

Abandon violence, Blair tells Pervez

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 7. — The British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, tonight bluntly told Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf that the time had come to abandon the option of using violence as a weapon to resolve the Kashmir issue, and, instead, settle for a comprehensive dialogue with India.

"Whatever the political cause, there can never be any justification for acts of terrorism — be it 11 September, 1 October or the 13 December attack on Indian Parliament," he told a joint press conference with Gen Musharraf after two hours of talks.

Without mincing words, Mr Blair, who arrived here after holding intensive talks with Indian leaders, turned to Gen Musharraf at one point during the press conference and said: "In our discussions, Mr President, you made it clear that Pakistan rejects terrorism in all its forms. I welcome that.

"Prime Minister Vajpayee said he's willing to have a dialogue on all the issues between India and Pakistan through exclusively peaceful means.

"That dialogue must be meaningful and comprehensive. In the meantime, I emphasise to both of you the desire of the UK and the international community to see that current tensions are reduced," he said.

In the same breath, he said, "I spoke to President Bush earlier today, and we are absolutely one on this: We must all be resolute in our total rejection of acts of terrorism such as those of 1 October and 13 December, and clear also that there should be meaningful and peaceful dialogue to resolve disputes such as Kashmir."

The British Prime Minister said he saw no rationale in justifying acts of terrorism as part of freedom struggle, as a section of Pakistanis preferred to argue.

Mr Blair said, "No matter how strong the cause, people should understand that there

can be no place for terrorist acts like the ones of 1 October and 13 December."

Replying to a question whether he made any distinction between terrorism and freedom struggle, Mr Blair told a local journalist, "Let me be very very clear with you, sir. People can feel strongly about a political cause. I certainly understand that. There are obviously very strongly held feelings here about the issue of Kashmir. People are entitled to those feelings. But I do not believe that anything can justify what happened on 1 October and 13 December".

On whether he would agree to mediation in the Kashmir issue, Mr Blair said, "We've been asked about the mediation. Our position always has been that India and Pakistan have to ultimately resolve the differences."

"Of course, Pakistan has a very strong view of its position on Kashmir. It's not for me to try resolve this dispute myself. What we're trying to get across is that the only way to resolve in the end is through political dialogue.

"Everybody, not just India and Pakistan, has a right to make sure that they are not subjected to acts of terrorism. Also, the only way to resolve disputes, such as Kashmir, is through the political process. That's the lesson in history ..."

Mr Blair further said, "I cannot resolve this dispute. But what I can tell you, that the international community desires, is that circumstances must be created in which meaningful and purposeful dialogue can take place."

Praising the role played by Gen Musharraf and the people of Pakistan in putting down terrorism, he said, "Pakistan should not stop with this but extend the same resolve to solving the Kashmir issue".

"People are clear that Pakistan shares, in general, an abhorrence and condemnation of what happened on 1 October and 13 December and wants no part of any such terrorist activity," he said.

THE STATESMAN

Indo-Pak. border situation must be brought under control: Blair

By Our Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD, JAN. 6. Supporting India's position on terrorism, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, today strongly emphasised that the starting point of any dialogue between India and Pakistan had to be the "complete and total rejection" of terrorism.

Mr. Blair said ahead of his talks with the Prime Minister, A. B. Vajpayee, in New Delhi that there could be no dispute that terrorism could not be countenanced. Stressing the importance he attached to his meeting with Mr. Vajpayee, he said Britain condemned the attacks on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Parliament.

"Everybody wants to see the situation (on the Indo-Pak. border) brought under control so that a proper dialogue can begin. The starting point has to be the complete rejection of terrorist attacks witnessed on October 1 and December 13", he said.

Speaking to a section of the media after inaugurating the British-funded Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Mr. Blair clarified his remark about Pakistan's "strong position" on Kashmir which raised the hackles of political parties in India. Asked whether his statement had not sent the wrong signals, he said he was simply pointing out that whatever views people (of Kashmir) had, they should pursue them in a legitimate and democratic manner.

On whether he perceived Mr. Vajpayee as a person with whom he could do business against the backdrop of his similar observation about the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, Mr. Blair said "I would like to make it clear that there have to be very clear rules in this situation. The most important rule is there cannot be any support for terrorist acts which have occurred over the past few months".

