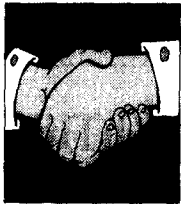


Taiwan joins
WTO with an eye
to better China

TAIWAN FORMALLY JOINS the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Tuesday after a decade-long bid to enter the global trading club, raising hopes for better ties with its giant neighbour China. Although Taiwan, the world's 14th largest trading economy, has fought for admission since 1990, it will bring mixed blessings to the island of 23 million people. WTO membership will mean mostly cheaper prices for consumers, but it is certain to hurt agriculture and labour-intensive industries and cause already record high unemployment levels to rise even further. Taiwan's "Asian Tiger" economy is set to post its first full-year contraction on record this year and competition from powerful multinational firms will bring tough challenges to local companies.

Japan push for accord with Asean

Reuters
TOKYO, 31 DECEMBER



The Japanese government is set to begin drafting an action plan to push for the signing of a comprehensive economic cooperation accord with Southeast Asian nations, including a free-trade agreement, media said on

Monday.

The move appears to be at least partly in response to a recent agreement between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for a free-trade area within 10 years, action which prompted speculation Japan may be losing Asian influence to its giant neighbour.

According to government sources quoted by the daily *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper, the plan would aim at concluding the economic accord within 5 to 10 years.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi departs on a whirlwind tour of five ASEAN nations from January 9, and he is expected to

propose to their leaders that work on the action plan begin as early as the end of January.

The sources were quoted as saying that Japan hopes to win official approval for the plan at a Japan-ASEAN summit meeting scheduled to be held in Cambodia next autumn.

The action plan is expected to specify what areas the accord will cover, as well as lay down a timetable of negotiations, the *Yomiuri* said.

Japan is also hoping to include provisions to improve the investment environment between Tokyo and ASEAN, as well as agreements on energy security and intellectual property rights.

No independent confirmation of the report was immediately available, but Koizumi has hinted before that he was not totally averse to the idea of a free-trade agreement.

Japan has been reluctant up to now to embrace such a plan, which is likely to run into strong resistance from areas such as the nation's protected agriculture sector in the face of a possible flood of cheap Asian imports.

It has currently concluded only one free trade agreement, with Singapore, as the core of an economic cooperation accord signed in October.

However, Japan also hopes to avoid any diminishment of its influence and leadership in

Asia, which many observers feel may face a significant challenge from China.

The contrast between economically robust China and Japan, struggling with an economy in recession, were painfully evident at the November gathering in Brunei of ASEAN leaders plus Japan, China and South Korea at which the trade agreement was reached with China.

Koizumi had to tell the group that Japan's main task was improving its troubled economy, while China was buoyant following a wave of triumphs that included entrance into the World Trade Organisation and being chosen to host the 2008 Olympics.

However, in a news conference following the meeting, Koizumi downplayed any fears that Japan would be left behind and appeared guardedly positive about a free-trade agreement.

"There are some difficult points," Koizumi said. "But we should try to overcome obstacles and move forward in a constructive way."

Some Japanese business leaders have said they favour the plan, but that it will take time and patience to achieve.

Koizumi leaves on January 9 for a trip that will take him to the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

The Economic Times

1 JAN 2002

China warns Taiwan

Press Trust of India *Sub Editor*

BEIJING, Jan. 30. — Chinese Vice Premier Mr Qian Qichen today said China would guard against attempts by Taiwan to secure gradual independence and listed the island's reunification as one of its three major tasks for the nation in the 21st century.

He urged all relevant departments and social sectors to give priority to Taiwan affairs and to treat them responsibly. It is imperative to keep to the fundamental principle of "peaceful unification" and "one country, two systems" and to implement the eight-point proposal put forward by President Jiang Zemin, the Vice Premier said.

Active measures should be taken to keep close contact for economic and trade cooperation and the exchange of personnel between the two sides of the Taiwan straits, to promote the "three links" of trade, transport and postal service and to listen to the opinions of people in Taiwan on the cross-border relationship and the reunification scheme.

THE STATESMAN

31 JAN 2002

U.S. says North Korea is No. 1 merchant for ballistic missiles

to Asia
G1-12 ✓
MV

By T.V. Parasuram

WASHINGTON: Continuing the rhetorical attack on North Korea, the U.S. has branded the country as the world's number one merchant for ballistic missiles.

"North Korea is now the world's no.1 merchant for ballistic missiles, open for business with anyone, no matter how malign the buyer's intentions," President George W. Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said.

She said in a speech to the American conservative union conference in Virginia on Thursday that the U.S. has offered a roadmap for reciprocal steps that would enable North Korea to take a better course. "We have had no serious response from Pyongyang."

Iraq, she said, "continues to threaten its neighbours, the neighbourhood, and its own people, and it continues to flaunt obligations that it undertook in 1991. And that can mean only one thing: it remains a dangerous regime, and it remains a regime determined to acquire these terrible weapons."

Iran's direct support of regional and global terrorism and its aggressive efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, Ms Rice said, belie any good intentions it displayed in the days after the world's worst terrorist attacks in history.

"All of these nations," she said, "have a choice to make—to abandon the course they now pursue. Unfortunately, these terrible regimes have shown no inclination to do so."

"But the U.S. and the world have only one choice, and that is to act with determination and resolve. As the president said, we must not and we will not wait on events while dangers gather, and we will use every tool at our disposal to meet this grave global threat."

"We will work to strengthen non-proliferation regimes and export controls. We will use our new and budding relationship with Russia to redouble our efforts to prevent the leakage of dangerous material and technologies. And we will move ahead with a missile defence system, unconstrained by the anti-ballistic missile treaty." (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 FEB 2001

Taiwan takes on China

6. Am
SFA
Successfully, with lots of US help ✓

The Chinese seem to be getting the message where Taiwan is concerned. Vice premier Qian Qichen said, after the usual display of belligerence that China needs to listen to the Taiwanese people on the question of reunification. One doesn't know where this is coming from. Has Taiwan been behaving itself? Not really. It recently test-fired a Patriot anti-missile system freshly acquired from the US, raising the usual indignant squawk from the mainland. Taiwan, however, has good reason for having the Patriot — more than 500 Chinese missiles are poised across the Taiwan Straits in Fujiang, most of them pointed in Taiwan's direction. Before that, the US had supplied it with an Aegis radar system that may eventually be integrated into a theatre missile defence that would effectively neutralise China's missile advantage.

Also, President Chen Shui-bian went to the US and also attended the Asia-Pacific Summit, reason enough to make the Chinese hopping mad. Above all, Taiwan has begun issuing passports which say, Republic of China, issued in Taiwan, something that falls just short of saying that Taiwan is another country. The latter part of Qian's statement might be a hint that China might live with that, Patriot missiles obliging. Other scenarios, involving the kind of political homogenisation the Taiwanese are demanding, might become possible, also because China's accession to the WTO means that its leeway for norm-flouting behaviour is severely reduced. //

S. Kim **U.S. empire of the devil,
says N. Korea** *AD-12
9/2*

SEOUL, FEB. 8. North Korea, described by the U.S. President, George W Bush, as part of an "axis of evil", hit back today by describing the United States as the "empire of the devil".

Pyongyang has already condemned Mr. Bush's remarks, made during his annual State of the Union address last week, as being tantamount to a declaration of war. The official KCNA news agency tried a different tack today, saying Mr. Bush's proposed defence budget increase for next year showed Washington wanted to flex its military muscles and was using arguments about threats from North Korea and others as a pretext. "The U.S. loud-mouthed 'threat' from somebody is a crafty trick to justify its increased military expenditure," KCNA said. — Reuters

7126 10000

9 FEB 2002

HD-19
20/2

Protests greet Bush in Seoul

✓
f Aru

SEOUL, FEB. 19. The U.S. President, George W. Bush arrived in South Korea today for a diplomatically delicate trip giving him his first look at North Korea — one of the three countries he sees as forming an "axis of evil".

Angry protesters have staged several demonstrations near the U.S. Embassy since last weekend over Mr. Bush's stance on the North and one senior politician sparked a scuffle in Parliament yesterday after he called the U.S. President "evil incarnate". Police with shields and long riot sticks patrolled the streets of central Seoul today and security officers checked drain covers and sealed off roofs. Security was particularly tight around the U.S. Embassy and the Ambassador's residence as well as the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung's Blue House home.

One group protesting near the U.S. Embassy in central Seoul, took a sledge hammer to a small wooden replica of a U.S.-made F-15 fighter jet, a candidate in a \$4 billion fighter purchase Seoul plans to decide in April. The protesters said they had intended to occupy the Seoul office of F-15 manufacturer Boeing, but were thwarted by police. Hours before Mr. Bush arrived from Japan at 1320hrs IST, several protestors were detained after trading punches with police as they tried to break a security cordon outside the airport. South Korea is the most sensitive leg of a three-country Asia tour. Mr. Bush will meet Mr. Kim tomorrow before flying to China the following day.

Mr. Bush is also expected to visit the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that divides the Korean peninsula. South Korean officials have said they hope the visit will pave the

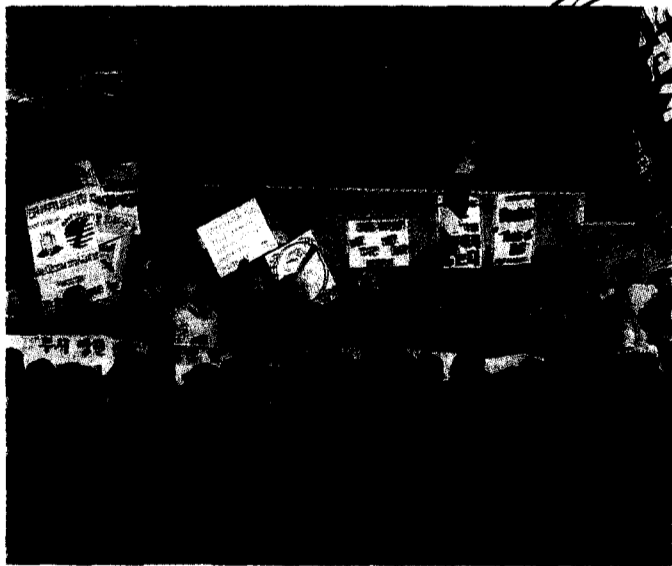
way for U.S. talks with communist North Korea to ease suspicions about Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, as well as its conventional forces.

"I believe the Korean people will warmly welcome President Bush and I hope that this visit will give our people the opportunity to feel close to President Bush and understand him better," said the chief Presidential spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook. Some South Koreans in Seoul did not agree. "He's just trying to sell more U.S. weapons to us, by making the North our enemy," said Bae Sung-hoon, a 28-year-old man who works for a shipping company. "He's just an arrogant American who thinks the United States is the world cop."

Leftist groups, which rallied in Seoul today, had a list of complaints for Mr. Bush, including U.S. bases in Korea, his missile shield, alleged U.S. atrocities during the Korean War and a U.S.-Korean investment pact which is under negotiation. There are concerns Mr. Bush's comments last month branding North Korea part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran have undermined Mr. Kim's "Sunshine Policy" of engaging the North. Washington has called for talks without preconditions since June, but North Korea has not taken up the offer. The United States keeps 37,000 troops in the South to deter aggression by the North.

The ruling party lawmaker, Song Sok-chan, sparked a scuffle in Parliament and was rebuked by Mr. Kim yesterday when he called Mr. Bush "evil incarnate, who wants to make the division of Korea permanent by branding North Korea part of the 'axis of evil' "

Reuters



Riot police try to control a row of protesters against the U.S. President, George Bush, as his plane landed at the Seoul airport on Tuesday. — AFP

THE HINDU

2002

Kim Jong-Il. AP

Get back to talks, Bush tells N. Korea

6-Asian *HPD-19* *2/2*
DORASAN, FEB. 20. The U.S. President, George W Bush and the South Korean President, Kim Dae-Jung made appeals today at the heavily fortified border with North Korea for the communist State to return to the negotiating table.

But Mr. Bush also warned the North that he would not let the world's "most dangerous regimes" acquire its "most dangerous weapons." Mr. Bush and Mr. Kim went to the de-militarised zone which has acted as the unofficial frontier since the 1950-53 Korean War after a summit in Seoul which focussed on ways to bring North Korea back to talks.

"We hope for dialogue with the North despite our concerns about the regime," Mr. Bush said in a speech at Dorasan railway station, close to the frontier. Dorasan was recently built as part of an agreed project to

reconnect a cross-border railway and road, held up by new tensions between the Pyongyang regime and its former Cold War enemies. South Korea has virtually finished its side of the railway while the North has not yet started. "That road has the potential to bring the people on both sides of this divided land together. And for the good of all the Korean people, the North should finish it," Mr. Bush said.

But again highlighting his doubts about a government that he has previously said was part of an "axis of evil," Mr. Bush also emphasised: "We must not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons." Mr. Kim also vowed to keep up a strong security stance against the North with the United States. — AFP

THE HINDU

21 FEB 2002

Bush darkening Pyongyang peace

Sunshine is dead. Long live the darkness. Is this what President George Bush would have liked to have said this week during his visit to Seoul? Even he, so soon after his "axis of evil" speech, might think that would be over the top.

Nevertheless, President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea is clearly fighting tooth and nail to save what remains of what he calls his "sunshine policy", his ambition to forge reconciliation with Communist North Korea. The Opposition at home has been buoyed by the sounds of *jihad* from Washington. The fact that the political pros in the European Union and the awarders of the Nobel Peace Prize, who in these matters tend to reflect sophisticated liberal opinion, have supported "sunshine" all along cuts no ice in the Bush entourage.

Mr Bush's tactic when he feels he has upset his interlocutor is to turn on the charm and stress the positive issues. This was the way to soften the hard edges whilst on the ground in South Korea. But the damage had been done, the primary message sent and the body language of the Bush entourage is unyielding.

Yet, whereas Mr Bush can say he has a policy with terrorism, or with Afghanistan and is planning a plausible one for constraining Iraq and, stretching a point, can persuade himself that he can sanction Iran into curtailing its nuclear weapons programme, there

is not one argument that will bear scrutiny for a policy of darkness with North Korea.

We have been through this in 1994 when the US Intelligence revealed that North Korea had removed spent fuel rods from a nuclear reactor, placed them in a cooling pond and was perhaps about to reprocess the used uranium to provide plutonium for up to six nuclear weapons.

For good measure, the CIA let it be known that some of its staff members thought that North Korea already had built a couple of useable nuclear weapons.

The pressure brought to bear on the Clinton administration to bomb North Korea was enormous. As with Iraq today, the argument made was that a rogue nation with nuclear weapons would threaten America's allies, South Korea and Japan and sooner or later threaten America itself.

In Kim Il-Sung, the paramount leader, North Korea possessed the harshest and most immovable of leaders, one that seemed impervious to advice, even from old allies like Russia and China. Blessed with a remarkable cadre of high powered nuclear and rocket scientists, Kim Il-Sung seemed to accept that the rest of the country could go hungry as long as some mythical dignity was

upheld.

Yet, when Mr Clinton received the Pentagon's advice on what to do, it came with great paragraphs of caution warning him that 50,000 American soldiers would probably lose their lives in a war with the North and that millions could die in the South under the onslaught of a North Korean invasion. Mr Clinton's dilemma was made even more complicated as the Republican hardliners chimed in.

Former President George Bush's National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft and former CIA director Robert Gates argued that the US should hurry to bomb the reprocessing plant, which if done quickly before the cooling rods were transferred to it would minimise the risk of radioactive fallout.

But Mr Gates who was also speculating that North Korea possessed two nuclear bombs did not address the terrifying possibility of North Korean revenge on the South. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger came in with his own proposal that inadvertently undercut Mr Scowcroft and Mr Gates.

Military action should only occur, he said, if the North

refuelled its reactor or started to reprocess the plutonium from the cooled rods. But he ignored Mr Gates and Mr Scowcroft's point about the dangers of bombardment on reprocessing facilities.

The stalemate in Right-

wing opinion gave former Democratic President Jimmy Carter an opening. In a personal odyssey to Pyongyang, he successfully negotiated with Kim Il-Sung a stalling agreement, which the Clinton administration built on, fashioning a nuclear freeze with his son, Kim Jong-Il who took over the leadership shortly after, on the death of his father.

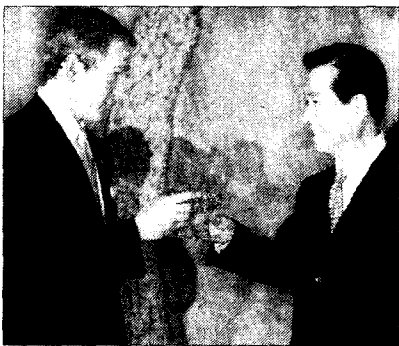
Despite all the vicissitudes in the American-North Korean relationship, over the last eight years the nuclear freeze, the central point, has continued. The North has agreed to a moratorium until 2003 on the test-firing of ballistic missiles. Unlike Iraq it sticks to its agreements.

And a policy of reconciliation, even if one conducted in fits and starts, was under way, until Mr Bush decided to undermine it. Mr Bush has no alternative to Mr Clinton's policy when it comes to substance. All he can do is to alter the tone of the engagement. The result in the end will probably be the same. It will just take that much longer and be rather more dangerous.

Did Mr Bush learn a thing or two during his visit to South Korea? The next month or so will be critical. It could be the choice between an honourable peace and a terrible war.

world view

JONATHAN POWER



President George Bush with his South Korean counterpart Kim Dae-jung in Seoul on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

22 FEB 2002

10-14
23/2
**N.Korea rejects
Bush offer**

SEOUL, FEB. 22. North Korea's Foreign Ministry today rejected a fresh offer of talks with the United States made by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, during his visit to Seoul this week. *AP*

A Ministry spokesman accused the U.S. leader of maintaining a policy aimed at "stifling" the communist country.

"We are not willing to have contact with his clan which is trying to change by force of arms the system chosen by the Korean people," he said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. Mr. Bush on Wednesday used a visit to the demilitarised zone on the border between North and South Korea to call on Pyongyang to resume talks on its weapons programmes and other issues. —AFP

THE HINDU

23 FEB 2002

Sino-US row over Taiwan

Beijing, February 24

SINO-US RELATIONS are heading for another major crisis with Washington poised to grant a visa to Taiwan's Defence Minister Tang Yao-Ming to attend bilateral military talks in Florida early next month, reports said here today.

"The invitation to Tang will enrage Beijing, even more so because it comes immediately after what China regards as a 'fruitful and substantial' visit by US President George W Bush," *South China Morning Post* reported.

"The news is likely to ruin the honeymoon atmosphere created by Bush's visit and celebrated in China's state-run newspapers on Saturday," Hong Kong's leading newspaper commented.

China opposes any country issuing visas to senior members of Taiwan Government. Beijing would regard the issue of visa to Tang as extremely provocative," the report said.

It would be the first US visit by a Taiwanese defence minister since 1979 and would upgrade military exchanges between Washington and Taipei.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 FEB 2002

E Axis
HO-14 U.S.-S. Korea plan ✓
angers North 2/3

SEOUL, MARCH. 20. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops will tomorrow start their biggest ever simulated conflict against North Korea which Pyongyang has angrily condemned as a war provocation.

U.S. military officials said on the eve of the week-long event that the exercises are purely defensive. But they come as Seoul officials step up warnings about ignoring the North Korea problem.

The drill will be the biggest since the 1950-53 Korean War. The lack of a formal treaty to end that conflict has left the Korean peninsula as the world's

last Cold War frontier with nearly two million troops ready for combat along the tense frontier.

The joint U.S.-South Korean Combined Forces Command (CFC) in Seoul said the exercise from March 21 to March 27 would for the first time merge two separate joint military drills for training efficiency.

This means hundreds of thousands of troops would take part, though the military gave no precise details.

A CFC spokesman said the drill would involve nearly every U.S. and South Korean military unit on the peninsula and other American troops brought in from abroad. — AFP

THE HINDU

21 MAR 2002

THE HINDU

Japan, S Korea sign investment pact, eye free trade

Reuters
SEOUL, 22 MARCH

Taking their first step towards an ambitious free trade agreement, Japan and South Korea signed an accord on Friday to boost mutual direct investment.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung signed the pact, at a time when Japan and its former colony are trying to smooth out often testy bilateral ties before co-hosting the World Cup finals in May and June.

The agreement, a first for Seoul, is expected to help South Korea attract huge investment from Japan and make it easier for Korean companies to enter Japanese markets.

"I hope the investment agreement will become a major step forward towards closer economic cooperation," Koizumi told a news conference after his talks with Kim.

Japan has already clinched similar investment accords with eight countries, including China and Russia.

Japan's investment in South



Kim Dae-jung and Koizumi (right)

Korea was 89.9 billion yen (\$681.2 million) in 2000, 17 times the 5.3 billion yen of South Korean investment in Japan, according to Japanese statistics.

Koizumi and Kim also agreed to start exploring a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). Combined, the economies of Japan and South Korea are nearly half the size of the US economy.

The countries had two-way trade of \$43.1 billion in 2001, with South Korea running a \$10.1 billion deficit.

Under the agreement, the two key Asian economies will form a bilateral panel comprising officials, business leaders and academics to study the idea.

Such an FTA would be only

Japan economy deteriorating: BoJ

Reuters
TOKYO, 22 MARCH

THE BANK of Japan (BoJ) said on Friday that the Japanese economy continued to deteriorate but it upgraded its overall view of economic conditions for the first time since July 2000, citing better exports and inventories.

Economists said the BoJ would probably not loosen its already super-loose monetary policy for a while, given the rosier outlook, although they left a big question mark over whether recent signs of a cyclical upturn would be sustainable.

The revised outlook from the BoJ followed an upgrade in the government's economic view last week as evidence grew that a stronger-than-expected rebound in the US economy could help alleviate Japan's deepest recession since World War Two.

"Japan's economy continues to deteriorate as a whole although downward pressure from exports and inventories is gradually abating," the BoJ said. Exports climbed for two straight months in January and February on a month-on-month basis, while inventories dropped in January for the fifth straight month.

Industrial output for October-December fell 2.5 per cent from the previous quarter, after declining by 4.3 percent in July-September and by 4.1 per cent April-June.

The central bank, which downgraded its economic view 10 times last year, remained slightly more cautious than the government, continuing to use the word "deteriorate" to describe the economy.

the third for Japan, following its maiden pact with Singapore in January and one with Mexico.

It could also mark an important step in repairing a history of strained ties dating back to

Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial rule.

But pressure in both countries to protect their farm sectors is a big obstacle to an FTA and prospects for a quick pact look slim, trade experts say.

THE STRAITS TIMES

MAR 2002

North Korea agrees to resume talks

B. Arin HO. 15 27/3

BEIJING, MARCH 26. North Korea agreed to a surprise new round of talks with Seoul on Monday, marking the start of a new offensive to shake off its rogue State image.

A South Korean Presidential envoy will travel to the northern capital, Pyongyang, next month hoping to reinvigorate the "sunshine policy" that floundered last year when it became clear that the U.S. President, George Bush, would take a hard line towards the Stalinist State. After months of secret contacts, Pyongyang has apparently decided that the two Koreas should continue a rapprochement that peaked almost two years ago when the South Korean President, Kim Dae-Jung, met Kim Jong-il, the North's "Dear Leader".

A terse statement from Pyongyang said the two States would resume negotiations to address the "grave situation facing the nation", as well as resumption of family reunions suspended 14 months ago, and other initiatives to improve cross-border relations. The architect of the "sunshine policy", Lim Dong-won, has been chosen to head the South's delegation.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, gave the North's announcement a cautious welcome, calling it an encouraging step. A week ago, Mr. Powell raised American pressure on Pyongyang by refusing to certify that the country had stopped developing nuclear weapons.

In response, North Korea gave warning that it would repudiate a 1994 accord under which it promised to abandon production of weapons of mass destruction and allow verification by international inspectors.

Mr. Kim said the architect of his



Lim Dong-won, architect of South Korea's 'Sunshine policy', will visit North Korea early April for talks. — Reuters

Nobel peace prize-winning "sunshine policy" would conduct fresh talks "with patience and in a bold manner".

A statement from the Presidential residence, Blue House, said: "We expect that his trip to Pyongyang will serve as an occasion to break the current stalemate in relations." Official North-South talks have been stalled since a ministerial meeting broke down last November.

Since then the relations have mirrored the downward spiral of relations between North Korea and America. Since taking office, Mr. Bush has been taking a noticeably tougher stance on North Korea's weapons proliferation and human rights record, culminating in his

"axis of evil" speech in January.

Mr. Kim did not spell out what would be covered in the talks. He said the aim was to start with easier subjects and then build up to eventual unification, a tactic West Germany used in its years of engaging East Germany.

The force of history, including refugee crises, eventually brought about the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall and unification a year later. "[Kim Dae-jung] felt it necessary for the highest authorities of the two sides to exchange a broad range of views on the ways to prevent possible heightening of tensions on the Korean peninsula," Blue House said.

Despite agreeing to talks the regime has not eased up on the torrent of abuse it has directed at Washington since Mr. Bush placed North Korea in the axis of evil with Iran and Iraq. As it has become more hostile towards Washington, Pyongyang has sought better relations with Russia and countries across Asia.

The Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, is due to visit Pyongyang on Thursday.

South Korean analysts suggested that North Korea was hoping to lure thousands of tourists for a two-month festival that opens next month to mark the 90th birthday of the late leader Kim Il-sung, known as the "Great Leader", and goes through to the 60th birthday of his son Kim Jong-il, the "Dear Leader", in June.

American tourists, who are normally blacklisted, will be allowed to visit for the festival.

But the main source of visitors is expected to be football fans visiting the region for the World Cup being played in South Korea and Japan, as well as ethnic Koreans. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

THE HINDU

2002

Hong Kong starts to remove illegal Chinese migrants

Lynne O'Donnell
The Times, London

BELJING, April 2. — As hundreds of migrants from mainland China defied orders to leave Hong Kong yesterday, a crowd of parents who have the right to live here but whose children lack residential rights pleaded with officials to let them stay.

However, Hong Kong security officials said they were searching the streets for migrants and would expel them when they found them.

The Hong Kong government said yesterday that of 7,000 peo-

ple who have lost their right to stay, 4,700 had returned to the mainland. The remainder had decided to stay.

As the protests continued, the migrants' representatives said officials had assured them that students, those receiving medical treatment and some seeking asylum on humanitarian grounds didn't face instant expulsion.

