to mark a milestone in bilateral ties. It will see Delhi and Moscow sharpen a common approach on how to participate in Afghanistan's reconstruction and deal with the new scenario in Central Asia where the US military presence is expected to be considerable.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 FEB 2002

# Advani warning for Pakistan

Roorkee (Uttaranchal), Feb 2

THERE HAS been no let-up in infiltration of terrorists from Pakistan, Home Minister LK Advani said today. But he said India is determined to win the proxy war waged by Islamabad.

"Infiltration from across the borders has not come down. Whatever reduction has taken place is due to the snowfall, which happens every year between December and February," he said at a BJP election meeting here, 67 km from Dehradun.

Advani, who kickstarted his party's poll campaign in this hill State at Rudrapur this morning, said India will not go by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's verbal assurances about putting an end to terrorism in Pakistan.

"Our yardstick to measure his sincerity would be to see whether they have stopped training, arming, and supporting terrorists with money and refuge, besides handing over the 20

most wanted terrorists sought by India," Advani said.

"Only then will we know whether Musharraf's utterances were sincere or meant to please the USA," he said.

He said Pakistan should not be under any illusion regarding Kashmir as it was an integral part of India. The Simla Agreement of 1972 was a "missed opportunity", Advani said, and the Kashmir issue would have been solved permanently if the then Congress government had handled it properly. He also said there was a "big lapse" on India's part after the 1971 Indo-Pak war when it could have found a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue. "At that time India and Pakistan could have worked out a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue and paved the way for lasting peace but we lost a good opportunity." He said India had the world's support for putting pressure on Pakistan after December 13.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 FEB 2002

# Kidnapper phoned Indian officials: Sattar

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2/2

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 1. The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, has said that the main suspect in the kidnapping of the American reporter, Daniel Pearl, had called three Indian Government officials on his mobile phone.

Mr. Sattar was quoted as saying in Berlin, on his way to Munich to participate in a conference on security, that the alleged kidnapper "had made a number of foreign calls and included among the numbers that he had called in India were a number of persons who occupied certain important positions in the Indian Government".

"That is all we know. We are not alleging that this person was working in complicity with somebody in India. But I think this fact should be known to all persons interested."

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Rashid Que-

reshi, had claimed that there was an Indian angle to the case and that the Government would come out with the details at the appropriate time.

Meanwhile, the English daily, *The News*, claimed that Syed Mubarak Ali Gilani — who turned himself over to the police on Wednesday — had told interrogators that he had provided "invaluable services" to the security services.

The paper, in a report from Karachi, said that Gilani had given the names of a number of serving and retired security officials for an independent verification of his claims.

During his interrogation in

Rawalpindi on Wednesday, Gilani made several requests to senior police officials that he be allowed to make calls to his contacts in the Government.

*The News* said Gilani surprised the investigators by offering to prove that his disciples in the United States sent about half-a-million dollars every year — in the form of cash and wire transfers — for religious activities in Pakistan.

The 65-year-old Gilani said that he had invested a part of the money in real estate in the NWFP and Punjab and that the estimated value of his commercial and agricultural holdings was about Rs. 1 billion.

## India asks for names

NEW DELHI, FEB. 1. India today dared Pakistan to disclose the names of Indian officials who it claimed had maintained telephonic links with the abductors of Daniel Pearl. "Let them (Pakistan) give the names" of the officials, a spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said. She said that Pakistan had not sent any official communication in this regard. — UNI

THE HINDU

'NO SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN INFILTRATION'

# Fernandes rules out pullout of troops

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 1. Asserting that there was hardly any significant evidence of a decline in shelling and infiltration across the border, India today ruled out withdrawal of troops from the western border.

Another reason for India's reluctance to withdraw the troops from combat positions is the failure of the Pakistani armoured units including tanks to move back from their forward positions since October.