Mr. Blair earlier had a one-to-one meeting with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, for about 20 minutes when he appreciated the State Government's efforts to achieve economic progress, attract business and stimulate enterprise besides working for eradication of poverty and providing better education to people.

Praising the Chief Minister for his "dynamic leadership", he said this was an important factor in



The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, takes the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, around the stalls set up on e-Governance, in Hyderabad, on Sunday. The State Governor, C. Rangarajan and Mr. Blair's wife, Cherie Blair, are also seen.— Photo: Mohd. Yousuf

moving towards achieving these objectives. He described as interesting the similarity of their views on ways to deal with the issues confronting the world today.

Extending his strong backing for the Centre for Good Governance for which Britain's Department For International Development (DFID) has given an outright grant of £5.9 million, he said A.P. and Britain (which would be giving a development

assistance of £100 million in 2001-02 to the State) were also partners in progress for health and education.

He said the partnership had been able to increase because of the progress made by Andhra Pradesh. "It is a genuine partnership. The State is giving a very strong lead and it is very much in our interest to support it", he added.

Mr. Naidu said he explained to the British leader the various pro-

grammes his Government was implementing for people in the fields of education and health. Expressing gratitude to Mr. Blair for the generous assistance from DFID, he said he had requested him to extend similar cooperation for poverty alleviation programmes.

Mr. Blair left for Vattam village in Mahabubnagar district after spending a little over an hour at the CGG.

Mahajan remarks, an embarrassment

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JAN. 6. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, would seek to assuage the Indian sensitivities which were rather 'dramatically' articulated by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Pramod Mahajan. Mr. Mahajan had told Mr. Blair at the CII meeting in Bangalore on Saturday that: "People say you have come to cool us down. We have been cool enough for the last 50 years."

Mr. Mahajan's remarks, seen as an "embarrassment" to Mr. Blair and a "set-back" to his "peace" mission, made a splash here overshadowing the British leader's own speech. "Blair rebuked for peace claims", "Angry India rebukes peacemaker Blair", "Blair's calming influence upsets Indian Minister", "Indian Minister attacks 'Interfering' Blair" were

some of the headlines. Reports saw Mr. Mahajan's comments as an indication of New Delhi's "tough" stance and a "warning" to Mr. Blair to tread cautiously.

"The politically charged comments from one of the most vocal members of the Indian Cabinet appeared to be designed to warn Mr. Blair to tread cautiously when he meets his Indian counterpart, Atal Behari Vajpayee, in New Delhi," *The Observer* remarked, while *The Sunday Times* said that Mr. Blair was "smarting from a public rebuke by an Indian Cabinet Minister".

The Independent and *The Sunday Telegraph* echoed the perception that Mr. Mahajan's remarks were a 'foretaste' of the uphill task ahead of Mr. Blair's "calming" mission.

India could resume talks if terrorism ends: Blair

By Atul Aneja

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NEW DELHI, JAN. 6. The visiting British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, today urged India and Pakistan to begin a comprehensive dialogue, provided cross-border terrorism was terminated.

"There are two sides to the equation. On the one hand, there has to be complete rejection of terrorism and end to support to it in any form. And then meaningful dialogue can begin", Mr. Blair said at a press conference here this evening. Replying to a volley of questions on the present situation between India and Pakistan, Mr. Blair repeated the linkage between terrorism and recommencement of talks.

Britain, he said, welcomed some of the steps taken by Pakistan to curb terrorism. But "rather there must be complete rejection of acts such as December 13."

India, Mr. Blair added, "provided the threat of terrorism was lifted, could move to dialogue."

Concurring with his view, the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, who was also present, said India was ready for a dialogue with Pakistan on all issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

His visit to Lahore and the invitation to the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to Agra were steps in this direction. Mr. Vajpayee, however, questioned Pakistan's commitment to end cross-border terrorism.

He pointed out that in the brief farewell interaction with Gen. Musharraf this morning in Kathmandu after the SAARC summit, he had told the Pakistani leader that his omission of the word "terrorism" during his entire ad-



The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and his British counterpart, Tony Blair, exchanging documents of the Delhi Declaration in New Delhi on Sunday. — Photo: V. Sudershan

dress on Saturday, was conspicuous.