The deadline for returning expired at midnight on Sunday. Chinese children with at least one parent who is a permanent resident of Hong Kong are permitted to live in the territory, but only if they were born after their

parent achieved residency status.

For some, the ruling means not only deportation but separation from family. In the case of Lin Yeungming, a game played with her twin sister six years ago condemned her to such a fate. Yeungming, 19, must return to mainland China after being classified as an illegal immigrant.

In 1996, when her parents received permission to live in Hong Kong, the authorities in the nearby city of Guangdong, where they lived, told them they couldn't take both girls and would have to choose which one to leave behind.

3 Apr 2000

THE STATESMAN

AD-14

Koreas close to pact on ties *Asia*

SEOUL, APRIL 5. North Korea and South Korea were close to agreement on Friday on resuming economic cooperation and the reunions of separated family members, South Korean officials said.

The conciliatory moves affecting the heavily militarised region came during a meeting between the North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and the South Korean envoy, Lim Dong-won, late on Thursday in Pyongyang. "Both sides are near agreement on several issues, including family reunions and economic cooperation," said Kim Hong-je, a spokesman for the Unification Ministry, which oversees matters related to the two Koreas. As officials of both sides haggled on Friday over putting the agreement into writing, the envoy extended his stay in Pyongyang by one day and planned to return home on Saturday, the South Korean spokesman said. "Despite some difficulties, we have begun making progress, and both sides will be able to make a joint statement," he said. The nations were divided in 1945. About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War. Millions of Korean families remain separated — many of them elderly.

Inter-Korean relations warmed after a historic summit

between their leaders in 2000, enabling reunions of hundreds of families. But that stopped with a cooling of relations amid U.S.-North Korea tension, which Seoul officials say deeply affects the South's relations with the North.

The agreement will call for the two Koreas to reconvene an inter-Korean governmental committee that was set up two years ago to handle economic cooperation and exchanges, the South Korean spokesman said. The first business of the committee is expected to be South Korean economic aid. Seoul has expressed willingness to give the impoverished North 300,000 tonnes of free food and 200,000 tonnes of fertilizer.

South Korea is also eager to resume work on reconnecting a cross-border rail line that was cut off just before the start of the Korean War. Re-linking the line is a key part of the 2000 summit agreement, and South Korea has already completed work on its side of the border. North Korea stopped work early last year amid tension with Washington.

South Korean officials said their envoy also urged North Korea to start talks with the United States as well as Seoul to address concern about the communist country's development of missiles and other weapons. But there was no word on the North's response.— AP

China accepts Bush remark on Taiwan as 'oral mistake'

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, April 7. — China today accepted a clarification from the US government that President Mr George W Bush had inadvertently referred Taiwan as "country" and "republic" in a recent speech.

"The USA has said that it was an oral mistake that Mr Bush called Taiwan as 'country' and 'republic' in his recent speech. The US stance on Taiwan issue has not changed," foreign ministry spokeswoman Ms Zhang Qiyue said.

Ms Zhang said that the USA has officially clarified its stance on Taiwan issue to China, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Beijing views Taiwan as a rebel province which should be re-

united with the mainland, by force, if necessary.

The spokeswoman said the USA also expressed that the way they called Taiwan will no more be used. They also stressed that the US government has not changed its stand of observing the "one-china" policy and the three Sino-US Joint communiqués.

On Saturday, the Chinese foreign ministry announced it has asked the USA for an explanation on why President Bush referred to Taiwan as a country during a speech last week in Washington.

Reports in Taiwanese newspapers on Friday said Mr Bush called the island as "Republic of Taiwan" and a "country" in an apparent slip of the tongue during a speech to diplomats and business executives on Thurs-

day.

Calling Taiwan a country would undermine Sino-US relations, which were set up in 1979 largely based on a US acceptance to the "one China" principle, that states Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.

The Taiwan issue has often caused ups and downs in Sino-US ties.

Last month, China criticised the USA for its decision to allow Taiwanese defence minister Mr Tang Yiau-Ming into the USA for talks with defence officials and warned of a setback in bilateral ties.

However, Chinese foreign ministry officials later said both sides were moving ahead with plans for a scheduled visit by Chinese vice-president Mr Hu Jintao to the USA, likely to be later this month.

THE STATESMAN.

Reunion across the Korean frontier

SEOUL, April 28. — South Korea's Lee Bu-ja broke down with emotion and cried aloud when she met her older sister in North Korea for the first time in half a century today, and told her their mother in South Korea died two days ago.

"Sister Shin Ho! Sister Shin Ho! You are alive," Bu-ja cried, embracing her. "Until the moment of her death, our mother could never close her eyes peacefully without seeing you."

Their mother, 93-old Uh Byung-soon, was one of 99 South Koreans selected to visit North Korea for three days of temporary reunions with their North Korean relatives at a mountain resort on the North's east coast from today.

But she died on Friday after a long illness, just two days before she was due to meet her second oldest daughter Lee Shin Ho, 67. Instead, her youngest daughter



South Korean Cho Ock-hyun (left) breaks down as she hugs her long-lost North Korean sister Cho Ock-Bun during the first group meeting in Geumgangsang Hotel at North Korea's Mt Geumgang resort on Sunday. — AFP

ter, Lee Bu-ja, 62, made the voyage revived reconciliation between broadcast live to South Korea. No foreign reporters were allowed to visit the North. — AP

29 Apr 2002

THE STATESMAN

N Korea pulls out of Seoul talks, blames it on South

REUTERS
SEOUL, MAY 6

NORTH Korea said Monday it was pulling out of economic cooperation talks planned for this week in Seoul and it blamed the South Korean Foreign Minister for making "reckless remarks" during a recent visit to Washington.

The move was a major blow to the South's efforts to re-engage North Korea in President Kim Dae-jung's last year in office and came just days after families divided since the 1950-53 Korean War met in a tentative start to renewed contacts.

A statement issued by the official *Korea's Central News Agency* said Pyongyang had demanded the South apologise for Foreign Minister Choi Sung-Hong's com-

S Korea Prez quits

■ **SEOUL:** South Korean President Kim Dae-jung resigned from the ruling party on Monday, stepping aside ahead of elections and as opponents criticise the 77-year-old leader over an influence-peddling controversy involving his three sons. Kim's departure from the Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) comes weeks before the World Cup soccer finals start on May 31 and local elections in June.

South Korean presidents have traditionally stepped aside ahead of elections, though Kim's departure follows controversy and a bout in hospital to recover from fatigue. Kim formally resigned as the party leader last November. — *Reuters*

ments during a trip to Washington last month.

"The South Korean authorities have failed to do so though many days have passed since the demand was made, thus making it impossible for the planned second meeting of the committee for the promotion of North-South economic cooperation to open as scheduled," it said. "They should own due responsibility."

"There was no official notification," a South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman said. "The government will hold an emergency meeting later today to discuss counter measures."

Choi was quoted as saying in Washington the North had edged back toward talks in part because of the "stern attitude" of US President George W. Bush's administration toward North Korea.

Taiwan issue key to Sino-U.S. ties

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, MAY 8. The all-crucial issue of relations between the United States and Taiwan remains a top concern for China, which has repeatedly said that the U.S. must adhere firmly to the principle of "one China".

After a series of 'downs' in the China-U.S. relationship over Taiwan, the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, has taken a more optimistic view of this complicated relationship. Following a meeting between Mr. Jiang and the former U.S. President, George Bush, the Xinhua news agency reported: "Jiang said he was glad to see President (George W.) Bush and his aides reiterating that the U.S. Government would abide by the one China policy and abide by the principles of the three joint Sino-U.S. communiqués."

Of late, Beijing has been piqued by high-level visits from Taiwan to the United States and the increasingly senior American officials who have chosen to meet with these visitors. "After reviewing the history of Sino-U.S. relations, Jiang said that although they had differences, China and the United States shared more extensive common interests," Mr. Jiang told the senior Bush, adding that the Chinese Vice-President, Hu Jintao, had recently wound up a successful visit to Washington.

Mr. Hu, who is widely regarded as Mr. Jiang's successor, made it clear in a policy speech in Washington that the Taiwan issue had always been the "most important and most sensitive" issue at the heart of bilateral relations.

"Properly handling this (Taiwan) question is the key to promoting our constructive and cooperative relations. If any trouble occurs on the Taiwan question, it would be difficult for China-U.S. relations to move forward, and a retrogression may even occur," Mr. Hu said in a dinner speech in the U.S.

"The question of Taiwan is China's internal matter and should be resolved by the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Since (Richard) Nixon took office as President, the successive U.S. administrations, both republican and democratic, have been committed to the one China policy and the three joint communiqués....it is our hope that the U.S. side will strictly honour its commitments....and play a constructive role in China's peaceful reunification," the Vice-President said.

Stating that the two countries should address differences between them on the basis of mutual respect, Mr. Hu said: "For various reasons, China and the U.S. do not see eye to eye on some issues. Yet, we can through dialogue on an equal footing, increase our understanding, expand areas of agreement and gradually reduce our differences....the two sides should increase dialogue and gradually reduce our differences."

It is apparent that China, in its current state of development, does not want confrontation with the U.S. — instead, it wants to increase the level of dialogue and thrash out differences across the table. So far, the Bush administration has played to the Taiwan gallery, and according to some commentators, abandoned the policy of "strategic ambiguity" towards Taiwan. Though there have been many meetings at a high level, China remains suspicious of American intentions towards Taiwan while Washington is conscious of the fact that it can use this issue to prick the Chinese from time to time.

THE HINDU

9 MAY 2002

'USA to sell 30 attack copters to Taiwan'

Agence France Presse

TAIPEI, May 24. — The US government has approved the sale of 30 AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopters to Taiwan to help boost its capability to fend off any invasion from China, the United Evening News said today. Taiwan's defence ministry declined to comment on the report.

The \$ 1.29 billion package was requested by Taiwan after a US military delegation visited the island in September to evaluate its combat capability, said the report. The delegation completed its evaluation report of Taiwan's needs in December, it said and added, the deal was approved two weeks ago by Washington, which has remained the island's leading arms supplier despite switching diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

The United Daily News reported in February that Taiwan's army had accepted the proposal presented by the US team that Taiwan needs to set up a third mobile brigade comprising Apache choppers. "The third 'aviation cavalry' brigade would be based in central Taiwan and, with its high mobility, would be used to rescue defence units should they be attacked," the daily said. "Taiwan's anti-land capability would be significantly boosted," it said.

THE STATESMAN

25 MAY 2002

Taiwanese held for helping China

Associated Press

TAIPEI, June 12. — Military prosecutors have detained Taiwanese naval radio operator for allegedly taking sensitive photographs and sending them to China over the Internet, a leading Chinese-language daily said today.

Mr Liu Yueh-long, a first sergeant, was arrested on board the Shao Yang, the former US World War II destroyer he served on, a front-page report in the China Times said, quoting anonymous investigators. Mr Liu Yueh-long has been detained by a Defence Ministry court, it said.

Investigators allege Liu secretly took photos at naval ports around the island and then supplied them to China via the Internet, the report said.

A search of his residence un-

covered numerous photographs of Taiwan's major ports, naval port maps, and sensitive shots of the island's key naval vessels, like the island's French-made Lafayette frigates, the report said.

Mr You Tung-lung, the military judge handling the case, said that Mr Liu had been detained on June 5 and was being charged with the leaking of military secrets. You did not elaborate.

If found guilty, Mr Liu could face a minimum term of serving 10 years in prison or even the death sentence, which is prevalent in the country, military officials said.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war over five decades ago, but tensions between the two sides remain. Communist China regards the democratic island as a part of its own territory and has threatened to use military force to achieve that goal.

THE STATESMAN

13 JUN 2002

Chinese police scuffle with diplomats

BEIJING, JUNE 13. Chinese guards dragged a North Korean asylum-seeker away from a South Korean visa office on Thursday after kicking and knocking down diplomats who tried to stop them.

One diplomat was punched in the mouth in the scuffle outside the gate of the compound where the man and his son had sought refuge, according to witnesses.

The son remained inside the office, bringing to 18 the number of North Koreans holed up in South Korean diplomatic missions in Beijing, a South Korean official said.

The embassy protested the incident as a violation of international law and asked China to return the man, South Korea's national news agency *Yonhap* reported. South Korea's Foreign Ministry in Seoul could not con-



Chinese police officers and South Korean embassy officials scuffle on the premises of the embassy in Beijing on Thursday. — AP

firm that. Dozens of North Koreans fleeing famine and repression have sought refuge at U.S., Japanese and other for-

eign diplomatic offices in China. Two North Koreans have been in the Canadian Embassy since Saturday.

China has demanded that South Korea hand over the North Koreans in its offices. Seoul says it will do so only if Beijing promises they can leave the country.

By treaty, diplomatic offices are considered foreign territory that Chinese authorities aren't supposed to enter without permission.

China is obliged by treaty with its North Korean ally to send home refugees, but has let asylum-seekers leave in cases that become public.

Authorities have tried to deter asylum bids by erecting barbed wire around embassies and consulates and expanding the force of guards.

The Chinese government also has signalled a hardening in its attitude, demanding that embassies hand over to police any other asylum-seekers. — AP

THE HINDI

14 JUN 2002

Hong Kong gets Beijing nod for new Cabinet

HONG KONG, JUNE 22. Tung Chee-hwa has been given Beijing's go-ahead to announce a new Cabinet on Monday in the biggest government shake-up since Hong Kong was handed from Britain to communist China five years ago, officials said on Saturday.

Chief Executive Tung had been prepared on Friday to announce a new line-up of political appointees who will replace civil servants — but there was a delay as Hong Kong had to wait for approval from the central Chinese Government. Political opposition figures and the Hong Kong news media had speculated there had been a problem, possibly with one appointee holding a Canadian passport that needed to be renounced under Hong Kong law, though Mr. Tung's office said there had been no difficulties with any of his picks.

Mr. Tung's Cabinet will serve during his second five-year term, which begins on July 1, the fifth anniversary of Hong Kong's handover. The Opposition and local activists say the new system was rushed through, and complain Mr. Tung's appointees will not even be vetted by Hong Kong lawmakers. Although the names have not yet been made public, critics worry Mr. Tung is appointing like-minded friends who may be too cozy with Beijing and Hong Kong tycoons.

Mr. Tung calls the new arrangement an "accountability system," but critics say the new government chiefs will be accountable only to Mr. Tung, who is accountable only to Beijing. The unpopular leader was chosen for his second term by a committee filled with pro-Beijing and special interest representatives, with no say from Hong Kong citizens. — AP

North, South blame each other for skirmish in Yellow Sea

4 sailors die in Korea clash

Seoul, June 29 (Reuters): Four South Korean navy men were killed and 18 wounded in a clash with North Korean patrol boats today off the west coast of the divided peninsula, South Korea said.

One South Korean vessel was sunk in the clash in the Yellow Sea, the defence ministry said.

South Korea has been co-hosting the World Cup soccer finals and the South Korean team played its last match in the southern city of Taegu this evening.

"Four South Korean personnel were killed, 18 were injured and one is missing," South Korean defence ministry official Lt Gen. Lee Sang-hee told a news conference. "A North Korean patrol ship started shooting at around 10.25 (0125 GMT)... one of our navy vessels sank," he said.

The official said there were 27 navy personnel on the vessel

that sank. Two North Korean patrol ships briefly crossed the disputed maritime border — the so-called Northern Limit Line — 40 km west of Yeonpyongdo, an island off the west coast of the Korean peninsula, the ministry said in a statement.

The official said the two North Korean boats had returned to their waters after the clash. It was the twelfth maritime intrusion by North Korean vessels this year including nine by military boats.

South and North Korea have been divided since the 1950-53 Korean War and are still technically at war because the fighting ended in a truce.

North Korea's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted a military source who gave the North's side of the story of the two Koreas' deadliest naval clash in three years.

"The South Korean army

committed such a grave provocation as firing bullets and shells at patrol boats of the navy of the Korean People's Army on routine coastal guard duty in the west sea of Korea today," KCNA said.

"In retaliation against this, (North Korea's) warships were compelled to take a self-defensive step. As a result, there was an exchange of fire between the two sides, causing losses."

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung held an emergency meeting of his National Security Council to respond to the latest blow to his Nobel Prize-winning "Sunshine Policy" of reconciling with North Korea through aid, trade and reuniting families. "We can't tolerate the North and this is an obvious breach of the armistice agreement to increase tension on the peninsula," Kim said in a statement issued by his office.



Lt. Gen. Lee Sang-hee of the South Korean army at a special briefing in Seoul on Saturday. (AFP)

THE STATESMAN

30 JUN 2002

SANA

HONG KONG / TUNG SWEARING-IN TODAY

118-121

Protests as Jiang arrives

118

HONG KONG, JUNE 30. Police scuffled with pro-democracy activists on Sunday, shortly after the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, flew in to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Hong Kong's handover.

Earlier, the Falun Gong meditation sect complained that more than 90 practitioners were barred from entering the territory where they hoped to protest while Mr. Jiang attends Monday's ceremonies that also will include the Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, being sworn in for a second five-year term.

"This is obviously suppressing dissident voices," said Law Yuk-kai, director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, after he was manhandled by police at one of several demonstrations marking the anniversary of Hong Kong's return from Britain to China on July 1, 1997.

The pro-democracy activists demanded an accounting of the 1989 massacre of students in



FEARS OVER RIGHTS: A pro-democracy activist, who collapsed during a scuffle with policemen, being carried out of the crowd in Hong Kong on Sunday. — AP

Beijing's Tiananmen Square as well as an end to China's "one-party dictatorship."

"Down with Jiang Zemin," they chanted. "Down with Tung Chee-hwa."

Police at the scene said there had been a complaint about the noise so they had to seize the

protesters' bullhorns. Both sides started shoving and some demonstrators were knocked down, but no one appeared to be seriously injured and there were no immediate arrests reported. Beijing has outlawed Falun Gong as an "evil sect." — AP

USA, South Korea analyse radio communications

The Korea Herald/Asia News Network

SEOUL, June 30. — USA and South Korean armymen are analysing radio communications made by North Korean patrol boats during their gunbattle with South Korean ships.

Seoul has also asked the US military to provide photos of the battle scenes taken by US military satellites and U-2 spy planes deployed on the Korean Peninsula for the World Cup soccer finals, they said.

The intelligence analysing work would enable the South Korean military to prove that North Korea opened the fire in South Korean territorial waters, the officials said.

The North's official media claimed after the incident that its navy took only "self-defence" measures.

The defence ministry said the North sent a telephone message to the UN Command, in which it urged Seoul to give up the maritime border, called the Northern Limit Line.

The North said that it will hold talks with the South only if they are aimed at discussing the maritime border, which the Pyongyang government does not recognize.

The bloody skirmish occurred Saturday morning near the northwestern maritime border between the Koreas. A North Korean patrol boat fired and sank a South Korean speedboat, leaving at least four sailors dead, one missing and 19 injured.

A South Korean Navy lieutenant commander who was present in the battle said he saw more than 30 North Korean seamen killed or injured by the return fires from seven South Korean naval vessels, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We secured parts of the radio commu-

nications involving North Korean ships. Analysis will be finished in a few days," a Korea-US Combined Force Command official said.

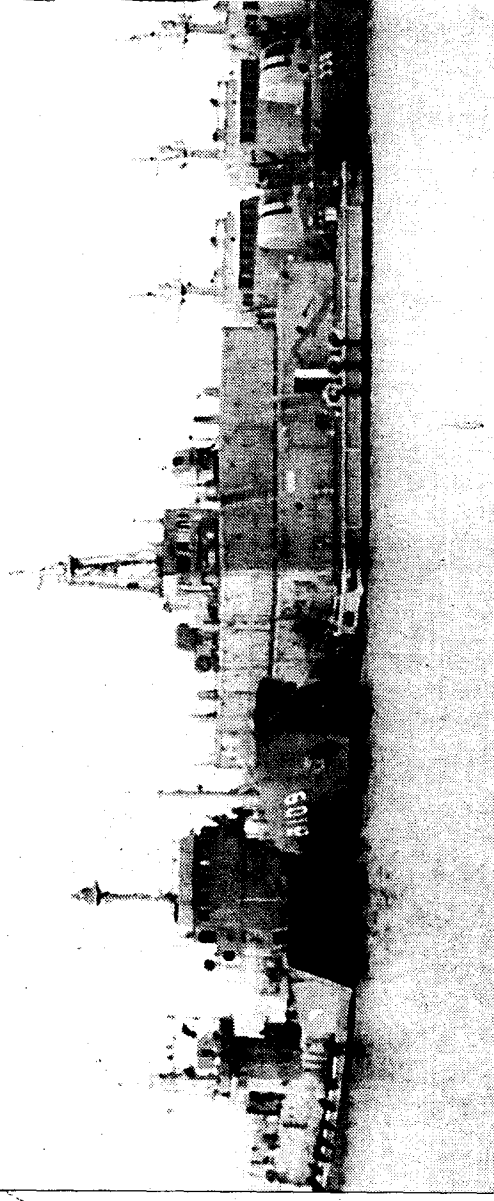
Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said the two sides have finished an initial examination of North Koreans' conversations and are working on more detailed data. "The South Korean and US militaries are fully cooperating to secure evidence to counter the North's allegation that we opened fire," a defence ministry official said. South Korea has requested the US assistance with intelligence including photos from the US military satellite and high-tech surveillance aircraft.

"In 1999, we filmed the battle scene with video cameras, so we could easily prove the fact that the North started the attacks. But this time the fight occurred suddenly and we haven't secured video evidence," the official said.

The USA has had its U-2 spy planes monitor North Korea's military movement during the World Cup soccer finals. More detailed photo could be obtained from U.S. surveillance satellites, which provide photos of a higher degree of resolution than the devices in the airplane, the official said. Another military source said JCS chairman Mr Lee Nam-shin met with Gen Leon LaPorte, commander of the US Forces Korea (USFK) Saturday afternoon to request assistance from the US side.

"Gen LaPorte promised to provide all assistance available including the US intelligence," a Seoul military official said.

The US commander issued a statement yesterday saying that USA and South Korean forces were in "close contact" after the attack.



South Korean patrol ships dock on a fortress ship near Yonggyong Island in South Korea on Sunday. — AFP

'Sunshine policy' in doubt

emergency meeting of the National Security Council, during which he said: "The military provocation of firing by a North Korean navy patrol ship is a clear violation of the armistice and an act that raises tension on the Korean Peninsula. We can't keep silent."

After the hour-long meeting, the Defence minister, Mr Kim Dong Shin, demanded an apology and a promise from North Korea that such an incident would not recur. Two years ago, the two Kims of North Korea and South Korea signed a joint statement promising to work toward a lasting peace, including reunification of the peninsula to be realised by themselves. Nevertheless, only two years later, the South Korean president accused Pyongyang of "a clear violation of the armistice." It looks as if the hands of the clock have been set back.

Mr Kim's sunshine policy was designed to ease tension on the peninsula by extending economic assistance

to fellow Koreans in the North suffering from economic crisis and international isolation. At the same time, it aimed at helping North Korea improve its relations with Japan and the USA to move it toward the direction of reform in long run.

In fact, reunions of separated families were realised, and the mood of reconciliation quickly spread in the two divided countries after the summit.

However, the inauguration of President George W Bush's administration and the September 11 terrorist attacks on the USA have drastically changed the situation surrounding North Korea. Subsequently Pyongyang rejected even North-South dialogue. Although Mr Kim Dae Jung sent a special envoy to Pyongyang in April, the North-South relations have not improved at all.

Saturday's incident suggests that nothing has changed in North Korea after all.

Yomiuri Shimbun / ANN

SEOUL, June 30. — The battle between North and South Korean patrol boats in the Yellow Sea off the Korean Peninsula's western coast yesterday clearly showed the limits of South Korean President Mr Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of reconciliation with Pyongyang.

Mr Kim held the first summit with the North Korean leader, Mr Kim Jong Il, in June 2000 and succeeded in changing the tone of the North-South relationship from confrontation to reconciliation and cooperation.

However, two years later, Saturday's clash between the two sides caused many casualties. The incident is sure to influence the fundamentals of South Korea's policy on North Korea as the South is scheduled to hold a presidential election this December.

The South Korean President, Mr Kim Dae Jung, yesterday convened an

N. Korea disputes sea border

6 Aug
SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA), JUNE 30. North Korea refused to apologise on Sunday for a sea skirmish in which four South Korean sailors died, saying the maritime border where the clash took place was illegal and should be abolished.

The South Korean military said North Korea suffered about 30 casualties in the fight on Saturday, though independent confirmation was not possible. Without elaborating, North Korea has said there were losses.

The western sea border was calm on Sunday, and the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, travelled to Japan to watch the World Cup soccer final and meet Japanese leaders. He was expected to return to Seoul on Tuesday.

19-14 117
"The Government will take necessary steps so the people can engage in their business without concerns," said Mr. Kim, who has urged his military to be more vigilant.

The fight broke out after two Northern patrol vessels accompanying fishing boats crossed the sea border and one opened fire after ignoring warnings to retreat, South Korean officials said. North Korea, however, accused Southern boats of provoking the battle by entering communist territory.

The dispute centres on the Northern Limit Line, a maritime border that was drawn up by the U.S.-led U.N. Command to avert possible clashes after the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea never accepted the line, and Southern officials say communist boats have repeatedly violated the border over the years.

The sea border is "a bogus line unilaterally and illegally drawn by (the South Korean military) in the 1950s and our side, therefore, has never recognised it," KCNA, the North's news agency, quoted a North Korean naval official as saying.

North Korea wants the sea border to be moved further south, which would allow it access to rich crab and fishing waters. North Korea reiterated its demand that the sea border be abolished in a letter on Sunday to the U.N. Command, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. — AP

THE HINDU

1 JUL 2002

Private inter-Korean exchange to continue despite clash

The Korea Herald/ANN

SEOUL, July 1. — Despite the naval clash between South and North Korea in the West Sea on Saturday, inter-Korean exchanges at private levels will continue as scheduled, a Unification ministry official said yesterday.

Right after the clash that claimed the lives of four South Korean sailors, the Unification ministry called an emergency meeting of senior officials and decided to allow private-level exchanges between the two Koreas to continue while maintaining close consultations with all the related government agencies.

A cruise ship ferrying 520 South Korean tourists to the North's Mt Geumgang had left the South Korean port of Sokcho yesterday for the Jangjeon Port in North Korea.

An official at Hyundai Asan, the main operator of the inter-Korean tourism business, said none of the reservation holders had canceled their reservations for the trip because of safety concerns caused by the naval clash.