"We will not withdraw our troops unless Pakistan hands

over the 20 terrorists sought by India and ends cross-border terrorism. Although infiltration has fallen, the decline is not even worth mentioning," said the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, here today. "The Government does not have to decide when to pull back," he said, indicating that the onus was on Pakistan to display reasonable confidence-building measures, fundamental among them being the extradition of 20 Indian and Pakistani nationals and completely restricting logistical support to terrorists.

Referring to the heavy shell-

ing in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts, he said the only probable reason was to facilitate the infiltration of terrorists. "If Pakistan has actually reduced its antagonism towards India, then why is it shelling Indian troop positions and villages? Are they then burning ammunition? I am told they are financially not in a position to do so."

The Minister suggested the upgrading of the Navy's arsenal to enable it to play a significant role in the global surveillance grid being cobbled together by the United States. The Navy would play a key role in the Malacca Straits, a major thoroughfare for billions of dollars worth of oil from West Asia. The Cabinet Committee of Security was considering a detailed proposal for joint patrolling of the straits and the adjoining seas by a multilateral force of which the Navy would be a key component.

"We have a Navy that is as powerful as it can be. But it needs further strengthening. We need more and better ships because the Navy has a tremendous responsibility not only in our territory but in the region as well. Besides checking piracy, it will be responsible for guarding the sea lanes from west to east and from east to west."

Towards this end, Mr. Fernandes indicated that the docked Russian aircraft-carrier Admiral Gorshkov would be bought while another carrier would be built indigenously. In all, India required three aircraft carriers estimated to cost a minimum of \$ 1 billion each.

Mr. Fernandes ruled out handing over the Central Vigilance Commission's report on corruption in defence deals to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, terming the Opposition's demand unreasonable.

## J&K Resettlement Act stayed

By Our Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 1. The Supreme Court today stayed the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Resettlement Act, 1982, providing for the resettlement of all those persons who had migrated to Pakistan after March 1947, if they returned to Kashmir on a permanent basis. A Bench comprising Justice G.B. Pattanaik and Justice S. N. Phukan, granted interim stay of the Act on two writ petitions filed by the Panther's Party president, Bhim Singh and another, challenging the Constitutional validity of the Act, on the ground that if the Act was implemented it would result in "chaos and pose a threat to country's defence and security".

The Bench granted two weeks time to the J&K Government to file a reply after the Centre supported the stand of the petitioners that the Act would facilitate the entry of terrorists into J&K where over 50,000 people had fallen victims to militant activities and *prima facie* the Act was *ultra vires* the Constitution.

The petitioners argued that the 1982 Act was being challenged, as, after the Constitution Bench of the apex court "returned unanswered" the 'Presidential reference' of the related Bill in this regard, the Chief Minister, Farooq Abdullah, had announced that the State would implement the Act. They submitted that the Chief Minister's announcement had caused apprehensions in the minds of the people of the State that this Act would be misused by militants and terrorists to settle here permanently.

They said that if the Act was implemented, more than two lakh Pakistanis might enter the State and settle here. Even Talibans who had been driven out of Afghanistan with fraudulent certificates could settle in the State. They sought declaration that the Act was illegal, and *ultra vires* the basic structure of the Constitution and prayed for quashing of the same. On behalf of the Union Government it was submitted that implementation of the Act would result in large number of aliens returning to India which was not permissible under the Citizenship Act.

THE HINDU

# Pakistan shelling kills 3 civilians

Statesman News Service

## Geelani wants to go for Haj

JAMMU, Feb. 1. — Pakistani troops launched its heaviest shelling, since the 1971 Indo-Pak war, in Poonch, Rajouri and Naushera districts last night, killing three civilians, officials said. The shelling will further intensify the bilateral tension that's continuing for the past one month now.

The victims have been identified as Mushtaw Hussain, Tasleema Jan and Aslam Gani. They were residents of Ajot village, Poonch. Dozens of cattle-heads too have perished in the firing. Several Indian forward posts have been badly damaged and four Army jawans were injured.