"In the entire speech the word terrorism has been avoided. It was a big omission", Mr. Vajpayee stressed.

New Delhi Declaration

India and Britain's joint commitment to counter terrorism was anchored today in the "New Delhi Declaration." The five-page document which covers all aspects of the relations, spells out the four basic principles which bind the two countries to counter terrorism.

First, terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds. Terrorism,

the declaration says must be "condemned unambiguously and eradicated wherever it exists."

Second, all those who support terrorism directly or indirectly must be condemned, including those individuals or groups that "finance, train or provide support for terrorists." Third, both countries support the U.N. Security Council resolution 1373 which makes a comprehensive case for rooting out terrorism globally.

Fourth, both sides agreed to collaborate in the counter-terrorism exercise by including joint training under the framework of the U.K.-India Joint Working Group on terrorism.

THE HINDU

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Talk to Pakistan: Blair

countries to resolve among themselves, he said. Significantly, the New Delhi Declaration signed by Blair and Vajpayee condemns the attacks of September 11, October 1 and December 13 as one, and then goes on to demand that "those responsible for these crimes must be delivered to justice". Thus, this declaration confers the same criminal status onto the Jaish and Lashkar that the United States has, on Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network.

The declaration describes the attack on Indian Parliament as an "attack on democracy worldwide". Blair emphasised this

point by saying that he saw it as an attack on the British parliament.

The British Prime Minister, who is the first to visit India after nine years on a bilateral visit, was also keen to stress the relations between the two countries. He described Indo-British relations as "a new partnership for a new century". Among the areas where the two sides agreed to cooperate is in working towards a permanent membership for India in the United Nations Security Council, on the reconstruction of Afghanistan, trade and investment, and on issues of development.

INDIAN EXPRESS

7 JAN 2002

Blair plays music for New Delhi's ears but rejects martial tunes

SONIA TRIKHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair, at the end of talks with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said in New Delhi the international community would like to see a dialogue between India and Pakistan, but before that could happen, Pakistan would have to completely reject terrorism. This reinforcement of the Indian position on dialogue came with a rider: India must avoid any kind of conflict with Pakistan.

"We discussed how important it is to avoid conflict of any kind," Blair, who arrived in the Capital from Hyderabad this evening, said. He was careful to say what would please both India and Pakistan — that terrorism must end, that there must be dialogue — but the sequence must have been music to the

Government's ears. The British premier said although the world welcomes the steps Pakistan has taken, there "must be a complete rejection" of what happened on December 13. "Once that rejection is there India and Pakistan can then move for a dialogue provided the threat of terrorism is lifted".

Contrary to what the US Secretary of State Colin Powell had said two days ago, Blair was at pains to emphasise that the Kashmir issue had to be resolved bilaterally, and that there was no room for mediation. On at least more than three occasions, Blair stressed that "they (India and Pakistan) have got to solve this together".

But Blair played it safe on whether he would ask General Pervez Musharraf to hand over the 20 terrorists on India's list. This was a matter for both

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INDIAN EXPRESS

Blair dangles UN bait

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE, Jan. 5. — The British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, today offered to back India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council stating that it was a natural contender. A day after he was reported as having said that Pakistan's position on Kashmir was "strong", Mr Blair today undertook a balancing act saying "an absolute rejection" of terrorism must be the starting point for resolving the Kashmir issue.

Addressing the eighth Partnership Summit here under the aegis of the CII Mr Blair said, "India's role

^{now} in peacekeeping from Bosnia to Sierra Leone is just one example of the true international leadership your country has shown the world. India is now a natural contender for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. We will work with you to achieve it."

Mr Blair, who spoke for over 45 minutes and virtually endorsed India's position on terrorism also asserted that "only politics, not terror" could solve Kashmir-type problems.

Accordingly, the starting point of any dialogue, he said, must be the total and absolute rejection of actions such as those of 1 October and 13 December. "I view

SM ⁶⁷¹ an attack on your Parliament with as much outrage as I would an attack on the Parliament in which I sit. It was an attack on democracy itself. Terrorism is terrorism wherever it occurs, whoever are its victims."