A South Korean government official said 1,176 South Koreans were staying in the North as of Saturday, including tourists to the North Korean mountain resort.

Hyundai Asan officials and other South Korean citizens are engaged in inter-Korean exchange

projects. About 730 South Korean officials of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) are at present in the North for the construction of two light-water reactors in the South Hamgyeong province.

Sources said that KEDO officials were informed of the naval clash through satellite televisions, but they were not disturbed by the news. The sources said they watched a broadcasting of the third-place match of the World Cup between South Korea and Turkey afterwards.

On Saturday, 50 South Koreans flew to Pyongyang from Beijing as scheduled. Among the group are two professors and three teaching assistants from Hanyang University, who are scheduled to open courses in some North Korean universities in July and August.

A 39-member delegation from the Good Neighbors Inc is also visiting the communist country to confirm the delivery of aid goods that it had provided earlier to the North. The civic charity organization has supported four dairy cattle ranches and extended assistance to 14 orphanages in the communist country. An association of civic organizations seeking joint events with North Korea said it will soon send the North's Council for National Reconciliation a proposal to hold working-level talks in Pyongyang between 9 and 13 July to discuss joint celebrations marking National Liberation Day on 15 August.

THE STATESMAN

111 2002

Protest rallies greet Jiang in Hong Kong

Hong Kong: As protesters lashed out at the "murderous regime" in Beijing, Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Monday marked Hong Kong's first five years back in China by saying its capitalist ways are intact but that citizens should better support the mainland.

Chief executive Tung Chee Hwa was sworn in to a second term, and minutes later Mr Jiang urged the former British colony to "make conscious efforts to safeguard the security and unification of the motherland and endeavour to defend its overall interests."

Outside the anniversary ceremonies—and out of earshot of the dignitaries—demonstrators clamoured for improved human rights in the mainland, an accounting for the 1989 massacre of students in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and an "end to the one-party dictatorship."

The protests were visible proof that Hong Kong retains Western-style freedoms un-



Jiang Zemin

heard of in mainland China, although activists complained that police are making it more and more difficult to get their message out.

"Down with Jiang Zemin," several dozen pro-democracy demonstrators chanted as they marched with a mock coffin condemning the Chinese President's "murderous regime."

Police halted them at one point, saying they wanted to check the coffin for nails or spikes that could be used to hurt people.

Nearby, about 100 Falun Gong practitioners sat in Lotus positions in a silent appeal for Beijing to stop its deadly crackdown on the meditation group outlawed in China as an "evil cult." AFP

7 JUL 2002

7 JUL 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

N Korea blames USA, South issues alert

The Korea Herald/ANN
& Agencies

SEOUL, July 2. — North Korea has said the USA was to blame for the weekend naval clash with South Korea and that Washington was seeking to “drive a wedge” between the two Koreas, even as the South Korean President blamed Pyongyang for the attacks and said Pyongyang should know that it can neither revive its devastated economy nor obtain a security guarantee without cooperation from South Korea, Japan and the USA. The South Korean military issued new guidelines for naval engagement with the North yesterday allowing its navy vessels to open fire without issuing verbal warnings and blocking North Korean boats when they cross the border.

A Pyongyang foreign ministry spokesman said Saturday's skirmish erupted after South's warships intru-

ded into the North's territorial waters and opened fire at North Korean navy vessels. South Korea said two North Korean patrol boats crossed the disputed sea frontier, known as the northern limit line, and one opened fire after ignoring warnings from the South Korean navy.

The South Korean President Mr Kim Dae-jung has been under pressure from conservatives and the media to change his North Korea policy since the North's armed provocation, which killed four South Korean sailors, and sank one Navy speedboat.

But Mr Kim stressed that his North Korea policy, which helped him win the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize, does not aim to appease Pyongyang.

In their summit talks in Tokyo on Monday, Mr Kim and the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi agreed to continue engaging the North despite the naval skirmish.

While Mr Koizumi supported South Korea's handling the maritime inci-

dent, the two leaders also agreed on the importance of remaining calm and of not allowing the tension to escalate.

However, the Grand National Party, the largest political party in the National Assembly here, demanded the President dismiss the defence minister and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Under the new guidelines for the South's military, navy field commanders have been given the authority to fire weapons sooner, without as many intermediate warning steps, to deal with North Korean naval ships that violate the poorly marked sea border.

Displaying a picture of a retreating Northern warships, officers said the communist navy also was believed to have lost about 30 sailors.

The new rules outlined by the South's military effectively reduce the number of steps, from five to three, that South Korean navy ships should follow in repelling North's ships in case of future skirmishes.

THE STATESMAN

S. Korea warns North against intrusion

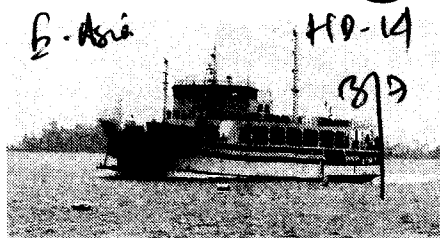
SEOUL, JULY 2. The South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, said on Tuesday that he was "enraged" by a North Korean border intrusion that triggered a deadly naval skirmish and warned that the communist nation's military will suffer if it provokes South Korea again.

"If North Korea tries to hurt us again with military force, it will suffer much greater damage," Mr. Kim said in a nationally televised speech upon returning from a visit to Japan. "I want to be clear about this."

Earlier on Tuesday, South Korea's military said it will take a firmer stand against North Korean ships that violate its maritime border, vowing to issue fewer warnings before resorting to force.

While telling South Koreans that that he "cannot help feeling enraged by the North Korean provocation," Mr. Kim promised to maintain his policy of trying to engage the isolated communist country.

"As long as we don't want war, we must have patience and continue our efforts to promote peace on the Korean peninsula," he said. "We must all work to prevent



A S. Korean ferry sails by navy speedboats near the western coast in the Yellow Sea on Tuesday. — AP

war." Mr. Kim was returning from a three-day visit to Japan, where he watched the World Cup soccer championship match and discussed security concerns with Japanese leaders.

South Korea's navy was criticised as ill-prepared after an engagement on Saturday with two North Korean warships that intruded deep into South Korea's western waters.

The incursion touched off a 21-minute gun battle between patrol boats in which one South Korean boat was sunk, killing four sailors and wounding 19 others. One

was listed as missing.

South Korean officials said the communist navy also was believed to have lost about 30 sailors, and have released a picture of a retreating North Korean warship trailing smoke.

The South Korean military responded on Tuesday by adopting new rules of engagement that give navy commanders the authority to fire their weapons sooner and at a distance — without as many intermediate warning steps — to repel North Korean naval ships that trespass across the poorly marked maritime border.

Previously, South Korean patrol boats were required to issue loudspeaker warnings, engage in threatening manoeuvring at close range, ram an intruder and fire warning shots before they were authorised to fire on the target.

Under the new rules, a South Korean commander can skip the loudspeaker warnings and keep at a distance when engaging in menacing manoeuvres and firing warning shots.

If the warning shots have no effect, then the South Korean boat may open fire on the intruder, said Ahn Gi-seok, a commodore at the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. — AP

3 JUL 2002

THE HINDU

Clash at sea

Seoul's "sunshine policy" paying dividends?

From Seoul's angle, the naval clash with North Korea couldn't have come at a worse time, just when it was playing host to the football World Cup. The site of the clash, at the Northern Limit Line, the de facto maritime border, is just 170 km from Incheon International Airport, a transit point for tens of thousands of soccer tourists. There is a dispute about who started the clash, but Pyongyang's version is sketchy beyond saying that the South is guilty of a "grave provocation," and it has followed up with a message to the UN that it wants to re-negotiate the Northern Limit Line, roughly halfway between the Northern mainland and five South Korean islands, which suggests that it may be attempting its own brand of coercive diplomacy. At least 4 South Korean sailors have been killed, 22 injured and a speedboat sunk; damage on the Northern side is not known. The shells fired will have torn a hole in South Korean President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of reconciliation with the North, whose prospects had seemed a lot better two years ago when it was hoped that the fall of the Berlin wall could be repeated on Korean territory. Southern and northern Kims (Dae Jung and Jong-il) had a face-to-face summit in 2000 and promised to work together for peace and reunification of territories.

A lot of water has flown down the Yalu river since then. Pyongyang has been unwilling to reform itself economically and South Korean companies investing in the north have found themselves being ripped off; while the opposition Grand National Party has strongly attacked economic aid to Pyongyang, a lynchpin of the "sunshine policy." September 11 also cast its long shadow; President Bush did his bit with the "axis of evil" speech naming North Korea, which caused Pyongyang to retreat into its shell and suspend negotiations with the South. It now wants to talk but pushing forward the Northern Limit Line has to be the first item on the agenda, a bit like Musharraf wanting to talk about other issues with India only after Kashmir has been settled. Pyongyang seems to have Washington on its mind a lot these days; it probably thought that the naval clash, a South Korean attack on itself, was part of "pre-emptive" strikes President Bush said he'll launch against terror. It is too early to say whether sunshine had largely been moonshine as far as North-South relations are concerned, but the way forward will certainly be uphill now.

THE STATESMAN

11 SEP 2002

South Korea gets a woman premier

Seoul: South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung picked the country's first woman prime minister and replaced six ministers in a reshuffle on Thursday, five months ahead of presidential polls in December.



Chang Sang

The chief presidential secretary said Chang Sang (62), a former university dean, was chosen as prime minister, replacing Lee Han-Dong. The posts being reshuffled include defence, justice and information and telecommunications ministers.

"The reshuffle is designed to reinforce the cabinet for stable management of state affairs," Park Jie-Won said in a televised press conference.

The widely anticipated move is seen as an effort to reinforce Mr Kim's admin-

istration with the presidential election five months away. Political parties had called for a non-partisan technocratic cabinet to ensure fair polls. Korea's 48 million people will elect a successor to the 77-year-old Kim on December 19. Mr Kim is barred by the constitution from standing for a second term.

The cabinet overhaul came before the by-elections to 13 seats in the national assembly on August 8. The seats fell vacant as a result of electoral law violations or because lawmakers resigned to contest local elections held last month.

The conservative GNP now holds 130 seats, exactly half of the 260 national assembly seats currently occupied. Next month's by-elections could hand control to the GNP, which had a landslide victory in June 13 polls for city mayors and provincial governors. Reuters

6 - Hina
HD 14
19/3

Tokyo, Seoul to seek talks with Pyongyang

SEOUL, JULY 13. Japan and South Korea agreed on Saturday to seek dialogue with North Korea despite a deadly sea skirmish that chilled relations on the divided Korean peninsula and prompted Washington to withdraw a proposal for security talks with the communist North.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, who arrived in Seoul late Friday for a three-day visit, met on Saturday the South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, Choi Sung-hong and then visited the President, Kim Dae-jung, for talks that focussed on the June 29 gun battle between North and South Korean patrol boats.

Mr. Kim — who hopes the clash will not derail his “sunshine” policy of engaging North Korea — explained his wishes and Mr. Kawaguchi reconfirmed Japan’s support for the South Korean approach, the President’s office said in a statement. “President Kim thanked the Japanese Government for maintaining its policy of seeking dialogue with North Korea following the

western sea clash and holding high-level talks with the United States for this matter,” it said.

Mr. Kawaguchi later toured Panmunjom, a border village inside the Demilitarised Zone that separates the two Koreas, which share the world’s most heavily armed border.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended in a cease-fire but no peace treaty. South Korea and its two key allies, Japan and the United States, are trying to co-ordinate their policy toward North Korea following the naval clash that took place along a poorly marked western sea border.

Four South Korean sailors were killed, 19 others wounded and one listed as missing. North Korea also admitted to an unspecified number of casualties.

The three allies regularly discuss strategy toward North Korea, which they consider a serious threat to regional security.

However, after the naval clash, the U.S. withdrew a proposal to resume security talks with North Korea. — AP

THE HINDU

14 JUL 2002

A free for all naval clash that erupted between North and South Korea on the Yeonpyong Island in the Yellow Sea towards the end of June has recreated consternation in the whole of South East Asia.

There were casualties on both sides and the clash was reminiscent of a similar flare-up in 1999. But what causes concern is the *casus belli* for the clash, namely, North Korea's unilateral rejection of the maritime boundary in the Yellow Sea off the western coast of the Korean peninsula known as the Northern Limit Line.

While occasional violations of this Line are acceptable as imponderables of maritime movement between the two countries, outright rejection of a time-honoured sea border instituted at the Korean Armistice of 1953 requires introspection. Pyongyang declared the Line invalid in September 1999 and sketched a fresh line of its own, making it clear that it would protect this Line by all measures at hand. Seoul's reaction was mature; it suggested that the two Koreas should mutually decide on the fresh Line under the provisions contained in the 1991 Basic Treaty.

Allowing fishing vessels of both sides to move across the Line was a



N Korean President Kim Jong-il

norm of the Law of Seas and did not demand military action in case of a dispute. There has been no response to this from North Korea other than its stubborn assertion of securing the new Line.

It is known that Korean policy matters have always been remotely controlled by China for the North and the USA for the South. When Bill Clinton was in power, he made a conscious effort to improve the *inter se* Korean relationship. He not only undertook a successful visit to Beijing but also sent his Secretary of State Madeline Albright to Pyongyang, an event that had never occurred in the five-odd decades of the Korean impasse.

It was the Albright trip that spurred the historic June 2000

The Korean playing field

A recent flare-up of a maritime dispute between North and South Korea is being viewed with trepidation by the whole of South East Asia as Korean policy matters are remote-controlled by China and the USA, respectively. Any talk about reunification is at best surreal, writes JK DUTT

summit between Kim Jong-il and Kim Dae-jung at Pyongyang. The summit was considered a good omen for the new millennium in Korean relations as well as the regional scene. George W Bush in his overbearance on terrorism suddenly sprung some unparliamentary diplomacy by casting North Korea as part of an "axis of evil", whatever that means. This drew forth a strong rebuke from Pyongyang, fully supported by Beijing. With one stroke, Mr Bush undid whatever Mr Clinton had set out to achieve in South East Asia.

The June clash, in a manner of speaking, was not unexpected because North Korea was in no mood to overlook Mr Bush's uncouth utterances. The timing of the clash is noteworthy - the Fifa finals took place a day after the clash, signifying that North Korea chose the timing to effectively convey its martial message when the entire world's attention was on the Japan-South Korea football fields, being a stone's throw away from the clash site. The international community just could not miss it, hence it was touché for Pyongyang!

Second, a perusal of the June 2000 summit declaration shows that the entire focus is on "reunification", there being no reference to the Northern Limit Line episode of the previous year. This is somewhat mystifying. A leading paragraph of the declaration goes so, "Acknowledging that the different formulae favoured by the North and the South for reunification have common factors, they will strive to work together for achieving this goal."

Surely, territorial disputes be they on land (38th Parallel), at sea (Northern Limit Line) or air space intrusions constitute ingredients of these "common factors", important and sensitive factors at that?

North Korea claims the South violated the former's self-created maritime Line, forcing the North's navy to fire and sink a South ship. Compounding the issue further, the North says that the sunken ship is lying in its waters whereas the South holds that its vessel has been sunk by the North within the precincts of the original and hence

legal Northern Limit Line.

More complications have arisen with Pyongyang warning Seoul that any salvage operations that the latter wants to do apropos the sunken ship must first be cleared by the former. Seoul has retorted equally belligerently that it does not need Pyongyang's prior sanction for salvaging something which is domestic in nature. Who is to adjudicate over this?

Third, following from the second, is reunification really feasible? This is akin to the misplaced belief that India and Pakistan wish to solve the Kashmir problem when an incisive examination of their specious terms of reference imply that in truth they want to keep the problem alive.

Again, any Korean comparison with Germany is fallacious unless one is able to digest the deception that like the USSR, China too will disintegrate! What is at odds in Korea are two different ideologies with their respective objectives.

The North's "Juche" doctrine envisages totalising both the Koreas under northern rule, using military weapon as its principal instrument. Its land forces are one and a half times that of the South's, and this itself is a dominant criterion. Add to this the North's nuclear armoury and Pyongyang feels confident that the South will capitulate.

The North's scheme of things visualises that as it heightens tension in the area, the US Corps that is permanently located in the South will find itself in a dilemma. Overwhelming public pressure at home across the USA will preclude any actions by this Corps. To this extent, Pyongyang will utilise the Vietnam bogey as persuasive propaganda for forcing this Corps to depart from South Korea.

Once this happens, the North will capture the South by a blitzkrieg. Take it or leave it, the North believes in this theorem.

By contrast, South Korea's "Sunshine" doctrine evokes a behavioural science script. Seoul is sanguine that the crux of it all is, the North Koreans have to be assured of their fundamental survival requisites comprising a reliable commissariat, social security, self

esteem and affiliable connections below the 38th Parallel.

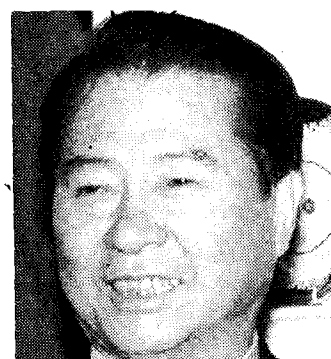
When this is through, they will forsake any militant thoughts towards their southern kinfolk. So, the South considers it imperative to actuate a survival methodology for their northern neighbours for inducing peace in the peninsula. These are lofty ideals but are utopian in kind and out of sync with realism, even more when pejoratives like "axis of evil" are flung around.

In sum, the ideological schism between the two Koreas will continue to exist. The June summit declaration appears to have been an exercise in surrealism. The two can never unite: better relations, yes; reunification, no!

Lastly, an unexpected feature is visible - Japan has tactfully expressed a desire to weaponise! There is a growing political undercurrent in Japan motivated by its youth to "liberate" their country from American tutelage. Washington has viewed this dimly, though the subject is still esoteric. If Tokyo does go ahead and enter the nuclear club, what could be the likely consequences in South East Asia? Japan might opt to have its own apparatus for a Theatre Missile Defence system - if so warranted - by perhaps teaming up with Russia and China, thereby disavowing any American protection as obtaining.

Since no love is lost between Japan and Korea (remember World War II), Tokyo would scarcely be interested in Korea's affairs other than trade. The point is, the USA will need to cover only South Korea in the TMD context when Japan separates. Will the USA be compelled to do so? If as an alternative, South Korea develops its integral nuclear arsenal besides increasing its conventional army's strength from the current 700,000 to 1 million to checkmate the North, what then? In such an event, the US Corps in South Korea may become redundant.

Ironically, the Juche strategy's success is based on the absence of the US Corps in question, provided of course Seoul remains conventional, not nuclear. This basis will



S Korea President Kim Dae-jung

get negated now. In the course of the disbalance created by Japan's

nuclearisation, a whole lot of rebalancing of forces will have to be carried out in South East Asia.

However, greater stability may take place in the Korean peninsula in the bargain, with the Juche and the Sunshine visions neutralising each other. The biggest losers will be the USA.

Tailpiece question: is there anything against India supplying nuclear savvy to South Korea as a counter to North Korea's long-standing arrangement in this regard with Pakistan?

(The author is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, Indian Army)

S Am
+10-12/20/02

Koreas open landmark air route

20/7

SEOUL, JULY 20. North and South Korea today opened a landmark inter-Korean air route despite a naval skirmish in the Yellow Sea a month earlier, officials said.

The air route linking the North's Sondok airport and the South's Yangyang airport, both on the eastern coast, is the first direct air route officially recognised by both sides, they said. "This is an olive branch held out by the North following the naval clash," analyst Suh Joo-Seok of the Korea Institute for Defence Analyses said. Five South Ko-



A North Korean plane sits next to a South Korean jet at the Yangyang airport in Seoul on Saturday. — AFP
rean soldiers and an unknown number of North Korean sailors were killed when warships from the two rivals exchanged fire last month off the western coast claimed by both sides. — AFP

THE HINDU

21 JUL 2002

China gains at Taiwan's expense

Beijing, July 21 (Reuters): The South Pacific island nation of Nauru opened diplomatic relations with China today and cut ties with former ally Taiwan, China's foreign ministry said.

Nauru's swing represented a small win for Beijing in a years-long campaign to win over countries recognising Taiwan, which China regards as a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, by force if necessary.

The move reduced the number of countries that recognise Taiwan to 27 and sparked accusations in Taipei that Beijing had sought to buy the tiny island's loyalty with financial aid worth up to \$137 million.

In a joint communique signed by China's assistant foreign minister and Nauruan President Rene Harris in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong, Nauru said it had "decided to sever its 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan as of July 21, 2002."

The government of the 21-square-km isle agreed that the Communist government in Beijing was "the sole legal government representing the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory". In Taipei, officials pleaded with Nauru and accused Beijing of offering \$60 million in financial aid to the island of about 12,000 people and promising to repay its debts worth \$77 million.

THE TELEGRAPH

2 JUL 2002

US, N. Korea in informal chat

FROM DAN EATON

Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei), July 31 (Reuters): US secretary of state Colin Powell met his North Korean counterpart for an informal chat today as efforts to ease inter-Korean tensions stole the limelight at an Asia-Pacific security forum.

The encounter in the Sultanate of Brunei was the highest level contact between the US and Communist North Korea since President George Bush took office in 2001 and applied the brakes to tentative US moves towards detente with North Korea.

In his State of the Union address last January, Bush declared the communist state part of an "axis of evil".

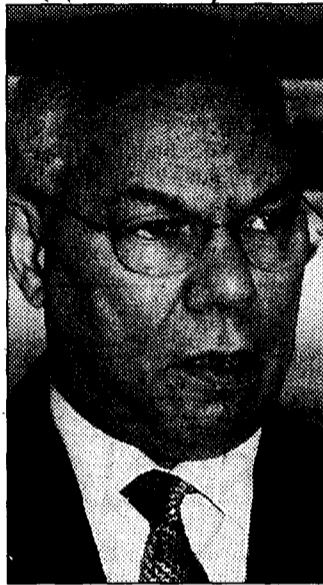
The 23-member Asean Regional Forum (ARF), hosted by Southeast Asian nations and featuring the US and the two Koreas, today had been expected to focus on efforts to root out terrorist networks.

Participants did issue a statement pledging to choke off the networks' funding, share information, set up financial intelligence units and coordinate against money laundering.

In another statement at the close of the forum they also called for Pakistan, which has applied for membership, to take urgent steps to stop all terrorist activity in order to ease tensions over Kashmir.

Powell met with North Korean foreign minister Paek Nam-sun for 15 minutes at the start of the meeting.

"It was a good meeting, a short meeting over coffee," Pow-



Colin Powell

ell told reporters. "I told him that we should stay in touch and see how to pursue our dialogue."

Paek told reporters they had both agreed to keep up talks.

Powell's predecessor, Madeleine Albright, became the first cabinet-level US official to hold talks with a North Korean counterpart when she met Paek at Asean in 2000. Later that year she met leader Kim Jong-il in a landmark visit to Pyongyang.

In his chat with Paek, Powell noted a recent statement by the North Koreans, a State Department spokesman said, apparently referring to their expression of interest in dialogue with Washington, and of regret for sinking a South Korean patrol boat.

THE TELEGRAPH

1 AUG 2002

S. Korean parliament vetoes woman as PM

Seoul: South Korea's Parliament on Wednesday vetoed the appointment of the country's first woman prime minister after bitter wrangling mired in allegations of financial impropriety and sexism.



Chang Sang

National Assembly speaker Park Kwan-Yong said that of 244 votes cast, 142 lawmakers voted against appointing Chang Sang and 100 voted for her. There was one abstention and one ballot was declared invalid. "I declare the motion for the approval of the appointment of Ms Chang as prime minister has been voted down," Mr Park said.

The decision was seen as a blow to President Kim Dae-Jung who named Ms Chang, then the dean of the prestigious Ewha Women's University, as premier on July 11. The President must now find a substitute for her.

Ms Chang, 63, has been the target of an outspoken opposition campaign that she fabricated her academic background, engaged in real-estate speculation.

Ms Chang had denied any wrongdoing during the two-day confirmation hearing in Parliament which ended on Tuesday. But lawmakers pressed on alleging that Ms Chang encouraged her son, who was born in the US in 1973, to drop South Korean nationality to dodge military service. AFP

1 AUG 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Koreas start preliminary talks

THE KOREA HERALD / ANN

SEOUL, Aug 3. - South and North Korea began the first day of their preliminary meeting at the North's Mt. Geumgang resort yesterday to set the stage for proposed ministerial talks in Seoul later this month.

Ending a four-month hiatus in governmental contacts between the two sides, the working-level meeting is aimed at setting the date and agenda for the ministerial talks.

The planned cabinet-level talks are expected to jump-start a host of delayed bilateral agreements, including reconnection of inter-Korean railways and roads and reunions of separated families.

The meeting follows a flurry of contacts between the North and foreign countries, including the USA and Japan, during the Asean Regional Forum which ended in Brunei on Wednesday. The unification minister, Mr Jeong Se-hyun,

said in Seoul that the South Korean delegation to the Mt. Geumgang meeting will deliver the Seoul government's position on the 29 June naval clash between the South and North.

"The working-level negotiation will discuss procedures for the ministerial talks, but we will also deal with the matter (the inter-Korean naval clash) in view of the public's expectations," Mr Jeong told reporters at the Office for South-North Dialogue.

Mr Jeong met the 14 South Korean delegates to the Geumgang meeting at the office before their departure.

The assistant minister for unification policy, Mr Rhee Bong-jo, who leads the South Korean delegation, said they will urge the North to account for the bloody skirmish which left four South Korean sailors dead and one missing. The Seoul government said the West Sea clash was a premeditated provocation by the North.

4 AUG 2002

THE STATESMAN

Beijing bars officials

Taiwan melts, China cold

6 A54
1-3
10/8

Taipei/Beijing, Aug. 9
(Reuters): Taiwan further liberalised business ties with China today, but Beijing barred two Taiwan officials from visiting the mainland in the latest show of anger over the island's debate about independence.

The controversy could flare anew with President Chen Shui-bian and his predecessor — who goaded China during his 12-year rule — set to share a stage on Sunday, just days after Chen riled Beijing by backing a referendum on independence.

Taiwan approved a plan to allow microchip makers to build plants in China today a day after opening its property market to Chinese investors, bolstering economic ties even as China's official media heaped fresh scorn on Taiwan's President.

The property market opening, effective immediately, aims to "help develop and utilise land resources and revive real estate markets", Taiwan's interior ministry said in a statement.