There had been no retaliatory firing till late in the evening. "There has been only a small exchange of fire along the LoC today. If there's something major, we'll let you know," a defence spokesman said at Nagrota.

Defence sources told The Statesman that the unprovoked firing and shelling started at 2.30 a.m. on Thursday and continued till late this evening. Pakistani

NEW DELHI, Feb. 1. — Syed Ali Shah Geelani has written to the Prime Minister drawing his attention to the fact that the Hurriyat leader had not been allowed to go to Mecca for Haj. "One can hardly think of deriving political mileage out of this religious obligation. I record with acute anguish that despite meeting all norms and observing all formalities, I'm being prevented from proceeding to Mecca for Haj pilgrimage," Mr Geelani has written.

The letter, delivered to the PMO this morning, refers to the Indian Constitution several times, though Mr Geelani is known to be pro-Pakistan. — SNS

troops fired at least 6,000 mortar bombs and 200-300 rockets and missiles.

Thousand of people in border villages had a sleepless night because many of the shells, mortars, missiles and rockets fell close to their houses. Five artillery shells fell on Azad Mohalla, Poonch, while seven fell near the Army's Moti Mahan Brigade at Malti. Four shells landed on Daria Mohalla and eight on Alla Peer.

A press release issued by the 16 Corps based at Nagrota said many of these shells and rockets had landed on civilian areas

causing heavy injuries to the villagers. But the district police said the Pakistani firing didn't cover civilian areas; it was restricted to areas close to the LoC.

However, Mr SS Bijral, DIG (Poonch-Rajouri Range), said over phone from Rajouri that most of the villages near the LoC were hit by the shelling.

For the past one month, not a single shell had landed on civilian areas in Poonch-Rajouri. Early this week, Indian troops had retaliated against Pakistani shelling, killing at least 12 soldiers and smashing 22 bunkers on the other side.

THE STATESMAN

2 FEB 2002

# Ready for talks at Munich: Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 31. Pakistan has reiterated its offer of talks with India at any time, anywhere and said if there was inclination on the part of India, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, would have no objection meeting the Indian representative at the Munich conference on "Security Policy".

The National Security Adviser and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Brajesh Mishra, is expected to take part in the conference from the Indian side. "If there is a possibility, there will be no lack of enthusiasm on our side," the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, told a news conference here.

Mr. Khan said Mr. Sattar would attend the conference organised by the Herbert Quandt Foundation and that Pakistan has been invited for the first time to the "prestigious forum" in which China and India had participated

regularly. Mr. Sattar would speak on the fight against terrorism, the emerging prospects for peace and the unity of Afghanistan and Pakistan's efforts for a dialogue to address the Kashmir dispute.

Answering a question, Mr. Khan accused India of rejecting its "eminently good offer" to begin talks on troops pullout. "It is unfortunate that such an eminently good gesture from Pakistan has once again been spurned on some 'flimsy pretext'. We would rather discuss things across the table seriously".

On the reported comments made by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Omar Abdullah, about both the countries holding talks on formalisation of the Line of Control, Mr. Khan said "as far as Kashmir question is concerned, there are U.N. resolutions. There is also the Shimla agreement that calls for talks to resolve this dispute. It is a question of the people exercising their

will. It cannot be resolved by making press statements".

He said, "the representatives of the two countries have to hold talks with each other, then the Kashmiri people have to be involved. Then we can determine whatever the people of Kashmir decide for their future for the fate of the State in which they live".

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Rashid Qureshi, said "the LoC has been in effect for 40 to 50 years. Despite this, there is Indian firing daily. The LoC seems to be the problem. The problem cannot be a solution. Therefore to talk about a solution without talks or without getting into negotiations is not worth much".

About the Pakistani militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed figuring in the State of the Union Address by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, Mr. Khan said Pakistan had already banned the group.

THE HINDU

1 FEB 2001