He added that Kashmir and the acts of terrorism associated with it would feature heavily in his discussions in India and in Pakistan.

Expressing Britain's solidarity in the face of the terrorist outrages in India, he said that there could be no room in any civilised society for organisations like the Lashkar and Jaish which his government had banned some time ago.

THE STATESMAN

Blair balances Kashmir with tough talk on terror

FROM HABIB BEARY

Bangalore, Jan. 5: The peace-broker sent the right signals before arriving in Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair today declared his country's support to India for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, a morale-booster for India.

Britain's backing will help India's case pending before the UN for a long time. Blair made the announcement while addressing a gathering of captains of Indian industry at the inaugural function of the five-day Business Partnership summit here.

India, which has an increasingly global role to play, was a natural contender for the position and Britain would help India achieve its goal, Blair said. "We will work with you to achieve it," he said, drawing applause from the *creme de la creme* of the Indian information technology industry.

This is the first time that Britain has unequivocally supported India's bid to enter the league of the five superpowers — the US, Russia, China, UK and France — the permanent members of the Security Council.

Blair praised India's role in

peacekeeping from Bosnia to Sierra Leone and said it was an example of the "true international leadership India had demonstrated to the world".

Assuring Britain's support in India's battle against terrorism, Blair said legitimate political issues could be pursued through legitimate means and not through terrorism and violence. "Only politics, not terror can

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solve issues like this," the British Prime Minister said.

Blair made it clear that the Kashmir issue and the acts of terrorism would feature "heavily in my discussions over the coming days here and in Pakistan".

He was obviously trying to balance his statement in Dhaka that Pakistan's political position on the disputed Kashmir issue was very strong. The remark has not gone down well with the Indian establishment, which holds Pakistan responsible for sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir.

"I want to express our total solidarity with you in the face of recent terrorist outrages in India. There can be no room in any civilised society for organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad," Blair said.

The attacks on the Indian Parliament and the Assembly in Srinagar were a threat by fanatics on not just Indian democracy but to all democracies and civilised values in the world, he added.

The British Prime Minister also announced a bonanza of bilateral development assistance to India. Britain increased its aid to Rs 300 million next year from the Rs 175 million in the current fiscal.

Tech speak

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, Jan. 5: Talking technology is cool but using it is a different ball game.

The confession came surprisingly from dynamic British Prime Minister Tony Blair, regarded as an upcoming world statesman.

Blair told delegates attending the Business Partnership summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in Bangalore that he was not a practical technology whiz-kid but could speak fluently on technology. "I am very good at talking on the new technology but frightfully hopeless in using it," he said.

THE TELEGRAPH

20 JAN 2001

Blair pledges 'total solidarity' with India in fight against terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, JAN. 5. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, today declared "total solidarity with India in its outrage against the terrorist attack on its Parliament" and said there was "no room in any civilised society for terrorist organisations already banned in the U.K., like Jaish-e-Mohammad or Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The terrorist attacks on Parliament on December 13 and on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in Srinagar on October 1 show the threat posed by terrorism to all democratic and civilised ways of life, Mr. Blair said addressing the CII Partnership Summit at the Infosys campus here.

"Terrorism is terrorism, wherever it occurs and whoever its victims are." While fanaticism and terrorism were not new, their combination with high technology was something new, he said.

On Kashmir, his view was direct; only political dialogue and not terrorism could solve the dispute. Both could not happen at the same time.

On the U.K.'s role in the international coalition against terrorism, he explained that besides sending troops to fight in Afghanistan, Britain was also sending humanitarian aid to the people there. It was part of the International Security Forces in Kabul to make sure that the country could again stand on its feet and does not become a victim of terrorists.

Mr. Blair also wanted democracies to be careful about religious fanaticism and fundamentalism because they bred terrorism and terrorists. "September 11 was a wake-up call about fanatics and fundamentalists who warp the true values of Islam. The Muslim world can help to tackle this by spreading the true values of its religion and by building bridges of



The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair (fourth from left), getting a standing ovation after a speech at the inaugural plenary of the CII-organised Partnership Summit 2002 in Bangalore on Saturday. Seen from left are the Infosys Chairman, N.R. Narayana Murthy, the Union Minister for Information Technology, Pramod Mahajan, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, S.M. Krishna, the CII President, Sanjiv Goenka, and the Karnataka Large and Medium Industry Minister, R.V. Deshpande. — Photo: K. Gopinathan

understanding between faiths.