Separately, the island's economics ministry said local microchip makers can begin applying on Monday for permission to build plants in China.

Chen and former President Lee Teng-hui, honorary leader of the Taiwan Solidarity Union, will address festivities in Taipei to mark the party's first anniversary.



A policeman tries to stop journalists from filming the construction of a railway line along the Lhasa to Nagqu highway. (AFP)

sary. Their joint appearance was likely to further convince China the pair dream of declaring the democratic island formally independent — a move certain to invite a Chinese invasion.

In the latest show of its anger, China barred two Taiwan officials from visiting the mainland with a delegation of congressional aides from August 12-23, a Taiwan spokesman said.

Taiwan has no credentials to join U.N., says China

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 10. China has opposed a proposal aimed at placing the Taiwan issue on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly during its annual session next month.

Reacting to a reported move in New York by a few countries to raise the issue of Taiwan getting representation in the United Nations, China's Foreign Ministry reaffirmed late last night that "Taiwan is an inalienable part of the total territory of one China". Beijing's latest call on this subject is designed to sustain

pressure on the Taiwanese President, Chen Shui-bian, in the context of his comments about a week ago that China and Taiwan enjoyed equal sovereignty. His endorsement of the idea of a referendum within Taiwan on the question of the territory's final political-constitutional status has enraged China.

Beijing suspects that Taipei's confrontational attitude is a strategic ploy to test the political will and patience of the Chinese Communist Party as it prepares to consider changes at its helm later this year. With Beijing allowing international speculation about a leadership change

to gain currency, Taiwan is reckoned to have seized the moment to raise an old issue in a new context.

Condemning the reported move in this regard at the U.N. headquarters in New York, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Kong Quan, said in Beijing that Taiwan, "a province of Chi-

na, possessed no credentials whatsoever to join the United Nations or any of its specialised organisations in any name or in any form." Mr. Kong has been quoted as saying that any proposal for Taiwan's so-called "representation in the United Nations was a serious violation of the

purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter itself. Moreover, any such move would constitute "an infringement of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity..."

Expressing "strong indignation" over this move, China set out a reality check on contemporary history. The General Assembly had in 1971 adopted Resolution 2758 that recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China. With that, the issue of a seat on the U.N. was settled forever in favour of the People's Republic of China, the spokesman said.

TAIWAN / FORMER PRESIDENT LENDS HIS BACKING

Chen calls for unity to meet threat

TAIPEI (TAIWAN), AUG 11. The Taiwanese President, Chen Shui-bian, on Sunday called for Taiwanese unity to meet the military threat from China but shied away from the tough talk that ratcheted up tensions between the rivals earlier this month.

But at the same forum, the former President, Lee Teng-hui, warned that Taiwan might be "wiped out by China" unless it stood firm in the belief that Taiwan was a separate country to the communist mainland.

Mr. Chen angered China when he said in a telecast on August 3 that there is "one country on each side" of the 160-km Taiwan Strait. Though he later said he meant Taiwan and China were "equal sovereigns," Beijing viewed the remarks as an assertion of Taiwanese independence and issued a stream of military threats via its state-run media. Since the two sides split amid a civil war in 1949, China has claimed Taiwan as part of its territory and vowed to use force if the self-ruled island makes a formal declaration of independence.

The feisty Mr. Chen said in a speech on Sunday to a tiny pro-independence group that Taiwanese of all political affiliations must unite to strengthen the island against the mainland. "Facing China's military threat and its suppression of our space on the international stage, we must unite and ... stop fighting among ourselves," Mr. Chen told members of the Taiwan



A group of pro-independence activists demonstrate to show their support for Taiwan's President, Chen Shui-bian, in Taipei on Saturday. — AP

Solidarity Union. The Taiwanese President did not, however, mention his controversial remarks or refer to the question of sovereignty in his brief speech. Without elaborating, he urged his audience to "hold on" to their beliefs. "If we're on the right road, we must not cease walking down it," he said. "We will not be scared."

After Mr. Chen's speech, the

outspoken Mr. Lee addressed the crowd and reiterated his support for Mr. Chen's "one country on each side" comment. "Such definition of the relationship is what we must hold on to, or we might be absorbed and wiped out by China," Mr. Lee said. Mr. Lee, who founded the Taiwan Solidarity Union a year ago, also lashed out at opposition politicians

who criticised Mr. Chen and called the President's words "a description of the reality."

When Mr. Lee held Taiwan's top job, he infuriated China with similar remarks. In July 1999, he argued that Taiwan and China have a "special state-to-state" relationship. Beijing accused him of recklessly moving Taiwan toward independence.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has filed a fresh demand for a seat at the United Nations, an official said today, in a move likely to further antagonise severely frayed relations with Beijing. Taipei made the new proposal through its allies, demanding representation under the name of "Republic of China (Taiwan)", a foreign ministry official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "The proposal underscores equal sovereignty with China," the official said.

The move comes a week after Mr. Chen provoked a venomous attack from Beijing by calling for a referendum on the island's future.

In its bid to secure a U.N. seat, Taiwan insisted its 23 million people were unrepresented in the global body and called for a resumption of dialogues and peaceful settlement of the lingering disputes with China.

Observers said the new bid will rattle the nerves of Beijing as the row over Mr. Chen's referendum call rumbles on.

They said it remained to be seen if a key reaction from Washington would be forthcoming. — AP

Koreas hold talks aimed at reconciliation

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 12. Inter-Korean parleys, signalling a renewed effort to defuse the abnormal tensions between South Korea and its estranged northern neighbour, began in Seoul today.

The three-day talks, at the ministerial level, have acquired enormous importance in view of the latest moves by both the United States and Japan to evaluate the intentions of North Korea, which figures in the Bush administration's configuration of a new "axis of

evil" in the context of the ongoing globalised campaign against terror.

With many South Koreans themselves viewing their skewed equation with the North as potentially the most explosive one in international politics at this time, today's talks got off to a circumspect start.

The official word from Seoul was that "there can be no alternative to reconciliation and cooperation between the two sides on the Korean peninsula.

This view was echoed by

South Korea's Unification Minister and chief negotiator, Jeong Se-hyun.

A prime topic that figured in these preliminary talks, which lasted just over an hour, was the restoration of an old rail link across the demilitarised zone that divides the two Koreas.

The need for unusual coordination between the military establishments of the two sides was explored so as to make this project a reality as mutually agreed upon as a concept in the context of the North-South summit of 2000, which in itself was a diplomatic breakthrough on inter-Korean scene.

At today's talks, the South Korean delegation offered to work towards an early commencement of "working-level military talks in this regard.

The dangerously mined terrain, which the proposed rail link will criss-cross, is said to be the prime reason for military-level talks in respect of a people-friendly economic project.

The other proposals from the South were officially listed as the need for early talks at the levels of the Red Cross and economic groups.

The chief North Korean delegate, Kim Ryon-song, was

quoted as saying that "the train of high-level (North-South Korean) talks, which was temporarily halted, has been set in motion again."

A positive outcome is his stated aim during these discussions, which will resume tomorrow.

The move from the South Korean side for military-level talks and coordination, in the specific context of the proposed rail link, assumes much diplomatic significance in the light of a recent naval clash between the two sides.

North Korea has expressed regret over the incident without formally tendering an apology.

This was cited by the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, as a positive sign which, among other reasons, justified his decision to engage the North Korean Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the recent ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei.

The possible participation by North Korea in the Busan Asian Games, slated for September-October this year, and South Korea's recent success in hosting World Cup football championship in conjunction with Japan lent a lighter touch, yet a confidence-building mood, to the latest inter-Korean talks.



The senior North Korean official, Kim Ryung-sung (left), who leads Pyongyang's delegation, with South Korea's Unification Minister, Jeong Se-hyun, in Seoul on Monday. — AP

Talks show signs of progress

10-19
6 Asia
19/8

SEOUL, AUG. 13. North and South Korea said they held a productive round of talks on Tuesday on key projects, which include reunions for family members separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. Near the talks venue, dozens of protesters burned a North Korean flag.

"It's going well," Kim Ryong Song, the chief North Korean delegate, said after a morning meeting that lasted one hour and 20 minutes. It was unclear whether he knew about the demonstration. Rhee Bong-jo, a spokesman for the South Korean delegation, said the meeting took place "in a good atmosphere as both sides engaged in substantive discussions, rather than arguments."

Mr. Rhee said the two sides planned working contacts in the afternoon to "narrow differences" while their chief delegates visited a park outside Seoul with replicas of traditional farm houses. Outside the compound of the hotel where negotiators met, about 100 Korean War veterans and supporters burned a large North Korean flag. They demanded that the agenda of the talks include the accounting for tens of thousands of South Koreans who they said were abducted by the North during and after the Korean War.

"Damn Shoe-Shine Policy," read a sign on one picket, re-



South Korean students struggle with riot policemen during a rally demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops in the Korean peninsula and welcoming the North Korean delegation which arrived for talks, in Seoul on Tuesday. —AP

ferring to the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine" policy of engaging the North's communist government. "Don't shine Kim Jong Il's military boots," another sign read, referring to the North Korean leader.

Critics argue that the South Korean Government has been too generous in meeting North Korea's demands.

The talks, which opened on Monday after a nine-month hiatus, marked a resumption of a reconciliation process that thrived after a historic summit in 2000 but stalled amid U.S.-

North Korea tension last year. South Korean officials said the agenda included sports exchanges, the construction of a cross-border railway and another round of reunions for separated family members.

Kim Hong-je, a spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, said contacts on Tuesday would focus on setting details for these and other previously agreed projects.

The two sides were to issue a joint statement outlining their discussions before concluding the three-day talks on Wednesday, he said. — AP

14 AUG 2002

THE HINDU

Koreas agree to sustain dialogue

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 14. North Korea today warned the U.S. of a possible abrogation of their Agreed Framework on the norms for the proposed international inspections of Pyongyang's suspected nuclear-weaponisation programme. The emergence of a new irritant of this order coincided, though, with a positive 10-point agreement on steps to sustain the inter-Korean dialogue, including military talks, at a date yet to be set, and new economic cooperation between the two Koreas.

North Korea has made a conciliatory gesture towards Japan, too, on ways to normalise their ties. These new developments acquire unusual importance because the U.S. as also South Korea and Japan figure in a diplomatic check list of prime concern to Pyongyang. With China's imprecisely defined "moral understanding, North

Korea seeks to evade or impair the American radar screen that tracks an "axis of evil on the international political horizon. North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Pyongyang that "the Agreed Framework (of 1994) stands at the crossroads of abrogation or preservation due to much delay (which the U.S. is alleged to have caused) in the provision of light water reactors". The supply of reactors to North Korea for nuclear energy production was, according to Pyongyang.

It was also said that the extent of Pyongyang's willingness to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency would be entirely conditional upon the progress in the construction of light water reactors by a U.S.-guided international consortium for electricity generation in North Korea.

North Korea claimed that the U.S. had failed to honour its part of the 1994 bargain that should

15/8 HD-16 B-Asia
have resulted in the installation of reactors by 2003, a purported target date now said to have been erased from the diplomatic calendar itself in their bilateral sphere. Without addressing the American position that the installation of electricity reactors would be conditional upon Pyongyang's compliance with the requirement to allow in weapons-inspectors, the official said that "the reality is pushing us (the North Koreans) to the phase (when) we should make a final decision to go our own way".

It was against this background of a new chill on Pyongyang's front with Washington that North Korea and its southern namesake today agreed to bring about a thaw in their relations. After three days of intensive and often frustrating talks at a ministerial level in Seoul, the two Korean delegations today agreed upon a step-by-step approach towards reconciliation and uni-

fication. The two sides agreed to hold a delicate military-level dialogue as soon as possible as regards the specific issue of re-establishing rail and road links across the demilitarised zone that separates the two countries.

Other economic issues, especially the development of an industrial zone in North Korea with South Korea's help, would be discussed separately. The timing of the economic talks has been broadly decided, too. The questions of further re-unions among the divided Korean families and of an institutional framework for this humanitarian exercise were also addressed. It was decided to sustain this process according to an agreed timetable. Reinforcing the 'positive spirit of the latest inter-Korean agreement, Pyongyang today indicated its willingness to begin a process of serious discussions with Japan with the aim of establishing diplomatic ties at an early date'.

Koreas struggling for package deal

The Korea Herald/Asia News Network 8 APR 1998

5-9 15/8
SEOUL, Aug. 14. — Negotiators from South and North Korea tried to iron out their remaining differences today to strike a package deal on a set of measures aimed at putting their reconciliation projects back on track.

The biggest hurdle to an agreement concerned the schedule for a working-level military meeting to flesh out details for reconnecting cross-border railways and roads, Seoul officials said.

South and North Korea were working on a joint statement on the final day of three-day ministerial talks in Seoul that will reopen the inter-Korean reconciliation process.

The remaining issues, however, kept the two sides from holding a final full session in the morning as scheduled.

Seoul officials said South Korean representatives insisted on setting a date for the military talks in the joint statement, but North Koreans said several times they first have to convey the South's request to their military leadership as they have no authority to decide the matter.

Clinching a deal on military talks to guarantee the security of construction work in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) is key to the success of the negotiations, as no major project between the two Koreas can proceed without the North Korean military's consent, the officials said.

Such projects as reconstruction of the Gyeongui Railway linking Seoul to the North's Shinuiju and establishment of overland routes to Mt. Geumgang in the North all pass through the heavily fortified border.

Despite the tug-of-war over the military meeting, the cabinet-level talks that resumed after a nine-month hiatus paved the way for a host of bilateral programs.

South and North Korea agreed to hold the second Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Committee meeting this month to tackle issues such as establishing an industrial complex in the North Korean border city of Gaeseong, a joint flood control system along the Imjin River and an investigation over the Geumgangs Dam in the North, whose safety concerned South Koreans early this year.

The South is also expected to promise the provision of 300,000 tons of rice to the famine-stricken North during the economic meeting.

1 5 2 0 0 0

THE STATESMAN

Taiwan may face 'use of force'

Associated Press

BEIJING, Aug. 7. — Taiwan faces a growing possibility of military action by the mainland if "radical pro-independence moves" continue on the island, the Chinese government warned today through its state-run media. But it also emphasized its commitment to a peaceful solution.

There is a growing possibility that "peace will have to be safeguarded and won through the use of force," a newspaper article said, quoting what it called a "senior military source". "We must not delude ourselves that the separatists will abandon their pro-independence pursuit overnight," the source was quoted as saying. "If we want to strive for peace, we have to be fully prepared for military action." The carefully worded article came days after Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian angered Beijing by saying Taiwan might "walk its own road" and is, like China, a separate nation. The communist Chinese government regards Taiwan as part of its territory and considers unification the most sensitive issue it faces.

The article ran today in two top state-controlled media, the *China Daily* newspaper and the website of *People's Daily*, the official Communist Party newspaper. Both are key conduits for policy statements by the Beijing leadership. It stressed that China preferred peaceful solutions but was open to other options if necessary. "Taiwan choosing independence is tantamount to choosing war," the article said.

Taiwan calls off military exercise: Taiwan "president" Mr Chen Shui-bian has called off a military exercise, according to Taiwan media. The move is

considered as a part of an effort to ease tension caused by Mr Chen's earlier speech which mentioned "one country on each side."

The anti-submarine exercise, scheduled for 15 August to the east coast of the island, was to feature F-16 jet fighters and "success" warships.

According to *Chinese Times*, the cancellation of the exercise is also out of the need of surveillance and "guard" against People's Liberation Army, the mainland army. Mr Chen Shui-bian tried yesterday to soften his position saying that his speech had been oversimplified by the media. "Equal sovereignty" would have been a more appropriate way to sum up his speech, he said.

In a speech on Saturday, Mr Chen said that holding a referendum on Taiwan independence was a "basic human right" and in reality there was "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Straits.

PLA blasts pro-independence move: The chances of Beijing using military force to settle the Taiwan question may be heightened if Mr Chen moves to on his call for a referendum on Taiwan's future, a senior military source warned yesterday.

Although the Chinese government remains firm in adhering to peaceful reunification and is doing its utmost to achieve that objective, rampant pro-independence activities on the island are threatening to undermine conditions for the realization of the goal, the source said.

A military researcher with the People's Liberation Army University of National Defence, said the mainland has been exerting maximum military restraint to demonstrate its sincerity in seeking a peaceful settlement to the Taiwan question.

Taiwan softens vote threat

Taipei/Beijing, Aug. 8 (Reuters): Taiwan said today it may forge ahead with legislation for a referendum on formal independence from China, but sought to soften the blow with an assurance it would not hold a vote unless forced into a corner.

In Beijing, state media ignored the climb-down by leaders on rival Taiwan, pouring fresh scorn on President Chen Shui-bian and saying he had revealed his dedication to "splitting the motherland" by backing a referendum and talking of two countries.

Taiwan cancelled war games yesterday scheduled for August 15 in an effort to defuse tensions. But China's military warned that Chen risks attack if he pressed ahead with a vote on independence.

The US signalled Chen was on his own in the latest flare-up of cross-Strait tension, saying bluntly it will not support formal independence for the democratic island of 23 million people.

Taipei, busy trying to douse flames Chen ignited in a weekend speech to independence activists, said it would "ready, but not use" legislation for a referendum. Polls show a majority in

Taiwan oppose unification with the mainland, but also do not support any move that would provoke war with China.

Taiwan's Mainland affairs Council said in a policy paper the government was preparing referendum legislation, but would not use it unless Beijing forced the island to reunify under the "one country, two systems" formula used for Hong Kong and Macau.

"If communist China forces Taiwan people to change the status quo in the future, the Taiwan people will have the right to express their opinion through a referendum," the paper said.

Premier Yu Shyi-kun joined the damage-control effort, making similar remarks to US businessmen during a New York stopover.

"If Taiwan maintains the status quo, legislation for a referendum would not be necessary," the *United Daily News* today quoted Yu as saying.

Chen sparked the row on Saturday when he said a referendum was a "basic human right" and the fact is there is "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait, more than 50 years after the Communists won a civil war and sent the Nationalists fleeing to the island.

B Asia
11D-15

Taiwan claims a diplomatic coup

19/8

TAIPEI (TAIWAN), AUG. 18. A day after returning from a controversial visit to Indonesia, Taiwan's Vice-President said on Sunday that Taipei won a "battle without gunfire" against China by convincing Jakarta to allow her four-day trip to go ahead despite opposition from Beijing.

Annette Lu told reporters that during her visit, a Chinese leader telephoned Jakarta and threatened to cut diplomatic ties if she was allowed to meet high-level Indonesian officials.

Chinese officials last week said they had made "stern representations" to the Indonesian Government, expressing their opposition to the visit. But Ms. Lu's claim that Beijing threatened to cut diplomatic ties could not be immediately confirmed with either Jakarta or Beijing. On Sunday, China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan, calling Ms. Lu's trip as "an absolute farce."

"She runs into a brick wall wherever she goes," Xinhua quoted Mr. Kong as saying.

"Facts show that Lu is persona non grata and there is no way Taiwan independence can succeed." In Jakarta, Ms. Lu met Indonesia's Labour and Environmental Ministers.

But both Ms. Lu and Indonesian officials deny that she met the Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Beijing works hard to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, since it considers the island a part of China. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949.— AP

1 9 AUG 2002

Roh seeks support of media, party members

The Korea Herald / ANN

SEOUL, Aug 18. - With his in-house opponents threatening to bolt from the party, Mr Roh Moo-hyun, presidential nominee of the Millennium Democratic Party (MDP), is striving to regain support from party members and the media.

Mr Roh opened his house in Myeongnyun-dong in Seoul to journalists yesterday, for the first time since he won the MDP's presidential ticket in April.

Over lunch with reporters, Mr Roh explained his views on the recent moves inside the MDP to form a new party and nominate a new candidate for the December presidential election.

Mr Roh's aides stressed that he extended the invitation to journalists "just to exchange greetings." But political watchers said the invitation might have something to do with his efforts to reconcile with segments of the media critical of him.

Mr Roh, a former human rights lawyer, has been at odds with the conservative newspaper *Chosun Ilbo*, which his aides have said holds a bias against him.

Mr Roh's political fan club, "Nosamo," once threatened to carry out a campaign titled "No to *Chosun Ilbo*" during the MDP primaries in the spring.

A recent survey released by the Jour-

nalists Association of Korea shows that 69.3 per cent of the journalists polled believe that *Chosun*, Korea's largest-circulation daily, favours a "specific" presidential candidate, and more than 93 percent said Mr Lee Hoi-chang, Mr Roh's archrival and standard-bearer of the Grand National Party (GNP), has most benefited from media coverage.

Mr Roh's popularity has been shrinking amid a spate of scandals involving the sons of President Kim Dae-jung, who founded and formerly led the MDP, and the party's successive defeats in local and parliamentary elections.

As part of his efforts to reach out to voters, Mr Roh launched yesterday a "Web briefing" on his views on political issues. Mr Roh also plans to meet with MDP lawmakers face-to-face to seek their support regarding the current internal disputes over the proposed formation of a new party and other political issues, according to his aides.

Tomorrow, he will hold a seminar with his policy advisers to discuss the latest developments in inter-Korean relations, and plan to continue such meetings on other issues, the aides said.

Mr Roh's opponents in the MDP have warned that they would quit the party unless Mr Roh abandons his candidacy, while his supporters, mostly reformist junior members, criticised such moves.

19 AUG 2002

THE STATESMAN



N. Korea's Kim in Russia

By Asia PD 14

VLADIVOSTOK (RUSSIA): The North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Il, launched his second train voyage through Russia in as many years on Tuesday, an unofficial visit that will still likely see him meet the President, Vladimir Putin, in Vladivostok later in the week. The armoured train of the Stalinist state's reclusive leader, who reportedly fears flying, quickly crossed the Khasan checkpoint before rumbling on to Komsomolsk-on-Amur — where he is expected to tour local air force and navy factories. Mr. Kim staged an epic three-week voyage to Moscow and back last year underlining Mr. Putin's key role in North Korea's uneasy struggle back out of international isolation. This time he is likely to spend only four days in Russia's far east, and the trip's details for the large part have been shrouded in secrecy by both Moscow and Pyongyang. *(In the picture, Kim Jong-Il is seen being received by Russian officials at the border railway station of Khasan on Tuesday).*



Archbishop denies charge

SYDNEY: The Archbishop of Sydney announced on Tuesday he would temporarily step aside during an investigation into allegations that he sexually abused a child. Archbishop George Pell *(in the picture)* is accused of molesting a 12-year-old boy when he was training as a priest in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the church said in a statement. "The alleged events never happened. I repeat emphatically that the allegations are false," said the Archbishop in a statement. "To allege that I am ... personally implicated in this evil is a smear of the most vindictive kind." He said he would take leave while an independent investigation is conducted. He said he was confident his name would be cleared. — AP



Fires rage

JAKARTA: Schools were closed and flights cancelled in Indonesia as hundreds of fires raged "out of control" on Borneo and Sumatra islands on Tuesday, sending choking haze across parts of Southeast Asia, officials and news reports said. In Malaysia, the Government banned indefinitely nearly all forms of open burning in eastern Sarawak state, which borders Indonesia's part of Borneo. Hospitals have also been ordered to prioritise patients with respiratory problems. In the tiny sultanate of Brunei, which borders Sarawak, officials urged residents not to burn



garbage or light fires and warned children with asthma and other health problems to avoid outdoor exercise, local media reported. The smoke mostly comes from fires lit by farmers who use it as a way to clear scrub from their land before planting for the next season. — AP

21 AUG 2002

Russia wary of Kim's talks with Putin

Vladivostok: Strains of a popular waltz and Russia's traditional welcome of bread and salt greeted North Korea's Stalinist leader Kim Jong-II as he arrived on Thursday in Russia's far eastern city of Khabarovsk.

But while Mr Kim toured Russian factories, all eyes were turning to the port city of Vladivostok where he was due to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin on Friday. After long denials, the meeting was finally confirmed by the Kremlin on Thursday, but even that through an anonymous official speaking to Russian news agencies.

The secrecy highlights suspicions from analysts and diplomats that Mr Kim launched his 'unofficial' tour without a direct invitation from Mr Putin, who finds himself in a tight spot meeting the Stalinist chief just as his own relations with Washington blossom.

North Korea has been branded a member of an 'axis of evil' by US President George W Bush, and while Mr Putin has made efforts to bring Pyongyang out of its political isolation, his previous meetings with Mr Kim have had mixed results.

Most notably, in 2000 Mr Putin said upon completing a visit to Pyongyang that Mr Kim had prom-



Kim Jong-il



V. Putin

ised him that he would abandon his long-range missile programme under certain conditions. Only days later, Mr Kim remarked that Mr Putin had misunderstood his comments, which were

only 'a joke'.

A return visit by Mr Kim to Russia last summer resulted in a vaguely-worded 'Moscow declaration' that included an odd North Korean promise that its missile programme was being developed only for peaceful means. And the agenda for Mr Kim's meeting with Mr Putin on Friday does not look

ambitious at first glance. Kremlin officials said Mr Kim and Mr Putin would focus on the project of a railroad link between the two Koreas, Russia and Europe and other ways to boost infrastructure.

Earlier, a presidential aide said the two leaders would discuss 'bilateral relations', with particular respect to economic ties, and major interprochment between the two Koreas. So far, however, Mr Kim appears to have been far more interested in Russian produce and goods than Moscow's role as an international mediator. In Khabarovsk, Mr Kim toured a medicine plant and a cable-producing factory. AFP

Kim nominee rejected again

SEOUL, AUG. 28. South Korea's Parliament rejected President Kim Dae-jung's nominee for Prime Minister for a second time in a month on Wednesday, embarrassing the President in his last months in office.

The 151-112 vote against 50-year-old Chang Dae-whan was the latest setback for Mr. Kim, whose stature has dwindled because of corruption scandals involving his family and Government.

Mr. Kim's single five-year term ends in February, and the opposition Grand National Party, which gained a majority at the National Assembly following a landslide victory in parliamentary by-elections in early August, is stepping up a political offensive ahead of presidential elections in

December. Late last month, the Assembly voted to reject President Kim's earlier nominee, Chang Sang, who was the nation's first female Prime Minister nominee, citing ethical questions in her record. It was the first time since 1960 that a nominee for Prime Minister had been rejected. The two Changs are not related.

"It is regrettable that the Assembly rejected the nominee again," said presidential spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook on Wednesday. "We feel apologetic toward the people."

President Kim will soon announce a new nominee for Prime Minister, she said. South Korea has had no Prime Minister since July when the then Prime Minister, Lee Han-dong, was removed in a Cabinet shake-up. — AP

Koreas agree to set up reunion post

51-3
9/9

**The Korea Herald
Asia News Network**

MT GEUMGANG, Sept. 8. — South and North Korea agreed yesterday to establish a permanent reunion post at the North's Mt Geumgang and arrange regular meetings for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War when a new facility is completed, Seoul officials said yesterday. The two sides will also continue to discuss the designation of one more rendezvous point in the western part of the peninsula after they restore the inter-Korean Gyeongui (Seoul-Sinuiju) line, the

officials said. Wrapping up three-day Red Cross talks at the North Korean mountain resort, South and North Korea issued a six-point agreement concerning families split in the two sides.

The fourth-round talks marked the highest-level meeting between the two Koreas' Red Cross societies since they began such talks in 1971.

President Suh Young-hoon of the South Korean National Red Cross and his North Korean counterpart, Mr Jang Jae-on, agreed that Seoul will provide materials needed to construct the proposed reunion venue at Mt Geumgang, while the North will provide workers.

110-12
b. 13. 12

Koreas sign rail link pact

14/9

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 13. The inter-Korean initiatives towards an eventual reunification of the two divided parts of the peninsula has received a fresh impetus.

The representatives of the United Nations Command in Korea and the North Korean People's Army signed a key technical agreement on Thursday.

According to the South Korean defence authorities, the U.N.-North Korean accord would help facilitate the construction of a rail-and-road link across the demilitarised zone.

This would restore the "transportation corridor" that

has remained abandoned since the end of the Korean war nearly 50 years ago.

Maj. Gen. James Soligan of the U.N. Command in Korea and Gen. Lee Chan-bok signed the technical accord.

The restoration of the rail link across the euphemistic demilitarised zone between the two Koreas was recently agreed upon by both sides as part of a package of measures that could, over time, help bring about the Korean reunification.

On the inter-Korean political front, the attention and efforts of Japan were raised ahead of its prospective summit with North Korea in Pyongyang on September 17.

14 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

400-12
12/19

India, Japan to broaden areas of cooperation

Joshi
- B
- 12/19

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT. 13. India and Japan have agreed to broaden their areas of cooperation in economic and other fields and resolved to fight global terrorism. Sentiments to this effect were exchanged in the meeting between the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and his Japanese counterpart, Junichiro Koizumi.

Briefing the media on the meeting, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Nirupama Rao, said the two leaders discussed the fact that this was the 50th anniversary of the formalising of diplomatic relations between India and Japan with Mr. Vajpayee recalling his visit to Japan last December.

They also discussed the ongoing developmental projects in India — the Metrorail project in New Delhi and the Ganga water pollution project — in which Japan is collaborating. The two leaders are said to have expressed satisfaction with the progress of work in the projects.

Mr. Koizumi is said to have expressed his appreciation for New Delhi hosting the Conference of Parties on the Kyoto Protocol saying that this was indeed reflective of India's constructive approach and active participation in multilateral ef-

orts to safeguard the environment.

Mr. Vajpayee, on Thursday, also held talks with the Mauritius Prime Minister, Anerood Jaganauth, and they are said to have discussed, among other things, the rich and diverse relations between the two countries.

Mr. Jaganauth has been invited to the meeting of the Indian Diaspora in New Delhi in early 2003. In the realm of economics, the two leaders discussed increasing cooperation, especially in the field of information technology.

One of the major meetings that Mr. Vajpayee had was with several Jewish organisations. The nearly one-hour meeting saw the participation of at least five leading Jewish groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee and the B'nai B'rith, discussing a vast range of subjects including terrorism.

Mr. Vajpayee is said to have pointed out that India was one of the very few countries where there was no anti-Semitism.

He thanked the Jewish community groups for contributing to the promotion of India-United States relations and expressed appreciation for the support extended to India by several Jewish members of Congress.

Summit: security concerns top the agenda

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 16. The international community's "security concerns" about North Korea's suspected agenda of making and deploying mass-destructive weapons are likely to top the check-list of discussion — points at tomorrow's summit in Pyongyang between the visiting Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Il.

This has been indicated by Mr. Koizumi himself amid his administration's summit-eve insistence in Tokyo that a resolution of the issues regarding the alleged abduction of 11 Japanese nationals by or on behalf of the North Korean authorities at the height of the Cold War. The Japanese stand on the alleged abductions is that a settlement of this issue will alone induce Tokyo to think in terms of resuming negotiations in all seriousness to normalise ties with North Korea.

North Korea has so far denied these allegations but promised to investigate the case of "missing Japanese", a euphemism for the alleged abductions. It is in this context that the Japanese Government today underlined its commitment to engage North Korea on a range of issues



A couple attend a national rally in Tokyo on Monday to support the appeal of the persons whose relatives were allegedly abducted by North Korea. — AP

by maintaining the utmost pressure on Pyongyang to account for those Japanese citizens who were suspected to have been kidnapped and exploited to serve the communist state's espionage activities.

The relatives of those abducted raised the pitch over this issue today, prompting Mr. Koizumi's official camp to clarify

that he would not soft-pedal Japan's move towards a final settlement of the alleged abductions. In response to the Japanese decision to set up such a diplomatic marker in the bilateral arena, North Korea has lost no time to outline its priorities for the summit a "sincere apology" from Japan for its imperial-era excesses in the Korean

peninsula and 'compensation' too.

However, Pyongyang has also sounded a note of some flexibility by making no secret of its desire to break free from the circle of containment that the West and its allies have imposed on North Korea over time. With both the United States and South Korea expected to watch tomorrow's Kim-Koizumi summit very closely for any signs of Pyongyang's willingness to see the world from a largely Western perspective, the stage is really set for a discussion on security-related strategic issues that lie beyond the narrow confines of the Japan-North Korea front.

Mr. Koizumi will surely seek to quiz Mr. Kim on his response to the U.S.' demands that North Korea allow in the designated inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency and address the nuclear and missile proliferation concerns of the West and its friends and allies. A key factor behind the scenes will be Japan's perceived ability to rescue North Korea from the effects of its collapsing economy, and this aspect may even define the summit in the end, according to regional observers on the diplomatic scene.

Kim promises to halt missile tests indefinitely

Pyongyang: North Korean leader Kim Jong-il on Tuesday promised to halt missile tests indefinitely during a summit with Japan in which he apologised for the first time for the kidnapping of Japanese citizens.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi revealed Mr Kim had made the promise to halt missile tests during his historic day-long meeting with the Stalinist state's leader in Pyongyang.

Mr Kim agreed "to freeze launches indefinitely," Mr Koizumi told a news conference. In August 1998, North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile over northeastern Japan, sparking security fears in East Asia.

US President George W. Bush, who has branded North Korea part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran,

urged Mr Koizumi in New York last week to raise up front concerns over Pyongyang's development of weapons of mass destruction and missile exports.

The Japanese government also said North Korean officials had confirmed that four Japanese nationals, snatched in the 1970s and 1980s by North Korean agents, were still alive. Japan's insistence that at least 11 Japanese were kidnapped to train spies in Japanese language and customs had been the chief obstacle to the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

"The people responsible for the incident have been sternly punished and we will never see this kind of thing happen again," Mr Kim was quoted by an official as telling Mr Koizumi during the talks. AFP

18 SEP 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Museum that evokes horror, revulsion

By K. K. Katyal

Some five lakh people have been visiting Auschwitz, 250 km from here, every year since the end of the cold war and watching the "factory of death" of the Nazi occupation era, now preserved as a museum. It has not lost its relevance with the passage of time, continuing to evoke horror and extreme revulsion. This was one of the biggest concentration camps set up by the Nazis in early 1940s when Hitler's forces occupied Poland and held sway over most of Europe. According to one estimate, some 15 lakh hapless men, women and children were exterminated through an operation, each minute detail of which was planned and executed with great care.

Initially meant for prisoners of war from various occupied territories, it was later earmarked for the Jews exclusively. Opinions differ on whether the camp — a terrible reminder of savagery, brutality and cruelty — ought to have been preserved. It is, perhaps, for the benefit of the doubting category that one of the sayings painted at the entrance proclaims: "Those who forget history are destined to go through it again."

For the last leg of the journey to Auschwitz, we travel by road from Cracow, the former capital. It is a pleasant drive through a lush valley. Along most of the 50 km there are villas and cottages, perhaps of the farmers engaged in cultivation. It is a varying terrain, mostly flat, ringed by soft distant hills. A soothing ambience — until we reach Auschwitz.

The museum is a sprawling complex of several blocks comprising old barracks. More than five decades after this factory

used to operate to full capacity, the atmosphere continues to be haunting, weird. Our escort takes us around the spots, the scenes of mass crimes, of execution by firing squads, gas chambers, crematoria, cremation pits and pyres. Then there are hundreds of empty tins of the deadly stuff which was released through special openings in the ceiling of the rooms, where the victims used to be brought, only to meet their end in a matter of minutes.

It was in 1941, the guide-book tells us, that Himmler, one of the Nazi top brass, singled out the camp, once used by Polish

POLAND TODAY — II

soldiers, as the site for "total eradication of the Jewish population". The rationale of the selection was explained by the camp commandant, Rudolf Hess, quoting Himmler — "the existing extermination centres were not sufficient to cope with an operation on such a scale. Auschwitz was chosen because of its convenient location as regards communication and because the area could be easily isolated and camouflaged. By spring 1942, the operation for mass extermination of Jews was already in progress."

Most of the victims, according to published accounts, had little inkling of the fate they were to meet, almost till their end. They were told they were being deported for "resettlement" in eastern Europe. Those from Greece and Hungary were "sold" non-existent plots of land, farms, shops and given offers of work in fictitious factories. As a result, they brought their most valuable possessions with them. Hess, who was ar-

rested after the defeat of Germany — and later hanged at Auschwitz — wrote his memoirs while in prison. He quotes Himmler, who appointed him to this "difficult and onerous job" thus: "The Fuhrer has ordered that the Jewish question be solved once and for all....The Jews are the sworn enemies of the German people and must be eradicated. Every Jew we can lay our hand on is to be destroyed during the war without exception. If we cannot now obliterate the biological basis of Jewry, the Jews will one day destroy us."

At another place in the memoirs, he describes his inner struggle thus: "In the face of such grim determination, I was forced to bury all my human considerations as deeply as possible."

Those engaged in the job often had a troubled conscience — "there is no doubt in my mind that Hitler's orders had to be obeyed and it was the duty of S.S. to carry it out. Nevertheless, we were all tormented by secret doubts....I had to appear cold and indifferent to events that must have wrung the heart of everyone possessed of human feelings. I might not even look away when afraid lest my natural emotion got the upper hand...."

The ghastliness of the operation is brought out by these words of Hess: "I had to see everything. I had to watch hour after hour, by day and by night, the removal and burning of bodies, the extraction of teeth, the cutting of the hair, the whole grisly in-terminable business.

I had to stand for hours on end in the ghastly stench while the mass graves were being opened and the bodies dragged out and burnt".

...as set to open border links



a),
Co-
rad
ler
ary
Is
he
ivy
(S
ntal
ill
en
an
he
ip-
se
nd
es-
ed
if
es
th
V
tiff
lls
ne
ul
g-
st-
ilt
es
ns
or-
on
r.
ti-
ay
of
le-
n-
ry

WE SHALL OVERCOME: North Korean students dance in front of Ohongnyon station near the border with S Korea during a ceremony to rid landmines from the border. — AFP

hot line on 24 September in a bid to end the nation's division since 1945. The recent agreements, which analysts have said will pave the way for the two Koreas to open overland routes, are expected to speed up the reconciliation process on the peninsula. The South and North opened a cross-border sea route for the Mt. Geumgang tourism in November 1998 and a direct air route in June 2000. The transportation reconnection project was in effect during the historic summit between Pres-

ident Kim Dae-jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in 2000, but intermittent shifts in inter-Korean relations have impeded the proposal. Under the latest agreements, South and North Korea will restore a 27.5-km section of the Donghae railway to link the North's Onjeongri and Jeojin in the South in the first stage. A two-lane Donghae road between the North's Goseong and the South's Songhyeonri will also be established with a 1.5-km makeshift road to be opened in December.

The temporary road will enable South Koreans to make overland visits to Mt. Geumgang for both tourism purposes and reunions with their family members in the North. The Koreas agreed recently to set up a permanent reunion post at the North's mountain resort. During the working-level meeting that ended yesterday, the two sides pledged to reconnect a 15.3-km section of the Gyeongui railway, from Gaeseong Station to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in the North, while the South completes a 1.8-km section in the DMZ. A

four-lane highway will be built alongside the Gyeongui railway. Seoul and Pyongyang promised to restore the Gyeongui railway by year's end and the adjacent roads by the spring of next year during economic cooperation talks in Seoul last month. Under the seven-point agreement, North Korea will allow South Korean technicians to visit construction sites to examine the North's operation of heavy equipment, which the Seoul government will extend as a long-term loan to Pyongyang.

Japan, N Korea promise fall of last Cold War front

SEBASTIAN MOFFETT, JAY
SOLOMON & DAVID
S. CLOUD
PYONYANG, SEPTEMBER 18

A historic day of detente between Japan and North Korea is raising the prospect of eased tensions on the last front of the Cold War and a reduced threat of global terrorism.

Meeting for the first time Tuesday, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il exchanged apologies for historical wrongs and agreed to pursue normalized diplomatic relations. Kim made some of his biggest overtures yet to the West, agreeing to extend a moratorium on missile tests beyond 2003 and to allow inspections by the International Atomic Energy

Agency.

The agreements give Koizumi a major coup to bolster his shaky standing in Japan. It could lay the groundwork for bringing North Korea out of its heavily armed shell, and it could have a substantial impact on regional security and trade. It also leaves the Bush administration in an awkward with regard to Japan.

During their meetings, Koizumi apologized to Kim for Japan's repressive occupation of Korea. Kim apologized for the kidnapping of at least 12 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s during the administration of his father, Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Stalinist state.

Many experts on North Korea voiced amazement at that admission. Not only did it

reverse years of North Korean denials of the crimes, but the Kim family has run North Korea since its inception in 1948 as a personality cult, where every act by the "great leader" - the elder Kim - and his son and successor, the "dear leader," is beyond reproach.

Pyongyang has made a number of diplomatic moves during the past two years.

The biggest impact from North Korea's rapprochement with the world probably would be on China.

A stabilizing North Korea could reduce the flow of refugees from the impoverished country into northern China and trim the aid Beijing has to give Pyongyang. It could also lead to linking up the two Koreas more directly with markets in China, Russia and Central Asia. — WJS

19 SEP 2002

INDIAN EXPRESS

Bush volte-face on N Korea

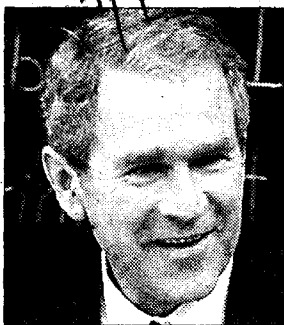
REUTERS
TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 20

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Friday that US President George W. Bush had told him he would consider dropping North Korea from his "axis of evil" trio and reopening dialogue with the reclusive communist state.

Koizumi, recording an interview to be aired on Japanese television on Sunday, said he had proposed the North Korean move in a telephone call to Bush on Thursday night and that Bush had replied he would seriously consider doing this.

Bush has linked North Korea with Iraq and Iran in an "axis of evil" he says threatens the world with weapons of mass destruction.

Koizumi was briefing Bush on his landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il on Tuesday, at which Kim promised to extend a



moratorium on missile tests and honour pledges concerning Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Washington is currently pondering whether to send its own senior envoy to North Korea to reopen talks, and US officials had been watching Koizumi's Pyongyang summit for clues as to whether Kim was really ready to open up his isolated nation.

Koizumi also said that Japan would never allow any economic aid that it gave to North Korea to be used to make weapons of mass destruction.

Kim and Koizumi agreed on Tuesday that the two nations would resume talks on establishing diplomatic ties in October and that economic aid for the battered North Korean economy would be worked out as part of that process. Analysts have said Japan could ultimately give its former colony as much as \$10 billion in aid.

Koizumi said on Thursday that Kim had agreed at the summit to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors into the country to examine its nuclear programme.

Kim Jong-Il had reassured Koizumi in talks on Tuesday that Pyongyang would honour all its international pledges concerning its nuclear programme, but Koizumi's comments were the first public confirmation that the pledge included IAEA inspections.

Some analysts believe North Korea could be using its nuclear energy programme to develop nuclear weapons.

Iraq agreed last week to allow nuclear inspectors, a move that may have put pressure on North Korea to do the same. No firm date has been set for the start of the Iraqi inspections.

A 1994 US North Korean deal froze the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme in exchange for two western-financed nuclear reactors and annual supplies of fuel oil.

Under that agreement, Pyongyang undertook to allow in IAEA inspectors, but it has yet to do so.

21 SEP 2001

INDIAN EXPRESS

North Korea offends China by forming administrative region

By Harvey Stockwin
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

for *in* *GM* *12* *at*
Hong Kong: In a bizarre still unfolding episode, North Korea has angered China by hiring one of China's wealthiest businessman to run a Hong Kong-like Special Administrative Region (SAR) on its border with China, without ever telling Beijing what it intended, and that a Chinese person with a Dutch passport would be running the show.

China has responded by detaining the businessman, as it investigates him for the massive tax evasion, illegal property development, corrupt dealings, and probably several other questionable economic activities.

As the almost incredible story unfolded in the past ten days, the North Korean "reform" seemed too good to be true—and probably, it was. The businessman, Yang Bin, has been rated as the second wealthiest Chinese, having developed an agri-business, real estate and orchid-growing business empire.

He grew up in China, studied in Holland, and acquired a Dutch passport, before returning to China a decade ago to exercise the skills which enabled him to obey Deng Xiaoping's injunction that "to get rich is glorious". Yang also excels at self-promotion, and various tales, about his life and intentions, have emerged from the numerous press conferences he has given after his name hit the headlines.

Two weeks ago North Korea suddenly announced that it was setting up a capitalist-style Special Administrative Region at Sinuiju, a town set in the northwestern corner of North Korea right on the border with China. Yang Bin was appointed chief executive of the new SAR, and hailed as a close friend of

the North Korean leader Kim Jong IL.

Yang quickly promised a stream of developments for the Sinuiju SAR (SSAR). It would have its own separate laws and judiciary and a legislative council—just like Hong Kong. Half a million Sinuiju inhabitants would be moved out while specially selected skilled workers from all over North Korea would be moved in. All foreign currencies would circulate in the SSAR.

Even though he has no bureaucratic experience in running a government, Yang Bin said he would be hiring foreigners for his administration, and at one stage, hinted that an American might be made the SSAR's police chief. A wall would be built around the SSAR, to deal the capitalist experiment off from the rest of socialist North Korea.

Visa-free access was promised, even to journalists, while the fact that access to Sinuiju would still require a Chinese or a North Korea visa was glossed over.

When both North Korean and Chinese border officials refused permission for a horde of journalists to enter the SSAR, Yang's credibility was dented. It was already being battered in the South Korean and Hong Kong presses, as some of his business practices were aired. Hong Kong sources indicated that Yang had recently been busy selling the shares of his listed business, even though the shares were at a low value right now.

Yang claimed on Thursday that a deal had been reached and he would be paying soon \$1 million in back taxes but that wasn't soon enough for the Chinese authorities. The Chinese police detained Yang at his Shenyang residence on Friday morning before the SSAR chief executive could get in his limousine and cross the border into North Korea.

9 OCT 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

HD-10
17/10

Japan for resumption of Indo-Pak. talks

By P.S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 12. Japan has called for the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan in the emerging ambience of what Tokyo sees as a positive development.

While placing a premium on the fact that elections were held on schedule in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of terrorist attempts to disrupt them, Japan has also noted that a general election took place in Pakistan around the same time.

According to a Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo, "Japan values that, despite a number of terrorist disturbances, the local Assembly elections in Kashmir were conducted as scheduled." The efforts of the Election Commission were cited as the factor that contributed to this positive

denouement. "Many voters cast their ballots," the official said.

Making an extended comment, Japan spoke of its hopes that "all parties concerned will make their efforts to promote peace and welfare of the people of Kashmir." It was in the light of this new sub-text that Japan expressed the hope that a dialogue between India and Pakistan would be "resumed soon, following the completion of the local Assembly elections in Kashmir and the general election in Pakistan."

As a major regional power with an economic stake in South Asia too, Japan is a keen observer of the India-Pakistan scene.

Its interaction with these two countries has been guided in recent years by its stated desire to avert a nuclear flare-up in South

Asia. Although it is nearly a year since Japan lifted its economic sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan in the context of their nuclear tests in 1998, the nuclear and missile issues have often dominated Tokyo's diplomatic discourse on South Asia.

In some contrast, Japan's latest statement is cognisant of purely political developments. Tokyo has, however, made no comment at this stage on the qualitative distinction between the elections in Jammu and Kashmir and those in Pakistan.

The External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, had, during a recent visit to Kuala Lumpur, ruled out the possibility of resuming a dialogue with Pakistan as a follow-up action in the specific context of the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

N Korea's Bombshell

The official admission by North Korea that it has a secret nuclear weapons programme based on uranium enrichment and that it will not be bound by the anti-nuclear agreement signed with the United States in 1994 has sent shockwaves in Japan, South Korea and the US. Earlier, in the light of North Korea's attempts to acquire plutonium technology for its weapons, the Americans actually offered to build new light water reactors for Pyongyang. These are less proliferation prone and, in exchange, the Americans sought a promise from North Korea that it would give up its weapons programme. In the light of the present disclosure, it would appear that North Koreans went along with the US to buy time to develop an alternative uranium enrichment path. The secret weapons programme admission would suggest that efforts are at such an advanced stage as to give Pyongyang some degree of deterrence capability. It is well known that the transfer of North Korean Nodong missiles to Pakistan (renamed Ghauri by Islamabad) began in 1994. Therefore, there is bound to be speculation over whether the uranium enrichment technology was Islamabad's quid pro quo in return for North Korean missiles. While it is too early to come to any concrete conclusion, if this theory were to gain credibility, major re-evaluations are bound to take place at the global level on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its impact on international security, both in North East Asia and elsewhere.

North Korea is a member of the non-proliferation treaty. Though it gave notice of withdrawal from the treaty, it did not complete the formalities and continues to be a member of the NPT. The present admission is a clear violation of its obligations under the non-proliferation treaty, safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the joint North-South declaration on the de-nuclearisation of Korean peninsula and the agreement between Washington and Pyongyang of 1994. Such a brazen violation of international obligations by North Korea can only legitimise and strengthen president Bush's plans for an anti-missile defence. The US, Japan and other countries have been adopting a somewhat permissive attitude to North Korea's proliferation activities in South Asia. It is to be seen whether the present disclosure will drive home the lesson that double standards, whether in terrorism or proliferation, are always counter-productive. While Baghdad is yet to be proved to possess weapons of mass destruction, Pyongyang's record of deception calls for equal international attention.

N. Korea's neighbours express concern

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 17. North Korea's suspected nuclear weaponisation programme today acquired a new diplomatic dimension as several key countries of the Asia-Pacific region sought to trim their sails to the winds of candour blowing from Pyongyang.

In prime focus were the reports from Washington about an official briefing on how Pyongyang had recently confirmed to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, James Kelly, that North Korea was indeed engaged in a nuclear weapons programme. Mr. Kelly was informed of this when he confronted the North Korean officials, during his recent visit to Pyongyang, with American evidence about the Kim Jong-il regime's efforts to enrich uranium for the purpose of making nuclear weapons.

Japan, which takes North Korea's strategic moves very seriously, indicated that the nuclear issue could well figure prominently in the prospective normalisation talks between the two sides later this month. Tokyo chose to avoid a knee-jerk reaction by staying on course for the prospective reconcil-

iation talks with North Korea. The rationale behind Japan's circuminspection was linked to the possibility that such parleys would indeed offer Tokyo an opportunity to raise concerns about Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weaponisation drive.

This explains the decision by the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, against calling off the proposed normalisation talks with North Korea in the new context. Mr. Koizumi and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, had agreed, during their recent summit, that their countries would abide by all relevant international agreements concerning nuclear non-proliferation. It is against this background that Japan could now engage North Korea over this sensitive issue.

North Korea's present tactics seem designed to provoke such a diplomatic dialogue, which might give Pyongyang a chance to address the nuclear issue from its standpoint as well.

With the U.S. too appearing to rule out at this juncture any military action to disarm North Korea of its nuclear weaponisation capabilities, in spite of a different American approach as regards Iraq, the choices be-

came simpler for both Japan and South Korea. In Seoul, the Government today reaffirmed its policy of opposing the moves by North Korea to make nuclear weapons. The issue was discussed by South Korea's National Security Council at a meeting chaired by the Unification Minister, Jeong Se-hyun.

According to an authentic version of the meeting, Pyongyang was asked to comply fully with all the commitments it had made about nuclear pacifism under the Agreed Framework with the U.S. also under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty besides the North-South Joint Declaration on the De-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

It was also indicated that the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, would discuss the issue during a summit that he would hold with the leaders of the U.S. and Japan on the sidelines of the conference of the Asia-Pacific economic leaders in Mexico later this month.

In Beijing, a Chinese spokesperson said the Government was in favour of de-nuclearisation in the Korean peninsula. A peaceful resolution of the issue was also emphasised by China.

18 OCT 2002

B. An

Pyongyang 'admits' to n-programme

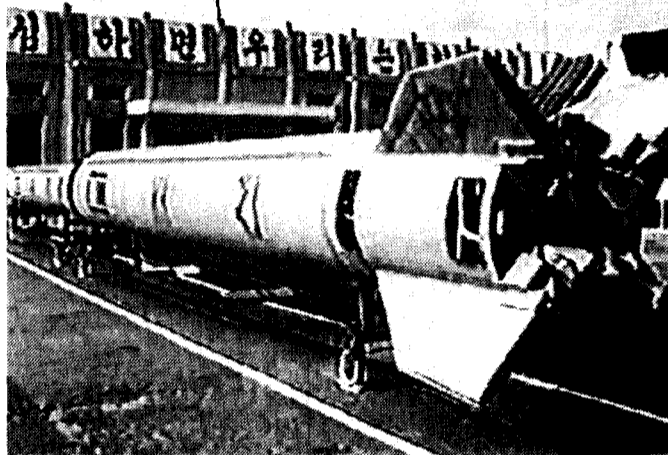
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 17. In a stunning development that will have a profound impact on the United States and East Asia, North Korea has apparently told the Bush administration that it indeed has a secret nuclear weapons programme and that it no longer wishes to abide by an agreement signed with the Clinton administration in 1994.