"There are certain basic rules for all civilised nations to follow, whether the mighty U.S. or a poor Bangladesh." These included an open economy, priority in government spending on education,

technology and infrastructure; good governance for political and economic progress; a welfare state as a social contract between the government and the people, and an atmosphere conducive to a pluralist society.

In his 35-minute speech, Mr. Blair commended India for sending its armed forces for the U.N. peacekeeping missions in places as far apart as Bosnia and Sierra Leone. "India is a natural contender for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council and we will work with you to achieve it."

The Union Minister for IT and Communications, Pramod Mahajan, said today's economy was global as was terrorism. Those who bring terrorism to India cannot talk about Kashmir, it can be solved only by talks and not with bullets."

The Karnataka Chief Minister, S.M. Krishna, said Bangalore, which accounted for 30 per cent of the country's software exports, would soon have an international airport.

'Not a super power'

By Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, JAN. 5. Exorcising the ghost of its imperial past, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair today acknowledged that Britain was "not a super power" and the empire was "long gone" but said it could still be a "pivotal force for good". In a significant elaboration of Britain's new place in a post-colonial world, Mr. Blair said that its past gave it "unparalleled connections", with a host of regions, which it could use to build new partnerships and "in so doing I believe we have found a modern foreign policy role for Britain."

Mr. Blair's remarks came amid accusations at home that he was indulging in "pyjama diplomacy", while domestic issues were crying for his attention. His speech was seen as a riposte to critics who ridiculed Britain for not having been quite able to come to terms with the loss of the empire.

'Back to business': Page 13

THE HINDU

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We can have a calming influence: Blair

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JAN. 4. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has warned that a confrontation between India and Pakistan will have "far-reaching consequences" and can destabilise the entire region if it gets out of control.

Speaking to British newsmen accompanying him on his visit to the subcontinent, Mr. Blair said he had discussed at length the crisis over Kashmir with the United States President, George Bush, and hoped that his talks in New Delhi and Islamabad would have a "calming influence" on the nuclear neighbours.

"This is obviously a very tense and difficult situation. If the conflict were to escalate out of control, it would have serious consequences, not just for India and Pakistan, but for the whole of this region and the wider world," he said. His comments were widely reported in the British media today along with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Tan Jiaxuan's warning that a large-scale armed conflict between India and Pakistan would influence the peace process in Afghanistan and "endanger" stability in all of Asia.

Mr. Blair played down his role in defusing the tension, saying, "I cannot solve the Kashmir dispute by going to India and Pakistan — of course not — but I hope that by putting strong views on behalf of everybody in the international community, we can have a calming influence."

Indicating the concern in London and Washington over the in-



The Karnataka Chief Minister, S.M. Krishna, receiving the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and Cherie Blair in Bangalore on Friday. — Photo: T.L. Prabhakar

creasing Indo-Pakistan tension, he said he had been speaking regularly to Mr. Bush on the issue because "it is a very serious issue with far-reaching consequences".

"As we saw on September 11, the danger is that when these events occur they do not stop at the border of any one country.

Attention has focussed on India and Pakistan because of the enormous problems the whole of the wider world would face if they get it wrong."

The BBC quoted Mr. Blair's officials as saying that he would demonstrate "respect" for India's position in the current conflict.

"That means soothing Indian resentment at the way its great rival has found acceptance in the international community, thanks to Pakistan's support for the international coalition against terrorism, while at the same time regarding those India sees as terrorists as freedom fighters," its correspondent travelling with Mr. Blair said.

According to *The Guardian*, Mr. Blair would deliver "tough" messages to both New Delhi and Islamabad — advising New Delhi to "de-escalate" tension and Islamabad to act more firmly against groups India blames for the attack

on its Parliament on December 13. "I cannot start telling each country how to run their own affairs. But of course what we want is for the Pakistani side to act against terrorism. On the Indian side — to try to de-escalate tension... It is very important that, given the military capability of both powers, we do everything we possibly can to calm the situation."