Senior officials made the announcement on North Korea at the White House on Wednesday night; and the first impression is that this is not going to sit well with a Republican administration where the President, George Bush, has already identified that reclusive East Asian country among his list of the "axis of evil". A White House Spokesman has said that Pyongyang is in violation of a 1994 accord with the then Clinton administration which had called for a nuclear free North Korea in return for economic assistance.

For instance, in return to renouncing nuclear weapons North Korea was to receive two light water nuclear reactors to replace the plutonium producing reactors.

Completion of the light water reactors is due by 2003. "The



N-BLOW: A Taepodong-1, the type of missile that stunned the world when it was test-fired in August 1998, seen in North Korea's television image recently.

United States and our allies call on North Korea to comply with its commitments under the non-proliferation treaty and to eliminate its nuclear weapons programme in a verifiable manner," a spokesman for the National Security Council, Sean McCormack, said.

In the context of the U.S. and East Asia, the Bush administration has a new headache — a severe one at that — because allies in that part of the world such as Japan have long been wary of North Korea.

Back home, Mr. Bush is trying to keep his focus on the war on terrorism and at the same time open another front in Iraq over the issue of weapons of mass destruction.

The North Korean disclosure will add to the woes of the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, who has been one of the very few leaders in the country and the region openly pushing for a more open dialogue with Pyongyang.

In spite of all that had been dished out by official North Ko-

rea about its programmes and even in the aftermath of the 1994 accord, the U.S. continued to be highly sceptical of Pyongyang's programme.

The CIA, earlier this year, had made the assessment that North Korea had enough plutonium to make at least one, if not two, nuclear weapons.

The sudden revelation on the part of North Korea and the quick souring of relations between Pyongyang and Washington is something that will be paid serious attention to in the next few days.

At one time after the visit of the former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, to Pyongyang in October 2000, the then President, Bill Clinton, gave serious consideration to visiting it prior to stepping down from office in January of 2001.

Ten days ago, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific was in North Korea, James Kelley, where he bluntly said that it had to address concerns about its nuclear and other weapons programmes.

After his departure, Pyongyang called Mr. Kelley "high handed and arrogant" and accused him of making "threatening remarks". The Bush administration has not made public any of the discussions that took place in North Korea.

END

18 OCT 2002

'N. Korea got n-technology from Pakistan'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 18. Even as the Bush administration is trying to go about North Korea and the latest revelations about its nuclear programme in a "non-crisis" mode, it has been given something more to think about: that Pakistan gave the North Koreans the technology.

The *New York Times* cites American intelligence officials as coming to the conclusion that Islamabad was a major supplier for Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme; and that this was more of a barter deal that involved North Korea supplying Pakistan with missiles to counter the nuclear arsenal of India.

The small relief to the Bush administration is that this North Korea-Pakistan "deal" came about two years before Pervez Musharraf, the current Pakistani military ruler came to power. But the disturbing element is that this barter trade or commercial ties continued well after September 11, 2001, that is after Gen. Musharraf signed on to the American war on terrorism and came to be seen in official circles here as a "stalwart ally".

"What you have here is a perfect meeting of interests — the North Koreans had what the Pakistanis needed and the Pakistanis had a way for Kim Jong Il to restart a nuclear programme we had stopped", *The Times* quotes an official familiar with intelligence matters. Officials are apparently making the point that Russia and China have been "less prominent" suppliers to North Korea.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Embassy here has said that it was "absolutely incorrect" to accuse Pakistan of providing nuclear weapons technology to North Korea. According to the

newspaper report, a Commission appointed by the U.S. President, George W Bush, and Congress in 1998 had identified North Korea as being a major proliferator of ballistic missile technology to Pakistan and Iran; and around the same time, Islamabad had tested its version of the Nodong Missile. North Korea's highly enriched uranium project started functioning in 1997 or 1998, around the same time Pakistan tested the missiles it had received from Pyongyang.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration is going about as if there is nothing to be especially worried about the revelation from North Korea that it has indeed a functional nuclear weap-

ons programme.

Washington, for that matter, refuses to see the double standard between Iraq and North Korea. Worse, Iraq is being pounded for going after a nuclear weapons programme. North Korea has come out and said that it has one.

Rather, senior administration and Cabinet officials have gone about trying to make the distinction within the so-called Axis of Evil.

"Saddam Hussein is a category by himself, as still the only leader to have actually used a weapon of mass destruction against his own people, against his neighbours", the President's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice said.

Pak. denies U.S. media reports

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 18. Pakistan today denied American media reports about its alleged help to

North Korea in its nuclear programme, even as the Commander of the American campaign in Afghanistan, Tommy Franks, arrived here to watch the first joint military exercises between the U.S. and Pakistan in four years.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman denied as "baseless", the reports about Pakistan's help to North Korea in its nuclear programme. He said that Pakistan's commitments affirmed at the highest level that it would not export any sensitive technologies to third country "remain unquestionable. Pakistan has a strong export control regime in place. Pakistan's record in this regard is impeccable".

Gen. Franks' visit would be watched with interest in view of the emergence of an alliance of religious parties as a 'third force' in the just-concluded election in Pakistan. He is bound to raise the demand voiced by the alliance, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, for vacation of American bases in the country, though the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, made it a point to reiterate his country's commitment to the U.S.-led coalition's fight against 'international terrorism'.

Gen. Franks called on Gen. Musharraf and exchanged views on matters of professional interest.

N. Korea issue deflects U.S. attention

49.12
By Atul Aneja 19/10

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), OCT. 18. The revelation that North Korea is building nuclear weapons is likely to split the Bush administration's attention on its core security concerns and could delay a possible military action against Iraq.

Diplomatic sources here point out that under the new U.S. doctrine of pre-emptive action against possible threats, North Korea with its active nuclear weapon programme is as much of a concern to Washington as Iraq. After Iraq, the emergence of yet another threat from mass destruction weapons in North Korea will, therefore, force Washington to reconsider its priorities and ways to address it.

According to analysts, the U.S. has to choose from four broad policy options. First, it has to consider the possibility of using force simultaneously in

Iraq and North Korea. This is not going to be easy as U.S. forces, which are already operating in Afghanistan, can get stretched if they are deployed on three fronts. Besides, with North Korea already making headway in building long-range missile systems, the U.S. has to take into account Pyongyang's capacity to retaliate.

Second, Washington has the option of using force in Iraq, but pursuing diplomacy in North Korea. This, however, can lead to complications of its own, especially in the Arab world. Opposed to a war in its neighbourhood, countries such as Saudi Arabia can cite the North Korean precedent to advocate the use of diplomacy, instead of force in Iraq. The U.S. could also consider using force sequentially — first in Iraq and then in North Korea — or consider non-military options towards both Pyongyang and Baghdad.

Even without the North Korean development, the U.S. was encountering a delay in arriving at an agreement with key veto holding members of the Security Council, especially Russia and France, for using collective force against Iraq in case it did not surrender its weapons of mass destruction. Analysts point out that Russia's oil major Lukoil had already signed a contract with the Iraqi regime for tapping oil, while France's TotalFinaElf had finalised but not yet signed a major oil deal. Both countries are apparently seeking U.S. guarantees for the protection of their oil interests in Iraq in the future, prior to agreeing on a new Security Council resolution on Iraq. But a significant development that took place on Thursday is likely to discourage Paris and Moscow even further to agree on a new U.N. draft on Iraq, thereby delaying U.S. war plans even further.

In an interview with Reuters news agency, Sharif Ali bin al-Hussein, the spokesman for the main Iraqi opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress, said that after assuming power following the unseating of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, "We would have to review all (oil) contracts which have been signed by this regime to make sure it is in the interest of the Iraqi people and not just for Saddam Hussein. We would review the Russian and French contracts in particular although it is not an automatic revocation. You have to bear in mind a lot of the deals were done by a dictator." He also stressed that U.S. companies would be welcomed in Iraq.

The U.S. administration, therefore, could take some more time before reacting to the new set of complications that are affecting its disposition towards Iraq.

19 OCT 2002

USA may scrap arms accord with N Korea

Press Trust of India

SF 3
S Asia 21/10

NEW YORK, Oct. 20. — The Bush administration has decided to scrap the 1994 arms control accord with North Korea that has provided Western energy aid in return for the North's promise to freeze the development of nuclear weapons, senior administration officials said today.

North Korea admitted two weeks ago that it was pursuing a covert nuclear weapons programme, and accused the United States of taking steps that forced Pyongyang to nullify the accord. The White House has since debated whether to end the accord, with some aides warning such a step could lead North Korea to even greater nuclear violations, a media report said.

For that reason, the report said the administration plans to caution North Korea of serious consequences if it tries to remove nuclear material now stored under international supervision at Yongbyon, the reactor site that was the centerpiece of a previous nuclear standoff with North Korea in the early 1990's. American diplomats visiting Beijing apparently asked China this week to convey that warning, though it is not clear whether the message has yet been delivered to the North Koreans, *The New York Times* said today. The immediate practical effect of the decision to scrap the agreement is the halting of the annual shipments of 500,000 tons of fuel oil from the United States to North Korea. Even if the clandestine North Korean programme effectively suspended the accord, the US administration's decision to formally abandon it sends a clear message: it signifies an American effort to pose a stark choice for North Korea, between abandoning all of its nuclear weapons programmes and facing near-total economic isolation, the paper said. "We think the framework as we knew it is dead," one senior administration official said when questioned about the administration's strategy. "The North Koreans already told us they viewed it as 'nullified,'" he said.

More immediately, the *Times* said abandoning the accord also means that the US will urge its allies, Japan and South Korea, to suspend, if not end, a multi-billion dollar project to provide modern nuclear power plants to the North.

N-PROGRAMME / KELLY HOLDS PARLEYS IN TOKYO

N. Korea for talks with U.S.

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 21. The United States has secured the general support of two key allies in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan and South Korea, on the need to disarm North Korea of its nuclear weaponisation capabilities and to do so by non-military means at this stage.

This broad indication came into focus in the region's diplomatic circles even as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, James Kelly, held talks with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, and other officials in Tokyo today. While no formal comment was made by either Mr. Kelly or Ms. Kawaguchi, the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, told mediapersons in Tokyo that he would like to address the North Korean nuclear issue by "collaborating and discussing (it) with the United States and South Korea".

Mr. Koizumi indicated that this approach would apply, in particular, to the question whether or not Japan should, in the new circumstances, continue to associate itself with an international consortium for the supply of atomic energy reactors to Pyongyang as a reward for renouncing its nuclear weaponisation programme. The finality of this trade-off deal, traceable to the Agreed Framework of 1994 that the U.S. and North Korea had signed, would



DEFUSING CRISIS: The South Korean Unification Minister, Jeong Se-hyun (third from left), shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Ryong Song, in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday. — AP

be a matter for those two sides to decide, Mr. Koizumi indicated.

Japan's main bargaining chip in its ongoing interactions with North Korea is the conditional offer of full normalisation of ties. With the normalisation talks scheduled to resume later this month, at the neutral venue of Kuala Lumpur this time, Japan is understood to have indicated to Mr. Kelly that this bargaining chip would not be frittered away. Regardless of Washington's thinking on scrapping the agreement, the South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, said in Seoul today that North Korea's nuclear weaponisation capabilities

should be "completely eliminated". Mr. Kim's categorical support for the U.S. position in this respect came in the context of the talks that Mr. Kelly held in Seoul before his current visit to Tokyo. On a separate but related front, the inter-Korean reconciliation talks — the eighth ministerial-level dialogue in the present series — proceeded apace in Pyongyang today, although the parleys were overshadowed by the North Korean nuclear issue. The news from the South Korean side was that the North indicated readiness to engage the U.S. in talks over the latest concerns if Washington were to give up its hostility towards Pyongyang.

ENDL

23 OCT 2002

Pak. not honouring commitment, India tells Japan

*Junichiro
Koizumi*

By Amit Baruah

*110-11
28/10*

NEW DELHI, OCT. 22. India is disappointed at the international community's inability to make Pakistan conform to its commitment to end cross-border terrorism, the Foreign Office spokesman said today. And this had been conveyed by the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, to the Japanese Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Yoshiro Mori.

Mr. Mori, a former Prime Minister himself, also met the Deputy Prime Minister, L.K. Advani, and handed over a "special message" from his Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi. Earlier, Mr. Mori was scheduled to hand over the letter to the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, who cancelled his engagements due to ill health.

During the Sinha-Mori meeting, the Minister had expressed India's determination to fight cross-border terrorism. Mr. Mori, here for the last couple of days, inaugurated the celebrations to mark the 50th year of

diplomatic relations between India and Japan. The spokesman said that he had welcomed India's decision to re-deploy forces and the successful conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of terrorist activity.

According to sources, Mr. Mori conveyed to Mr. Advani that Japan continued to pressure Pakistan on the issue of cross-border terrorism. He recognised that India was a victim of terrorism and that India had shown restraint in the wake of the December 13 attack on Parliament. Japan, he said, wanted terrorist camps in Pakistan to be dismantled and cross-border infiltration stopped. While condemning all kinds of terrorism, Mr. Mori hoped that tensions between Pakistan and India would reduce further and they could resume their dialogue.

Asked why India was expressing disappointment with the international community when earlier it had claimed success, the spokesman said that these were not

"one-off situations." After September 11, there had been greater recognition from the international community about the problem of cross-border terrorism faced by India. However, there had not been "unmitigated success" as far as tackling cross-border terrorism was concerned. Terrorism was not just a "problem," but a menace as far as India was concerned.

On the remarks by the U.S. Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, urging a dialogue between India and Pakistan, the spokesman said New Delhi had noted the envoy's comments. To create a conducive atmosphere for a possible dialogue, cross-border terrorism had to end. In response to a question on the Pakistani military spokesman's reported comments that India should begin withdrawing its troops before Islamabad did the same, the spokesman said there was nothing to react.

India, he said, had already taken its decision to withdraw its troops. Pakistan's response was its own affair.

[Faint, illegible text]

Better talk: N Korea warns a sceptical US

PAUL ECKERT
SEOUL, OCTOBER 22

A DEFIANT North Korea, facing pressure to scrap a secret nuclear weapons programme, warned the United States on Tuesday that it would take unspecified "tougher counter-action" if Washington did not accept talks on the issue.

Breaking its silence over last week's revelation by the US that the Communist state had acknowledged it was secretly pursuing a uranium reprocessing programme, North Korea said Washington must "opt for reconciliation and peace".

"If the US persists in its moves to pressurise and stifle the DPRK (North Korea) by force, the latter will have no option but to take a tougher counter-action," the ruling party daily *Rodong Sinmun* said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

On Monday, North Korean leader, Kim Yong-Nam, told South Korea's visiting unification



A member of the South Korean Veterans Association burns an effigy of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il during a rally in Seoul on Tuesday. Reuters photo

minister that the Communist state was ready for a dialogue.

The US Ambassador in Seoul, speaking on Tuesday, said that Washington sought to pre-

empt a crisis through diplomacy, but that North Korea had exhausted its credibility with the secret nuclear programme that broke a previous negotiated settlement.

"We have very little basis for trust in North Korea, very little basis for confidence that further dialogue will lead to a solution," said envoy Thomas Hubbard.

The bombshell admission, disclosed by the US last week, puts North Korea in violation of at least four international commitments, including a 1994 "Agreed Framework" with the US which averted an earlier nuclear crisis.

Hubbard said Pyongyang was mistaken if it thought the new arms scheme would win it concessions. "They are wrong if they think that development of nuclear weapons is the way to build a better life for their people or build a better place for North Korea in the world community".

He said Washington sought a peaceful resolution of the problem and that there was no "cookie cutter approach" to Iraq, North Korea and Iran. — Reuters

N. Korea: China echoes U.S. concerns

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 22. China today echoed Washington's concerns about North Korea's nuclear weaponisation programme, even as the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, left Beijing for the United States on a "working visit", which will climax in a meeting with the American President, George W. Bush, at his ranch in Texas on Friday.

The China-U.S. context of the ongoing international efforts to transform North Korea into a nuclear-weapons-free zone acquired an importance beyond the semantics of this summitry as the Foreign Ministry in Beijing today set out its strategic priorities in relation to Pyongyang. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in Beijing

that the 1994 Agreed Framework between the U.S. and North Korea had so far sustained the Korean peninsula (inclusive of South Korea) as a nuclear-free area. The Agreed Framework, which was not easy to formulate in the first place, had indeed maintained peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. The accord should, therefore, be observed 'faithfully' by all the parties concerned, it said.

The latest 'problem' between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the U.S. could be properly settled through 'dialogue', China emphasised. The reference was to the dispute between Washington and Pyongyang over the latter's 'acknowledgment' of a clandestine nuclear-arms programme. China's insistence on the set-

tlement of this dispute through dialogue might seem to indicate a difference with the U.S., which has left North Korea with the Hobson's choice of having to give up any ambitions of becoming a declared nuclear power. By nightfall, the delegations of the two Koreas failed to narrow their differences on North Korea's nuclear profile. As the two sides continued to engage each other in what was described by the South as a tug-of-war over the nuclear issue, their eighth ministerial meeting remained inconclusive. South Korea insisted that Pyongyang agree to uphold the inviolability of the 1994 Agreed Framework and of the other non-proliferation documents that the North had, at various times in the past, pledged to abide by.

23 OCT 2002

S. Asi

N-ISSUE / NOTE OF COMPROMISE

ND-14
29/10

Koreas for more talks

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 23. The extended inter-Korean talks, the latest in a series of ministerial-level parleys, ended in Pyongyang in the early hours of today on a note of compromise that does not reflect the sense of urgency which the U.S. would like the international community to evince in order to stop North Korea in its nuclear weaponisation tracks.

The two Korean delegations agreed that the North's covert operation to make nuclear weapons, an issue that the U.S. says Pyongyang has admitted to, should be addressed through 'dialogue' so that a 'peaceful' resolution of the issues at stake could be accomplished.

At the other end of the complex spectrum of a Korean puzzle, the United States maintained that it was still engaged in 'consultations' with allies such as Japan and South Korea and with 'friends' in this context such as China. No final decision of any kind was, therefore, hinted at by either the White House or the State Department at this delicate stage.

The two Koreas have been, in a sense, felt encouraged by Washington's current inclination to adopt a differential approach towards North Korea despite the American insistence on what it sees as a no-nonsense strategy to disarm Iraq of its suspected capabilities to make and deploy weapons of mass destruction. This explains the latest inter-Korean accord

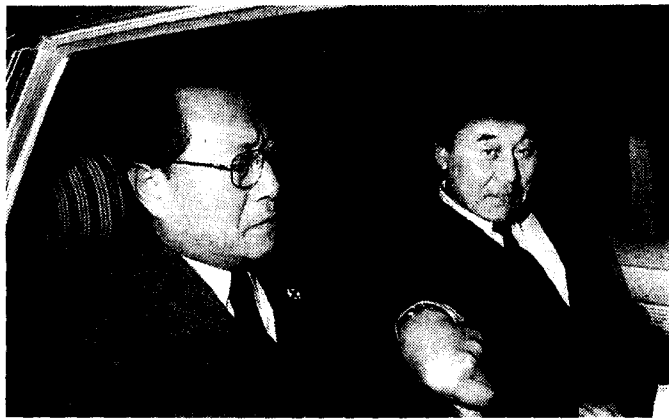
to let dialogue take its course among the parties concerned.

The South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, is expected to discuss North Korea when he meets the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, in a trilateral summit on the sidelines of an Asia Pacific meeting in Mexico within the next few days. It was in this context that Mr. Kim and presidential aspirants in South Korea today agreed that there was no question of allowing Pyongyang to take wings as a nuclear-armed country.

Top security officials from South Korea as also Japan and the U.S. are scheduled to meet in Tokyo over the next weekend to size up the North Korean issue. However, South Korea's

upbeat mood over the inter-Korean accord came as surprise to some sections of the Asia Pacific diplomatic and political circles.

According to an authentic version, South Korea's chief negotiator at the inter-Korean talks - the Unification Minister, Jeong Se-hyun - noted, upon his return to Seoul from Pyongyang, that it became clear that North Koreans wished to allay the fears of the international community over their nuclear weaponisation drive. It was in the context of such an inter-Korean empathy of not wishing to paint each other in the worst possible colours that Pyongyang had, during the course of the talks, threatened to take "a tougher counter-action" if the U.S. were to adopt "a strong-arm policy" towards the North.



SOME HEADWAY: The South Korean Unification Minister, Jeong Se-Hyun (left) looks at his watch inside a car while his North Korean counterpart, Kim Ryong-Song, looks on, in Pyongyang on Wednesday. — AFP

29 OCT 2002

THE HINDU

N-PROGRAMME / TERMS FOR ROLLBACK

Pyongyang wants U.S. to sign non-aggression pact

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 25. Raising the stakes over North Korea's suspected nuclear weaponisation drive, the Kim Jong-il regime today demanded that the U.S. enter into a bilateral "non-aggression treaty" so that the security concerns of both sides could be addressed in a manner that could bring about peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the North calls itself, made a long and astonishingly candid statement which, as seen in the Asia Pacific political circles, bordered on what could only be described as the diplomacy of audacity. Outlining "a reasonable and realistic solution to the nuclear issue", the Kim Jong-il regime said: "If the U.S. legally assures the DPRK of non-aggression, including the non-use of nuclear weapons against (North Korea) by concluding (a) treaty, the DPRK will be ready to clear the former (the U.S.) of its security concerns". Washington's prime security concern as regards East Asia today is that North Korea may have already crossed the nuclear Rubicon as indicated by the Kim regime's "acknowledgment" of being engaged in a covert operation to make atomic weapons by using enriched

uranium. North Korea's Foreign Ministry said that "the settlement of all problems with the DPRK, a small country, should be based on (a process of) removing any threat to its sovereignty and (its) right to existence". The DPRK preferred 'negotiations' instead of its own alternative option — "the use of deterrent force" consistent with Pyongyang's right to existence.

The 'negotiations' to sort out the status of North Korea's nuclear arms capabilities would be made possible if the U.S. were to accept three conditions, Pyongyang said. The conditions were spelt out as the recognition of the DPRK's sovereignty, a non-aggression pact and America's willingness "not to hinder" North Korea's economic development. While insisting that the U.S. had produced "no evidence" to prove that the North was engaged in uranium enrichment and nuclear weapons production, Pyongyang said, in a contradiction of this assertion, that Washington was informed that "the DPRK was entitled to possess not only (the) nuclear weapon but also any type of weapon more powerful than that." Defending this right to nuclear security, the North Korean Foreign Ministry said "the U.S. has massively stockpiled nuclear weapons in South Korea and its vicinity and

threatened the DPRK, a small country, with those weapons for nearly half a century". North Korea traced the alleged U.S. disposition of this kind to a "strategy for world supremacy". Citing the recent American characterisation of North Korea as a critical component of an "axis of evil", Pyongyang said this unmitigated hostility had complicated an already complex equation between the two countries.

In North Korea's books, the U.S. had transgressed the Agreed Framework of 1994, a bilateral deal, from the very beginning. In any case, the delay in supplying nuclear energy reactors as an incentive for an effort by North Korea to refrain from making atomic weapons had further exposed Washington's hostility towards Pyongyang, the statement said. In an attempt to dispute the U.S. version of North's intransigence, Pyongyang disclosed what it claimed was a "confidential minute" concerning the Agreed Framework. Under this, it was said, North Korea was obliged to throw open its nuclear facilities for international inspection only after a U.S.-sponsored consortium delivered to Pyongyang all essential non-nuclear components, including turbines and generators, for the proposed nuclear power plant.

26 OCT 2002

Japan, N. Korea to normalise ties

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 29 — Japan and North Korea today began talks on the normalisation of their relations at the neutral venue of Kuala Lumpur, signalling their willingness to resume a stalled process of dialogue despite the latest tensions and Tokyo's concerns over Pyongyang's "acknowledgement" of a clandestine nuclear weaponisation programme.

The latest talks, which will last at least until Wednesday, take place in the context of a synchronised stand by the United States, Japan and South Korea that North Korea should roll back its covert programme of making atomic weapons by using enriched uranium.

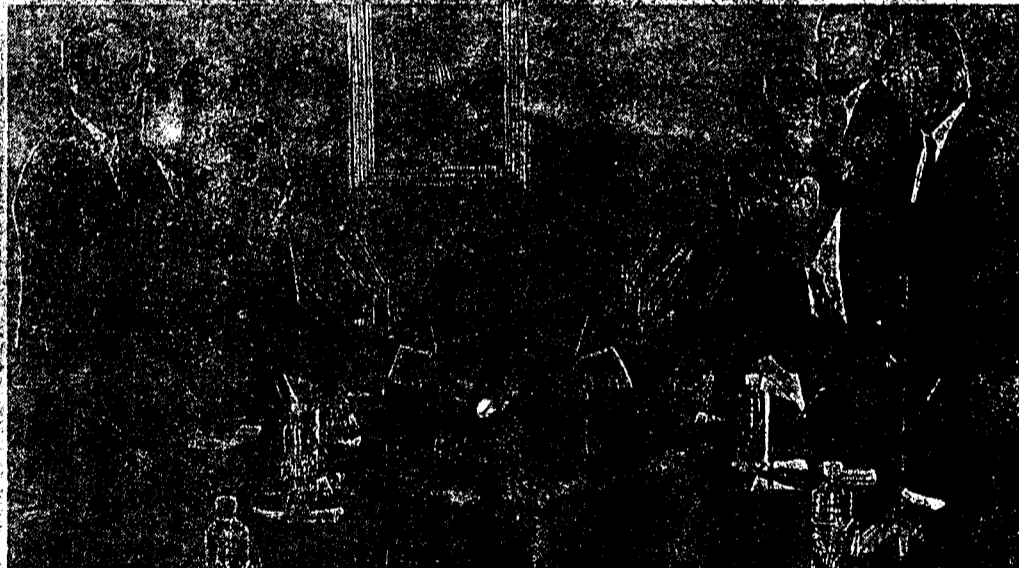
Besides the nuclear issue, the

delegations from Tokyo and Pyongyang are understood to be seized of questions relating to the Gold War era abductions of some Japanese nationals by North Korea's spy agencies. No definitive indications of the likely outcome of this latest round of talks were available until nightfall. However, these parleys take place in the context of a statement that the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, had made immediately after the 10th disclosed a few days ago now, in which the North Korean side had conceded that it was carrying out a nuclear weapons programme.

In Mr. Koizumi's calculations, Japan would be better off talking to the North Koreans and quizzing them about their

plans to make and stockpile weapons of mass destruction. Tokyo reckoned that any move by it to slam the door on North Korea's face might deprive Japan of a chance to exert pressure on the Kim Jong-il regime on the nuclear question and the other related issues of concern to the international community.

For its part, North Korea has, at one level, called for a non-aggression pact with the United States by using the nuclear issue as a virtual bargaining chip. At another level, it has made no secret of its intention to use the nuclear card to secure better terms of normalisation with Japan. In either case, though, North Korea has not signalled any intention of abandoning its nuclear armament programme.



REACHING OUT: The Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia, Katsunari Suzuki (right), and his North Korean counterpart, Jong Thae Hwa, shake hands at the start of talks on normalisation of relations between the two countries, in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. — AP

N Korea offers to wind up nuclear plan

Kuala Lumpur: North Korea held out hope of an end to its nuclear weapons programme but demanded Japan return five kidnap victims after talks on normalising ties between the two countries ended without progress here on Wednesday.

"If the Americans will help our country and promise not to attack us we can solve the nuclear problem," said North Korean official Pak Ryong Yon. International demands that North Korea end its quest for nuclear weapons have been top of Tokyo's agenda in the two-day talks in the Malaysian capital, along with the North's kidnapping of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s.

On the abduction issue, Mr Pak demanded that Tokyo return five Japanese victims of the kidnapping programme who are currently in Japan for what was initially supposed to be a two-week stay. Tokyo has indicated that it wants them to stay permanently.

"Please send them back to North Korea as promised," said Mr Pak. The North Korean official blamed Japan's preoccupation with the nuclear and kidnapping issues for a lack of progress on normalising ties. In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell has said North Korea faces a grim economic future unless it abides by growing international demands to surrender its nuclear weapons programme.

"No North Korean child can eat enriched uranium." Mr Powell told a news conference on Tuesday. "It is fool's gold for North Korea," Mr Powell said, adding that it would be good if North Korea behaved in a more responsible way. Agencies

Give up n-plan, N. Korea told ✓

688 10-19 1911
SEOUL, NOV. 9. The South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung, urged North Korea on Saturday to give up its recently disclosed nuclear weapons programme for a lasting peace on the divided peninsula.

Mr. Kim made the appeal as a South Korean delegation was headed back home after two days of economic talks in North Korea during which the visitors warned that inter-Korean cooperation could suffer unless the issue was resolved quickly.

"Despite ups and downs, North-South relations so far have headed toward reconciliation and peace," Mr. Kim said in a speech at a national sports festival.

"We're strongly opposed to the North's development of nuclear weapons and determined to resolve the issue through peaceful means." —

AP

THE HINDU

10 NOV 2002

Preparations complete for direct links with Taiwan

Associated Press 11/11

BEIJING, Nov 10. — Leaders of China's Fujian province, which faces Taiwan across a 160-km strait, today said they are ready for direct flights and shipping with the island and are waiting for its leaders to present a plan. Shipping facilities are ready and Fujian has three airports prepared to handle flights from Taiwan, said Mr Song Defu, the province's Communist Party chief. "We

are entirely prepared," Mr Song told journalists during a meeting of the Fujian delegation attending this month's Communist Party congress in Beijing. Mr Song's comments come amid growing expectations for an opening of direct shipping, flights and other contacts between the sides.

Taiwan's former Nationalist rulers banned direct travel, trade and communications with mainland China after their chaotic retreat

to Taiwan as Mao Zedong's communists swept to power in 1949. At present, flights and shipping between the two sides must go through a third point, usually Hong Kong. In his address to the party congress Friday, President Zemin urged "practical and positive steps" to promote direct links.

Taiwan's government has promised to announce a plan for direct air and shipping links by the end of this month.

1 1 10 2 02

THE STATESMAN

North Korea has nuclear weapons'

Associated Press

SEOUL, Nov. 18. — North Korea's state-run radio reported for the first time that the communist country has nuclear weapons, but South Korean officials doubted the credibility of the report.

The North's Pyongyang Radio reported yesterday in a Korean-language report that the country "has come to have nuclear and other strong military weapons due to nuclear threats by US imperialists," according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency, which monitors broadcasts from the North.

Some took the report as the North's first confirmation of possession of nuclear weapons. Until now, North Korea had claimed that it was "entitled to have nuclear weapons and more powerful weapons than that to protect its sovereignty from US threats." But to-

day, South Korean officials were skeptical that the report represented a change in North Korea's official position on nuclear weapons, which has been to neither confirm nor deny that the country has them.

"It's too early to say whether North Korea's official position on its nuclear issue has changed," said Choi Young-joon, a chief analyst at South Korea's unification ministry.

"In North Korea, such a report should follow an official government statement or policy announcement or comments by a top official," he said.

Yonhap played down the significance of the report carried by Pyongyang Radio, which is meant chiefly for the South Korean audience. No other Northern media, including its English-language foreign news outlet, the Korean Central News Agency, carried it.

North Korea has Pakistan-made nukes: Defector

ANU 28/11/02
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Washington: North Korea is in possession of nuclear bombs made with help from Pakistani engineers, a spy who has defected from the Communist country has disclosed.

Kenki Aoyama, an Osaka-born North Korean spy who has fled to Tokyo via Beijing, has told Japanese and Western media that he personally ran into a group of 30 to 40 visiting Pakistani engineers who were helping Pyongyang's nuclear program in the mid-1990s.

"They were there to exchange technologies," Aoyama told the *Washington Post* correspondent in Tokyo, following similar reports in the Japanese media.

Aoyama's accounts suggest North Korea achieved the nuclear holy grail and the ceasing of Pakistani help may have come too late to save Japan, South Korea and a 100,000 US troops from the hee-bee-jeebies arising from atomic bombs in the hands of the renegade regime in Pyongyang.

According to Aoyama, who uses a false name for fear of being hunted down, he was able to confirm that Pyongyang had achieved its objective when he ran into a North Korean scientist he knew at a bar in Beijing.

The man looked terrible, thin and wan. His eyebrows had disappeared from accidental radiation, Aoyama told the *Washington Post*.

"I said, 'Are you still working on it?'" Aoyama recalled in the *Post*. "No," came the reply. "It's done. We succeeded."

Aoyama defected to Tokyo some three years back. Tokyo initially bought the story and kept him on its payroll while debriefing him. But in recent days, the establishment has begun to raise questions about his credibility.

It appears the ruling party in Japan, which has been building bridges with North Korea, does not want to countenance any disclosures that might jeopardise its diplomatic efforts even though a nuclear weapon with Pyongyang would completely change the dynamics of the region.

Pyongyang rejects nuke watchdog's call

Seoul, December 4

NORTH KOREA said today it had rejected a call by the International Atomic Energy Agency to open its nuclear weapons program to inspections, saying the UN nuclear watchdog was abetting US policy toward the North.

The IAEA called on North Korea last week to open its atomic weapons program to inspections and said it "deplored" Pyongyang's assertion it had a right to possess the weapons.

Closing off an avenue North Korea's neighbours had hoped might pre-empt a crisis, Pyongyang's Communist government spurned the resolution as "an extremely unilateral resolution". "The DPRK Government cannot accept the November 29 resolution of the IAEA board of governors in any case and...there is no change in its principled stand on the nuclear issue," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency said.

The report — using North Korea's official title, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) — quoted a December 2 letter from Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun to IAEA director Mohamed ElBaradei.

"I was disappointed at the IAEA Board of Governors still acting under the manipulation of the United States while following its policy to isolate and stifle the DPRK," Paek wrote.

*5 Am
16 5/12*
The US said North Korea had admitted, during a visit to Pyongyang in October by US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, to enriching uranium secretly for a weapons program.

Pyongyang says it will neither confirm nor deny whether it actually has nuclear weapons but says it is entitled to have them, despite its treaty pledges to stay non-nuclear, because it is under nuclear threat from Washington, which has branded North Korea part of the "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

Any nuclear weapons program violates the terms of its membership in the IAEA and several treaties and agreements signed with the United States and South Korea.

Paek reiterated Pyongyang's assertion that Washington's hostility toward the isolated and impoverished state had forced North Korea to pursue nuclear weapons. "This crisis is a product of the US hostile policy toward the DPRK," his letter said.

The North Korean minister dismissed the resolution, saying it "can never be considered as an impartial one, and it will only lay one more serious obstacle in the way of solving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula." Shortly after its uranium program was revealed, North Korea said its condition for ending it was a non-aggression treaty with the US.

Reuters

North Korea's gamble

By Achin Vanaik

5 Dec 19-10 5712

BULLETTINS ABOUT North Korea's self-acknowledged uranium enrichment programme to make nuclear weapons, and of Pakistan's role in helping Pyongyang, have pushed both Washington and New Delhi to highlight North Korean perfidy and Pakistani duplicity respectively. But these are actually only minor themes in a more complicated overall picture. This was brought home sharply in the context of my recent visit to Japan and a sustained discussion with some Japanese experts on Korea, who outside of the Korean peninsula are really the most acute and independent Korea-watchers. The fuller story begins with the historic decisions of Kim Dae Jung in South Korea and the Japanese Government to explore the possibility of a rapprochement with North Korea. For Washington this came as an unwelcome shock. The U.S. now looks forward to a conservative replacement of Mr. Kim in the coming South Korean elections and a deceleration, if not end, to Seoul's 'Sunshine' policy. For Japan, the move towards North Korea was one of those truly rare occasions when Tokyo was prepared to defy Washington in a matter of foreign policy, especially when North Korea had been openly designated part of the "axis of evil".

Washington's chance came just before the Japanese Premier, Junichiro Koizumi's visit in late September to Pyongyang. In order to prevent serious progress at the coming summit meeting, the Japanese leader was told of the North Korean efforts to build a uranium enrichment facility through missile trades with Pakistan and this matter was duly brought up by Mr. Koizumi at the summit. The text of those talks has so far not been made public but it appears that there was at least a tacit admission of the effort. Of course, the dramatic public revelations that followed about the violation of the 1994 agreement with the U.S., the apology for the killing of five South Korean sailors in a naval battle and the admission of kidnapping Japanese citizens had a clear purpose. They were not the declaration of a new posture of barefaced belligerence but an attempt to clear the decks, as it were, for moving North Korea in a new direction.

Behind this lies not just a new stra-

tegic-political reorientation but also an economic one. North Korea's admission of its uranium enrichment programme is an attempt to establish some bargaining counters vis-a-vis the U.S.: to end its nuclear weapons programme and even its missile development programme (it had already indicated its willingness to do this to Tokyo) for an end to U.S. hostility towards it and the initiation of a new era of political normality. Pyongyang also wants a deepening of the new thaw with Japan. Supporters of this line in North Korea decided quite

Production beyond stipulated quotas means profits that can be retained and distributed among workers as bonuses. Special economic zones for attracting foreign investment are on the anvil.

Incidentally, despite all the brouhaha in India, neither the Japanese nor the Americans are worried about the uranium enrichment programme, which is very far from being completed. It is the plutonium bombs that might already exist (perhaps produced before 1994) that is the main concern. It is not certain that these ex-

new tensions between North Korea and the others, it is because it wants to handle one crisis at a time: first sort out the Iraq affair to its satisfaction and then turn its attention to North Korea. Indeed, if events unfold in the desired manner in West Asia then there is no reason whatsoever to think that the U.S. will not resort to belligerence rather than appeasement as the way to handle North Korea. This can certainly mean pre-emptive air strikes to take out designated targets (including perceived nuclear facilities) and military reinforcement of U.S. presence in South Korea.

But this is clearly a gamble. Pyongyang's decision to make those startling public disclosures was more an effort to end the logjam created by the Bush Administration's hardening of diplomatic posture towards North Korea. Moreover, regardless of what happens in West Asia, it is still unlikely that the U.S. will take the 'soft' approach. In a wider strategic sense, the U.S. does not want early Korean reunification or the easing of North Korean related tensions in Northeast Asia for this would weaken the rationale for its own strategic-military presence in the region and its 'containment' efforts vis-a-vis China for which it needs to strengthen the dependence of Japan and South Korea (and Taiwan) on it, not ease these dependencies through the progressive diminution of the North Korean 'threat'.

China, for its part, is certainly disturbed by any idea of a future U.S. military attack on North Korea, as well as the precedent this could set for the future. But it has also seized the opportunity to signal its happy alignment with the U.S. in its effort to end the nuclear programme of North Korea, hoping thereby to defuse and weaken anti-Chinese sentiments and attitudes that are of course prevalent in various important policy-shaping circles in and around Washington. Finally, there will be outside pressures from Seoul and Tokyo on North Korea, as well as internal pressures, to unilaterally make more concessions before year-end so as to make it extremely difficult for the U.S. to do anything but move towards 'cooperation' and 'negotiations' with it. Whether this will happen or not remains to be seen.

North Korea's admission of its uranium enrichment programme is an attempt to establish some bargaining counters vis-a-vis the U.S.

sensibly that no matter how much it sought to militarily strengthen itself, Pyongyang would never be a match for either Japan or the U.S. nor even provide itself a minimal form of deterrent against them. Abandoning the military-nuclear programme of ambitious power projection therefore made sense especially since it could still retain, without nuclear weapons or long-range missiles, a significant military capacity against South Korea, which was all it really needed by way of military leverage.

Economically speaking and generally unnoticed abroad, Kim Jong Il has embarked on a genuine reform programme breaking with its past command structure. These measures are still in the early stages but the changes are real and the direction set is a decisively new one, which North Korea's leaders know they cannot continue without significant external help, both technical and financial, especially from Japan. But this in turn requires a sea change in North Korean relations with the all-powerful U.S. Prices and wages have been raised for the first time in more than 20 years, bringing them closer to international levels especially for food items. Food rationing (except for rice) has been abolished while farmers are getting higher product prices. Private plots have been allowed for some years but collectives can now grow cash crops once they have fulfilled their grain quota. Profit incentives have been introduced in factory management.

ist but Tokyo has some reason to believe that there could be two to five such bombs. The real question is whether the North Korean gamble will succeed. Current signs are not good. Washington believes its aggressive 'axis of evil' diplomacy has pushed a more desperate North Korea to come clean. At the recent APEC conference when the leaders of the U.S., Japan and South Korea met, the joint statement that emerged shows Seoul and Tokyo moving some way towards Washington's harder posture. Neither Seoul nor Tokyo has yet abandoned its independent line of seeking a degree of rapprochement with North Korea and simply accepting the old position of subservience to Washington. But by declaring that there would be no conclusion to its discussions with Pyongyang unless the nuclear issue was fully sorted out, i.e. the programme dismantled, they have signalled their new and closer realignment with Washington. The nuclear issue is one that North Korean leaders believe is up for discussion only between themselves and the U.S., and should not come into their bilateral discussions with South Korea and Japan. As it is, the public anger against North Korea in Japan caused by the news of the kidnappings has reduced Tokyo's room for manoeuvre.

If the U.S. has so far gone along with the publicly proclaimed declarations of Seoul and Tokyo that there should be a peaceful resolution of the

5 DEC 2002

N. Korea to reactivate n-plant

SEOUL, DEC. 12. Raising fears of a nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula, North Korea said today it would immediately reactivate a nuclear power plant that U.S. officials suspect was being used to develop weapons. A dismayed South Korea urged North Korea to reverse the decision, saying it could escalate tensions.

The old, Soviet-designed nuclear reactor would be reactivated and construction of other

nuclear facilities to supply power would be resumed, the KCNA, the state-run news agency, quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman without naming him.

The programme was suspended under a 1994 deal with the U.S., averting a possible war in the peninsula. Experts say North Korea could quickly extract enough plutonium from its old facilities to make several nuclear weapons. 18/12

The official said that North Korea was obliged to revive the programme because of the U.S.-led decision last month to suspend annual oil shipments of 500,000 tonnes. This was aimed at pressuring North Korea to give up a more recent nuclear programme based on uranium enrichment. The U.S. says the uranium-based programme violated a nuclear arms control clause in the 1994 pact. — AP

Another report on Page 14

Yemeni protest softens US stand on North Korean Scud missiles

Sanaa: Yemen was set to take delivery of 15 North Korean Scud missiles on Thursday after a strong protest against their seizure by Spanish frigates sparked a climbdown by the United States from its charges of illegal arms proliferation.

The US change of heart followed telephone talks between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh with vice president Dick Cheney and secretary of state Colin Powell. Both of them acknowledged Yemen's role as

a "friend and partner in the global war on terrorism."

The discovery of the 15 North Korean Scuds and accompanying warheads hidden aboard an unflagged freighter off the Yemeni island of Socotra on Monday had sparked a flurry of US accusations against what it regards as a rogue regime in Pyongyang.

"North Korea doesn't like to hear me say it but they continue to be the largest proliferator of missiles and ballistic missile technology on

the face of the earth," said defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"They are putting in the hands of many countries technology and capabilities which have the potential for destroying hundreds of thousands of people," he told reporters during a visit to Djibouti, just across the strategic Babal-Mandab seaway from Yemen.

Mr Rumsfeld added later in Qatar: "There are questions about its flag, questions about its cargo and questions about its destina-

tion." Mr Rumsfeld's early concerns were swiftly echoed by London and Paris.

"This incident shows that the international community, including the United Kingdom government, is right to put great pressure on North Korea to stop the spread of ballistic missile technology," said British foreign secretary Jack Straw.

"We call once more on North Korea to show responsibility and to cease its trade in ballistic mis-

siles," said French foreign ministry spokeswoman Cecile Pozzo di Borgo.

But just hours later, Yemeni foreign minister Abu Bake Abdullah Al-Kurbi summoned US ambassador Edmund Hull to deliver a vigorous protest against the shipment's interception, explaining the missiles were part of a long-standing order from North Korea.

"This cargo is part of previous orders made a long time ago and belongs to the Yemeni government

and armed forces," the official Saba news agency quoted the protest letter as saying.

"Yemen has no hostile intent against anyone at all, and the order of these weapons does not threaten world peace or the security of anyone."

A similar letter was addressed to the Spanish government, Saba said, in which Madrid was warned that the seizure of the Scuds "does not serve relations between the two countries." AFP

N. Korea gamble for talks with US

B
F
13/12

PAULECKERT

Seoul, Dec. 12 (Reuters): North Korea said today it was immediately reactivating a nuclear power plant at the centre of a suspected 1990s weapons programme, raising the stakes in a stand-off at the world's last Cold War flashpoint.

North Korea's decision to restart the reactor mothballed in 1994 after an international crisis over alleged production of weapons-grade plutonium there escalates a two-month-long showdown with the US over a second nuclear programme being pursued by the isolated and impoverished Communist state.

Analysts said Pyongyang's latest move — which it said it had been forced to take after a US-led decision to suspend oil aid to the country — appeared to be a last-ditch attempt to force arch-enemy Washington to the negotiating table.

The announcement came exactly a week before South Korea's presidential election, a contest which will turn in part on the question of whether to embrace or sanction North Korea.

The reactor at Yongbyon,

north of Pyongyang, was frozen in 1994 after a year-long crisis ended with the Agreed Framework pact between the US and North Korea. The CIA director estimated North Korea had produced one or two nuclear weapons.

Under the pact, Pyongyang promised to scrap plans to develop such weapons in return for provision of light water nuclear reactors and fuel oil supplies.

In October this year, Wash-

ington said Pyongyang had admitted embarking on a new secret programme, this time to enrich uranium for weapons, in violation of the Agreed Framework. Following that admission, Washington and its allies, including South Korea and Japan, decided to suspend fuel oil shipments to North Korea from December — just as winter brought sub-zero temperatures to the destitute northeast Asian country.

After weeks demanding that Washington sign a non-aggression treaty to defuse the row, North Korea's foreign ministry raised the stakes today.

It said in a statement: "The prevailing situation compelled the DPRK government to lift its measure for nuclear freeze taken on the premise that 500,000 tonnes of heavy oil would be annually supplied to the DPRK under the DPRK-US Agreed Framework and immediately resume the operation and construction of its nuclear facilities to generate electricity.

"Whether the DPRK re-freezes its nuclear facilities or not hinges upon the US," said the statement, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

No more Scuds, says Yemen

Sanaa, Dec. 12 (Reuters): Yemen said today it expected to take delivery of 15 Scud missiles and warheads aboard a North Korean ship within days and was not planning to buy more.

The US yesterday released the ship, two days after it was intercepted by Spanish warships in the Arabian Sea.

"We have signed a contract with North Korea to buy this shipment in 1999 and we have no intention to purchase any other shipment," the Yemeni official said.

8 Asia

SHIP SEIZURE / 'ACTION AMOUNTS TO PIRACY'

N. Korea demands U.S. apology

SEOUL, DEC. 13. With the inter-Korean reconciliation in jeopardy, North Korea demanded an apology on Friday from the United States for what it described as piracy in the seizure of a ship carrying missiles to Yemen.

A day earlier, North Korea declared that it would immediately revive frozen nuclear power facilities that the United States and its allies suspect were being used to develop nuclear weapons before they were frozen in 1994.

The conflict threatened to disrupt cross-border railway construction and other prominent projects aimed at reconciling North Korea and South Korea, a U.S. ally. Also at stake were two modern nuclear reactors that a U.S.-led consortium agreed to build in North Korea in exchange for the suspension of the nuclear program that it now plans to revive.

"It's a worrisome development," said Chang Sun-sup, a top South Korean official in-

involved in the new reactor project. "It's impossible to continue the project as if nothing had happened."

The communist country said U.S. actions forced it to revive its old nuclear programme, despite an international outcry and fears of a nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula similar to one in 1994 that nearly led to war.

"It is extremely regrettable," said Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yasuo Fukuda. "North Korea is abandoning its obligations under the framework agreed between the United States and North Korea."

But North Korea focused on the incident on Tuesday in which Spanish warships seized a North Korean ship carrying Scud missiles in the Arabian Sea. The U.S. military took charge of the ship, but then allowed it to sail on after high-level diplomacy between the United States and Yemen.

"This is an unpardonable piracy that wantonly encroached

ND-19

14/12



DEFIANT STAND: The North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il (in sunglasses), on an inspection tour in Pyongan Nam Do, western North Korea, earlier this week. — Reuters

upon the sovereignty of the DPRK," an unidentified spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in comments reported in English by the North's Korean Central News Agency. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The official said the missile components were part of a "legal trade contract" and that the ship was "on a normal voyage along the publicly recognised sea route." — AP

14 DEC 2002

UN arms team in Iraq gets more teeth

Baghdad: UN weapons experts probed factories linked to missile and warhead production on Sunday, as they prepared to step up the pace of disarmament checks in Iraq with new reinforcements of personnel and equipment.

At least four inspection teams went out into the field.

An International Atomic Energy Agency team swooped on a plant run by the Um al-Maarik (mother of all battles) General Company, in Yusufiya, 30 km west of Baghdad.

Nuclear inspectors had previously visited another plant run by the same firm south of Baghdad on November 30, but had told the company managers they were coming, denying the element of surprise deemed crucial to inspections of suspect sites.

According to UN reports, some facilities of the company, named after Baghdad's term for the 1991 Gulf War, were previously linked to Iraq's production of missile warheads.

A team from the UN monitoring, verification and inspection commission meanwhile entered the Nasr state establishment, which lies some 18 km north of Baghdad in the huge Al-Taji compound.

According to UN reports, before 1991 the Nasr factories manufactured R400 bombs that were later filled with deadly biological agents in a

N. Korea playing power poker

By Harvey Stockwin
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hong Kong: From time to time, power politics in and around the Korean peninsula resembles nothing so much as a hectic game of poker



Kim Jong Il

wherein exceedingly well-armed players make risky bets with potentially grave consequences for East Asia.

Currently the absolute but isolated ruler of North Korea, Kim Jong Il, is making three desperate gambles in this unending Korean poker game. First, he is betting that he can keep his precarious economy afloat by exporting the missiles that North Korea manufactures to all those states—rogue and otherwise—which feel the need to brandish rockets. The latest estimates are that North Korea is somehow managing to earn US \$500 million in this way every year. This makes it North Korea's main exporter earner.

The risks and rewards of the missile trade were well illustrated this week as first Spanish and then American troops descended on an unidentified ship in the Arabian Sea. The Americans had guessed that the cargo was headed for Yemen but

the Yemeni government had initially denied it. Once the hidden cargo was revealed, the Yemenis did claim the missiles to be theirs, after all. But the missile exports were legal even if they were on board an anonymous ship. So the Americans, anxious to keep Yemen on-side in the war against terrorism, allowed the missiles to proceed.

Mr Kim's bet thus turned out in this case to be a safe one. North Korea has followed up by demanding "compensation" for American "piracy". But Mr Kim has been put on notice that he is being carefully watched by US satellites.

Secondly, Mr Kim is further increasing his already considerable bet on N-proliferation, and is gambling that eventually the US and the world will reward him for doing what he should not be doing in the first place.

Thirdly, Kim is gambling that his further escalation of the nuclear crisis in the Korean peninsula will be sufficient to persuade the S. Korean electorate that they have no alternative but to make left-of-centre candidate Roh Moo Hyun their next President. Mr Kim hopes that Mr Roh will be keen to continue the Sunshine policy of aid and subsidies to the communist North.

North Korean crisis

Flaws in Bush doctrine showing up

While the Bush administration bears down on Iraq a similar crisis is brewing in another part of the world: the Korean peninsula. Pyongyang says it will immediately reactivate its nuclear facilities, which were frozen under the terms of the 1994 Agreed Framework arrived at among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. Put that together with the announcement that the country has nuclear weapons, and the shipping of missiles to whoever can pay, and it is apparent that Pyongyang is confronting head on the Bush administration's doctrine of disallowing "the world's most dangerous weapons in the hands of the world's most dangerous regimes". While President Kim Jong-il has been placed in the same doghouse as President Saddam Hussein, the question the world is asking is why the two are being treated so differently. The Iraqi and Korean crises are comparable.

Under the terms of the 1994 agreement Washington, Seoul and Tokyo agreed to set up two light water reactors in North Korea, proliferation-proof, we suppose, and supply fuel oil to meet Pyongyang's energy needs till the reactors are ready, in return for freezing the existing Soviet-built nuclear facility which could be used to produce material for a nuclear weapons programme, and for the right of IAEA inspections to ensure that a weapons programme wasn't ongoing. A \$5 billion consortium named Kedo was set up to build the nuclear plants, and construction begun at Kumho on North Korea's east coast, when Pyongyang refused to play ball with weapons inspectors, and execution of the Kedo projects was stalled. Recently, Pyongyang stunned the world by revealing it was following a secret nuclear weapons programme, and fuel oil shipments were suspended.