The Times said that while Mr. Blair welcomed the steps taken by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to address Indian concerns, he wanted him to crack down harder on terrorist groups operating out of Pakistan.

"It is important that Pakistan does everything possible to ensure that it cannot be used to carry out these terrorist attacks on civilians."

Joint declaration to be signed

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 4. India and Britain are expected to sign a joint declaration during the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair's stay in the capital.

Mr. Blair who arrived in Bangalore today is expected to sign the "New Delhi Declaration" with the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, on Sunday. Apart from the Prime Minister, Mr. Blair will call on the President, K.R. Narayanan. The External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, will also call on the British Prime Minister.

THE HINDU

5 JAN 2001

Blair, Peres on peace mission to India

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Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI, Jan. 2. — India and Britain will discuss the world situation, especially terrorism in South Asia, when Mr Tony Blair meets Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee on Sunday.

The British Prime Minister is scheduled to reach India from Bangladesh on 4 January. He'll leave for Islamabad on 7 January.

Another foreign leader, Mr Shimon Peres, will arrive in New Delhi on Monday and seek India's "active support" to resolve the West Asia crisis. The Israeli foreign minister will meet Mr Jaswant Singh and may also hold talks with Mr Vajpayee and Mr LK Advani during his five-day stay in the capital.

Mr Blair's stay in Delhi may see signing of a few agreements. Among the issues to be taken up during his talks with Indian leaders are Indo-Pak ties and the military build-up along the border. He is likely to issue a "personal appeal" to the two sides to exercise restraint and defuse the tension.

Sources in London said Mr Blair wouldn't carry a "blueprint" for a resolution of the problem, but would certainly convey an "uncompromising" message to Islamabad to rein in J&K terrorists.

British dailies quoted officials as having said that

Mr Blair's trip will mark the "most significant" intervention by a Western leader in the sub-continental standoff. He is likely to urge Indian and Pakistani leaders to resume their dialogue, stalled since the failed summit in Agra last July.

The Daily Telegraph said Pakistan was eager to involve the USA, Britain and other foreign powers to calm tensions in the region. According to the *Times*, the British foreign secretary, Mr Jack Straw, and the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell, had agreed in October to step up pressure on the Pakistani President to take action against terrorist groups in Kashmir once the Afghan conflict was over.

Mr Blair will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow

evening. Local media said he may ask Bangladesh to send peacekeeping troops to Afghanistan. Officials said the visit will delay the Bangladeshi Prime Minister's departure for Kathamandu to attend the Saarc summit.

On reaching India on 4 January, Mr Blair will visit Bangalore and attend a dinner to be hosted by the Governor. The next day, he'll participate at the inaugural function of CII's Partnership Summit at the Infosys Campus. He'll visit Andhra Pradesh on 6 January and lay foundation stone for the Global Institute of Good Governance at Madhapur.

Blair's S Asia itinerary

- 3 Jan: Bangladesh
- 4 Jan: Bangalore
- 5 Jan: At the inaugural ceremony of CII's Partnership Summit, Bangalore
- 6 January: Hyderabad
- 6 Jan: Delhi for talks with the PM
- 7 Jan: Leaves for Islamabad

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STRAW VISIT

Words not enough, UK tells Pervez

India
- UK out

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HT Correspondent
New Delhi, February 27

BRITAIN HAS echoed India's sentiments on General Pervez Musharraf's January 12 promises of reining in cross-border terrorism.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said after his talks with External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh that it's up to India and Pakistan to decide on when to resume their dialogue on Kashmir and other issues.

"We believe General Musharraf is to be commended on the action he has taken since January 12. But he is aware as is anybody that the international community would judge him on the basis of action, not words," Straw said.

Jaswant, who was present at the joint press conference said "... we will take stock of the situation on the ground after the snows melt in Jammu and Kashmir".

The issue of Peter Bleach's release got another dimension on Wednesday when Straw repeat-



AFP PHOTO

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw with Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday.

ed London's request for his amnesty with Home Minister LK Advani. He said Advani had assured him to consider the matter. Straw held talks with National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra and paid a courtesy call to Defence Minister George Fernandes.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 FEB 2002