North Korea is desperately short of cash, energy, food – the only thing it appears to have is an abundant supply of missiles which it is willing to sell or barter to all comers, one of its clients being the redoubtable General Musharraf. Given that Pyongyang is one of the world's biggest missile proliferators, Washington may have felt compelled to make a response of some sort, which accounts for the brief seizure of a shipment of Scud missiles to Yemen. The question that survives is why Washington did not intercept ballistic missile parts flown to Pakistan from North Korea under full view of US spy satellites.

Since they were intended to bring all of India's strategic sites within reach of Musharraf's nukes it is clear that, US ambassador Robert Blackwill's protestations notwithstanding, Islamabad remains a steadfast ally while New Delhi is barely a friend. Even if Islamabad is not in the doghouse Pyongyang is, what then explains the relatively benign reaction of the Bush administration to Pyongyang's nuclear programme and missile proliferation? One, it is not threatening Western oil interests in the way that Hussein can.

Two, Pyongyang may already have crossed the Rubicon by acquiring nuclear weapons; even without then its missiles and artillery retain the capacity to inflict devastating punishment on South Korea in case of war. Although according to a UN report, about 10 per cent of the North Korean population has succumbed to famine it still has a million strong army, and its forces are just 20 miles north of Seoul. Both Seoul and Tokyo will, therefore, stay Washington's hand, in a way Arab client states are not able to in the case of Iraq. Apart from the obvious interest in Iraqi oil, there is a mad idea doing the rounds of the Bush Administration that the thinly populated land of Iraq can be made to accept surplus Palestinians and relieve the pressure on Israel once Saddam is no longer around to say no.

North Korea urges USA to ink pact

Associated Press

SEOUL, Dec. 16. — North Korea said today that the signing of a non aggression treaty with the USA is the only way to prevent a war in the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has repeatedly demanded a non aggression pact, but Washington has ruled out talks with North Korea unless it abandons its nuclear ambitions.

Raising fears of a crisis along the world's last Cold war frontier, North Korea said last week it will reactivate plutonium-based nuclear facilities that U.S. officials believe could be used to make weapons.

North Korea's remarks today, similar to vitriolic anti-U.S. rhetoric often churned out by its state media, come amid U.S.-led pressure on the communist country to abandon a recently disclosed nuclear weapon programme.

"Now the situation of the Korean Peninsula is on the verge of war," North Korea's official newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in a report carried by the state news agency.

"The only way to prevent a catastrophic crisis of war ... is to conclude a non aggression treaty between North Korea and the U.S. at an early date," the paper said. The country also y accused the United States of blocking food aid after its announcement to reactivate nuclear facilities frozen under a 1994 agreement with Washington.

"The US has so far claimed that aid to North Korea had nothing to do with the 'nuclear issue,'" a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"But they are openly saying that it cannot give aid to the country unless it meets unreasonable conditions including the 'opening of the whole country,'" the unidentified spokesman said.

Korean talks begin amid nuke cloud

Agence France Presse

SEOUL, Dec. 16. — South and North Korea began talks today on a rapprochement project in their first official contact since Pyongyang stunned the world by threatening to restart a nuclear programme.

Two separate teams of South Korean negotiators left for the North yesterday and said they would use the talks to address the nuclear dispute during the talks.

Red Cross officials from the South were meeting their counterparts from the North to discuss progress on arranging reunions of families split for more than 50 years by the division of the Korean peninsula.

Government officials from the South were engaged in another set of talks also at the North's Mount Kumgang resort on the

attempt to murder. They were also found guilty under section 120-B of IPC - criminal conspiracy.

The court also convicted them under section 3(1 (a)), 3(2), 3(3), 3(5) and 4 (b) of Pota for committing terrorist activities resulting in death of nine persons. They have also been found committing offences under

section 3 and 4 of Explosives Act (Large quantity of arms were seized from their residence) and 3 (4) of Pota that is providing safe hideouts for five militants.

In the case of SAR Geelani, he was found guilty under sections 121, 120 A, 120-B and 122, 302 and 307 of the IPC. He was

east coast focussing on cross-border road and rail links, according to South Korean media reports.

The nuclear issue was pushed on to the agenda after North Korea declared last week it would restart a plutonium-producing programme that had been frozen under a 1994 accord in response to the US halt to fuel oil shipment to Pyongyang.



South Korean officials (right) shake hands with their North Korean counterparts before a meeting at Mount Kumgang on Monday. — AFP

The inter-Korean rapprochement talks were expected to be a tough affair even before the nuclear crisis flared.

South Korean Red Cross officials proposed that both Koreas arrange family reunions around the lunar New Year holiday on February 1 in each other's capitals, the reports said.

But the North's Red Cross officials seemed more interested in discussing the setting up of permanent family reunion centres near Mount Kumgang.

also found guilty of offences under section 3 (1 (a)), 3 (2), 3(3) and 3(5) and 4 (b) of Pota.

Afsan Guru alias Navjot Sandhu was found committing offences under section 123 of IPC. She refused to inform the authorities about criminal conspiracy hatched by militants.

North's n-plan has a bearing on S. Korean polls

19-12-19
70-19

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, DEC. 18. Rarely has a presidential election in South Korea attracted as much international attention as the one scheduled to take place tomorrow.

The contest itself is clouded by some unprecedented anti-U.S. sentiments in a country known to have been America's satellite in regional politics.

North Korea's sabre-rattlings over its suspected nuclear weaponisation overdrive have also reverberated across the South.

However, the prime reason for the enormous external interest in South Korea is the 'constitutional' departure of the incumbent Head of State, Kim Dae-jung, sometime after this poll.

In a sense, Mr. Kim, Nobel Peace Prize winner for his "sunshine policy" of rapprochement with North Korea, has certainly not had the kind of suc-

cess that was seen possible at one stage during his five-year tenure, especially in mid-2000 when he sought to blaze a trail through his summit with Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang.

However, he is widely believed to make a quintessential "presidential difference" (if South Korea is seen through the prism of such an idea that



Lee Hot-Chang



Roh Moo-hyun

has been applied to U.S. presidencies from that of Franklin Roosevelt to Bill Clinton's).

The presidential candidates have had to reckon with Mr. Kim's towering personality which has not been dimmed by his own incomplete legacy and the scandals involving his family members. Nonetheless, the new challenge, North's "nuclear brinkmanship", and the qualitative popular anger against the U.S. — have given the two main candidates something very important to think about and promise policies accordingly.

For both the front-running candidates, this opportunity of striking statesman-like postures has added a new dimension to the campaign itself

which, otherwise, was marked by the usual concerns over normal issues such as the state of the economy.

The current economic downturn in the wider region is an issue lurking in the background of the race.

Of the two front-runners, Roh Moo-hyun of the ruling Millennium Democratic Party is seen to be more of a liberal who might be expected to persevere with Mr. Kim's policy of building links with the North.

In Mr. Roh's reckoning, the South could indeed hope to have some leverage with the North by engaging it on matters of war and peace as also the promise of a shared prosperity at some stage in the future.

Mr. Kim's recent admonition of his compatriots over their anti-U.S. emotions is not lost on Mr. Roh's campaign.

The other prime candidate, Lee Hoi-chang of the Grand National Party, is generally seen to be a hawk on North Korea, at least so by the standards of the campaign rhetoric on all sides. Whether or not he would like the sun to set on the "sunshine policy", the style and substance of Mr. Lee's campaign have placed him nearer America's extreme hard line towards Pyongyang on several key issues, such as its proliferation-programmes of producing and deploying weapons of mass destruction, more especially nuclear arms, according to regional observers.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lee has not placed all his cards on the table as regards the anti-U.S. feelings among the South Koreans at this point in time, in spite of the chill "North wind" or Pyongyang's militarist posture.

V

Roh seeks cooperation with US on N. Korea

Seoul: Newly-elected South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun sought on Friday cooperation with the United States over North Korea's moves to resume a nuclear weapons programme.



Roh M-H

Speaking at a news conference following his victory in Thursday's presidential election, after a campaign in which he vowed to continue an engagement policy with North Korea, he also called for a more mature relationship with the United States.

"In order to resolve peacefully the problem related to North Korea's nuclear development, we will take initiatives through close cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the US government," Mr Roh said.

He said he would convey to Washington his suggestions for amendments to the pact that governs the status of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, a focal point of recent anti-American protests.

"The traditional friendship and alliance between ROK (Republic of Korea) and the United States must mature and advance in the 21st century. ROK-US relations

can be further solidified not only at government levels, but also at public levels through the understanding and cooperation between the two peoples, Koreans and Americans."

Meanwhile, opposition leader Lee Hoi-Chang quit politics on Friday in a tearful farewell after his narrow defeat in presidential polls. "Now I am leaving politics," an emotional Lee, 67, said a day after his defeat.

Mr Lee, who lost narrowly to outgoing President Kim Dae-Jung in the 1997 election, presented himself as a hardliner who would preserve the alliance with Washington and stand up to North Korea.

"I failed to be chosen by people. I acknowledge defeat and humbly accept that," said the former prime minister and supreme court justice.

Mr Lee's second bid for presidency fell through as he lost to Mr Roh of the governing Millennium Democratic Party by a margin of 2.3 per cent of the votes cast.

Mr Roh's comments were more moderate than some he made on the campaign trail, when opponents accused him of being a radical. In a recent television debate, Mr Roh said he was not anti-American but would not "kowtow" to the US. Reuters

2 1 DEC 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Roh for peaceful resolution of n-issue with N. Korea

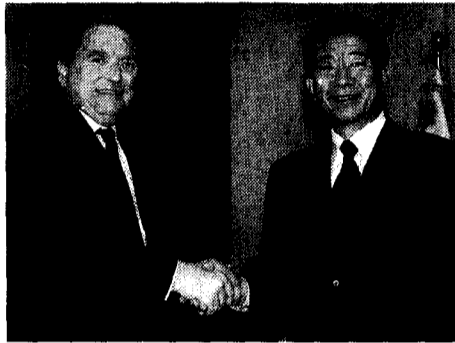
S. An
HD-12

2/12

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, DEC. 20. South Korea's President-Elect, Roh Moo-hyun, today spelt out the outlines of a foreign policy that he would wish to pursue while in office. The centrepiece is his pledge to take the initiative for a 'peaceful' resolution of North Korea's nuclear weaponisation programme. While he would engage the U.S. and Japan for this purpose, the larger issue of Seoul's existing but sensitive security alliance with Washington would be a matter of utmost priority.

Mr. Roh affirmed categorically that South Korea would, under his presidency, "maintain friendly relations with the United States". He is understood to have conveyed this to the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea, Thomas Hubbard, during a meeting at the headquarters of the Millennium Democratic Party, the President-Elect's base, in Seoul today. Significantly in this context, Mr. Roh indicated to journalists in Seoul that he would engage the U.S.



The South Korean President-elect Roh Moo-Hyun (right), with the U.S. Ambassador, Thomas Hubbard, at Mr. Roh's office in Seoul on Friday.

with a view to streamlining the bilateral alliance that had now come under considerable strain in the wake of angry protests by South Koreans against America's perceived arrogance. Changes, if any, to the U.S.-Seoul alliance should be considered against the backdrop of the wishes of the South Korean people, Mr. Roh hinted.

Mr. Roh set out his foreign policy priorities even as South Korea and the U.S. today held

the first meeting of an important Joint Task Force. It was formed earlier to seek "operational improvements" as regards the U.S.-Seoul military accord that has governed the legal status of the American troops in South Korea over the years since the end of the Korean War nearly 50 years ago. At today's meeting, the two sides were said to

have reached a 'consensus' that they should cooperate more closely to deal with the problems that were caused by the implementation of the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

On North Korea, Mr. Roh was very keen to underline a "leading role" for South Korea. "We will play a leading role in solving the North Korean nuclear (weapons) issue peacefully", Mr. Roh said.

N. Korea quiet on nuke threat

5-9 22/10
Washington, Dec. 21 (Reuters): There is no sign that North Korea has followed through on a threat to restart a nuclear reactor at the heart of a suspected 1990s weapons programme, a senior US official has said.

One week ago, Pyongyang had raised the stakes in a standoff at the world's last Cold War flashpoint by announcing plans to immediately reactivate the Yongbyon reactor, which was closed down in a 1994 agreement with the US.

However, the US official said: "Even as of today, there's no sign of any change on the ground in North Korea. Nothing, including no move to expel the International Atomic Energy Agency monitors" at the Yongbyon nuclear site.

On Thursday, another senior US official said the North Koreans had not yet disconnected monitoring equipment, cameras and seals at the site. North Korea had asked the

IAEA to unseal the plant and remove surveillance cameras.

The official noted the North Koreans were engaged in a dialogue with the IAEA, which monitors the Yongbyon facility, and said these exchanges have been helpful. But he took Pyongyang's December 12 statement on restarting the reactor seriously and "presumably at some stage they may choose to do this".

Some officials believe Pyongyang made its threat largely in an attempt to influence the December 19 election in South Korea in which liberal ruling party candidate Roh Moo-hyun beat conservative Lee Hoi-chang. The US favours a tougher line on communist North Korea than Roh, who has said he would never "kowtow" to Washington.

"I think (the North) was trying to influence the South Korea election and now that they got Roh elected they are going to stop," one official said.

N. Korea's decision raises stakes

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, DEC. 22. North Korea today stunned its neighbours by announcing that it was now beginning to dismantle the monitors or surveillance devices at its nuclear power facilities that might yield plutonium for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The move, if not reversed under international pressure, will enable Pyongyang to rid itself of constraints on its 'sovereign' rights to produce nuclear energy and put the spent fuel to other uses.

The prime reactor in question, seen by the international community as North Korea's fast-track in a nuclear-weaponisation overdrive, had remained in disuse under the Agreed Framework, which the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the North's official name, had signed in 1994. While the announcement is not a diplomatic surprise, given the fact that the DPRK had indicated this possibility over a week ago, the time-lag had led to speculation that Pyongyang might have even decided to soft-pedal its way through the maze of nuclear proliferation.

With the global community, more especially the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), refusing to dismantle the surveillance gadgets as demanded by North Korea,

the move acquired the proportions of yet another act of defiance of world opinion by the Kim Jong Il regime in Pyongyang. Though the word from the DPRK was only a logical corollary to Mr. Kim's recent decision to un-freeze the plutonium-yielding plants, the timing of the new move has raised a virtual diplomatic rum-pus in the Asia-Pacific region.

The election of Roh Moo-hyun as South Korea's President and Washington's efforts to reach out to him seem to have been prime factors behind North's decision. A South Korean spokesman characterised the move as the manifestation of an "extremely regrettable conduct".

Speaking in Seoul, he demanded that North Korea should 'freeze' its "nuclear system". Towards this end, the DPRK should, at first, rescind its latest decision and re-seal the nuclear reactor where the monitoring devices were being dismantled at present.

The South Korean Foreign Minister, Choi Sung-hong, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, discussed the crisis over telephone today. The two pledged to sustain bilateral and international cooperation to checkmate North Korea, according to an authentic version in Seoul.

In Tokyo, the Japanese Government not only regretted the



An IAEA official shows a computer system for analysing video taken from cameras that the IAEA has mounted at key nuclear facilities all over the world, including North Korea, in the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on Thursday (inset, right top) The tamper and weather-proof camera. — AP

North Korean move but also demanded that Pyongyang respond to the IAEA's proposals and re-engage it for a way out of this crisis. Japan indicated that it would coordinate its counter-moves in conjunction with South Korea and the U.S. Japan's reaction to the North's incremental confrontation with its present interlocutors (such as Tokyo and Seoul) came amid an indication that the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koi-

zumi, might establish some degree of contact with North Korea during his planned official visit to Russia from January 9.

Though there was no instant reaction of a formal kind from the U.S. to Pyongyang's latest act of raising the nuclear stakes on the Korean peninsula, the move itself seemed designed to test an Iraq-obsessed America's political will elsewhere in the world.

N Korea pushed to stop nuclear plan

Washington, December 23

SECRETARY OF Defence Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday that North Korea would be mistaken if it felt emboldened by Washington's focus on Iraq to pursue its own quest for nuclear weapons.

Asked if North Korea might be seeking to exploit US attention on Iraq to re-start its nuclear weapons programme, Rumsfeld said, "If they do, it would be a mistake."

He said the United States was able to wage two regional conflicts at the same time.

"We are capable of winning decisively in one and swiftly defeating in the case of the other," he said at a Pentagon briefing. "Let there be no doubt about it."

North Korea confirmed on Sunday it had begun removing UN seals and cameras at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which was idled in a watershed deal with the United States eight years ago. It said it did so to generate electricity.

Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday consulted France, Russia and Britain about the situation and said the US wanted a peaceful resolution, said State Department spokesman Philip Reeker. Over the weekend, Powell discussed

the issue with Chinese, South Korean, Russian and Japanese officials among others.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Saturday that North Korea had disabled surveillance devices the agency had placed at the Yongbyon reactor. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency later said seals and monitoring cameras were being removed "from the frozen nuclear facilities for their normal operation to produce electricity".

The IAEA also said North Korea had broken seals on about 8,000 spent fuel rods at Yongbyon which Washington and its allies fear could be used to produce plutonium for weapons. The CIA has previously estimated North Korea had enough plutonium produced before 1992 to make one or two nuclear weapons.

"Everybody is supportive of the IAEA view that North Korea's actions raise serious concerns and certainly belies their announced justification to produce electricity," Reeker said.

"They are violating their responsibilities... and we're not going to respond to threats or broken commitments," Reeker added. "We do want a peaceful resolution."

Reuters

24 DEC 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

U.S., allies come down on N. Korea

By S. Suryanarayana

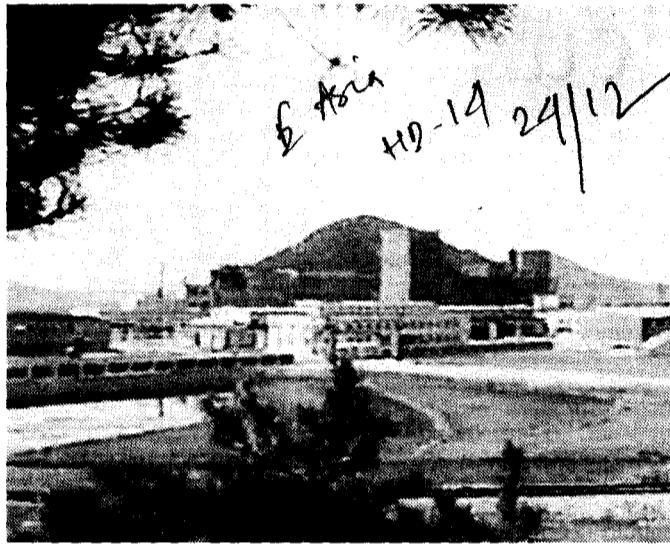
SINGAPORE, DEC. 23. Even as the U.S. leads the international chorus in condemning North Korea, the hidden dimensions of its nuclear weapons programme are beginning to come into a sharp focus.

The U.S. as also South Korea and Japan today reaffirmed their present collective strategy of trying to force North Korea, through 'peaceful' means, to give up its nuclear brinkmanship.

However, the task is easier said than done, according to diplomatic observers in the Asia-Pacific region.

The reason has much to do with one aspect of North Korea's latest announcement which indicated the possibility that Pyongyang is determined to embark upon nuclear weapons production at the earliest opportunity.

The operative part of the North Korean statement has more to it than meets the eye at first glance. Denouncing the U.S. for 'unilaterally' abrogating its part of the bargain under the 1994 Agreed Framework and criticising the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for "whiling away time", North Korea said "this situation compelled the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to



GENERATING HEAT: The North Korean Yongbyon fuel rod fabrication plant where seals safeguarding 8,000 or so irradiated fuel rods had been removed. — Reuters

immediately start the work of removing the seals and (also the) monitoring cameras from the frozen nuclear facilities for (the purpose of re-starting) their normal operation to produce electricity".

This, it was said, "is an urgent issue (required) to make up for (the present) vacuum in the (activity of) power production" at the nuclear facilities at stake.

The general consensus among diplomats and analysts in the Asia Pacific region is that what is left unsaid is more important than the elaborate emphasis that North Korea has placed on the need to resume "power production" at the facilities in prime focus.

The 'seals' and the "monitoring cameras", which the IAEA had installed at five specified facilities, were designed to act as hands and eyes of the agency

that seeks to halt nuclear weapons proliferation through a system of "safeguards" and special devices.

The "seals" were designed to prevent Pyongyang from resuming operations at these plants, while the "monitoring cameras" were devices that would detect any infringement of the injunctions against North Korea.

On the issue of cameras, 'Stalinist' North Korea often felt that the IAEA had replicated the Orwellian practices of surveillance that the Capitalist bloc generally blamed on the Communist system.

More important, though, is the likely impact of North Korea's move to remove the seals that the IAEA had on the irradiated spent fuel at these facilities, especially at the plutonium-yielding 5-mw research reactor.

The accumulated stock of spent fuel, when unsealed, could be easily and immediately used to produce nuclear weapons by resorting to suitable reprocessing techniques, it is said.

This aspect is more "alarming" than the possibility that North Korea would operate a 5-mw unit to meet the needs of an energy-deficient country and patiently garner spent fuel for weapons production.

US stern as N Korea threatens to destroy earth

Washington/Seoul, Dec 24

THE UNITED States has warned North Korea against using nuclear "blackmail", with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stating that the US military could handle a conflict against both Iraq and another foe at the same time.

North Korea on Tuesday removed the last UN monitoring equipment at a nuclear fuel fabrication plant, taking another step towards the production of weapons-grade plutonium.

The reactor was mothballed under a 1994 deal with the United States aimed at ending North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program.

Pyeongyang has also issued

threats, including one to "destroy the earth" if the US resorted to nuclear war against it. The Communist party's newspaper *Workers' Daily*, declared: "The army and people of the DPRK will destroy the earth if the enemies dare make a nuclear strike at it."

The State Department spokesman, Philip Reeker, said on Monday: "The international community will not enter into dialogue in response to threats or broken commitments".

Pyeongyang insists that the crisis can be solved if the US signs a treaty of non-aggression.

Reeker urged North Korea to hold talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency on

restoring the monitoring equipment. Washington wanted a "peaceful resolution" of the matter, Reeker emphasised.

Rumsfeld also said that diplomacy was the "perfectly rational" approach to tackling North Korea's nuclear weapons — but added that it would be "a mistake" to think the world was too preoccupied with Iraq to take action against North Korea's nuclear programme.

The US military is "capable of winning decisively in one (conflict) and swiftly defeating in the case of the other, and let there be no doubt about it," he said.

Britain too voiced concern on Tuesday after North Korea removed UN seals and disabled

surveillance cameras at the nuclear reactor. "It is a very worrying situation," said Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell on BBC radio, adding that the incident was only the latest North Korean breach of international non-proliferation treaties.

Rammell, however, said that he thought the North Korean problem could be resolved by diplomacy.

"One of the problems is that it is really cut off from the outside world and they do do unpredictable things," Rammell said.

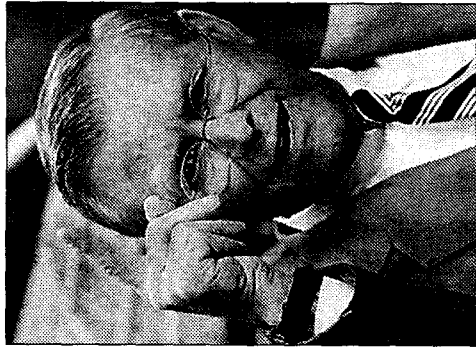
"I think it is probably a fairly ham-fisted attempt to gain international leverage, but our best analysis at the moment is that this is not a regime that is hell-

bent on confrontation," he said. North Korea said it was restarting its nuclear program to generate electricity. The US officials dismissed that, saying the motive was to generate weapons-grade plutonium.

Efforts by South Korea and Japan to improve relations with the Stalinist state have stalled over the nuclear issue. US officials said they do not believe North Korea poses an imminent threat, but they fear it might sell nuclear material to other nations or to terrorists.

The CIA has estimated that North Korea had enough plutonium produced before 1992 to make one or two nuclear weapons.

Agencies



Donald Rumsfeld
Double war-monger

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 DEC 1994

12 ✓
19.11
AXIS OF EVIL / A CHALLENGE TO WASHINGTON

Russia's rift with U.S. deepens

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, DEC. 24. The rift between Russia and the United States on the "axis of evil" states deepened today, as Moscow reiterated its opposition to a unilateral U.S. attack on Iraq, moved forward on nuclear cooperation with Iran and blamed Washington for increased tension over the North Korea's nuclear programme.

The Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov, said any military action against Iraq without the U.N. Security Council approval would be "unacceptable and in breach of all the previous agreements." In another challenge to Washington, Moscow finalised a deal to supply nuclear fuel to Iran. The agreement was reached in Teheran this week by the Russian Atomic Energy Minister, Alexander Rumyantsev, following successful talks on the return of spent fuel for reprocessing in Russia.

Russia will supply the fuel for a 1,000 mw power plant it is building in Bushehr despite



The wreckage of a U.S. plotless spy drone is seen in these combined frame grabs taken from an Iraqi TV footage on Tuesday. — Reuters

strong protests from the United States. Moreover, Russia indicated readiness to build five more nuclear reactors in Iran. Russia also disagreed with Washington's policy towards North Korea, blaming the U.S. for Pyongyang's decision to unfreeze its nuclear programme.

"How should a small country feel when it is told that it is all but part of forces of evil of biblical proportions and should be fought against until total annihilation" the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Georgy Medvedev, said. "It is counterpro-



weapons scientists. Iraq's official media hailed yesterday's "heroic operation" by aircraft and anti-aircraft artillery, which destroyed the drone over the south of the country.

"It's a message that any assault against Iraq will not be the picnic they imagine," said a ruling Baath Party official. "Despite all the U.S. show of strength in the region, the people of Iraq are not terrorised. We will continue to defend our country and independence whatever the sacrifices." The operation showed Iraq's ability to stand up to sophisticated technology and proved the Iraqi genius can deal effectively with this technology." *Al-Iraq* daily spoke with pride of a "precise, operation" to shoot down the U.S. Predator drone. "The sky eagles and the courageous men manning anti-aircraft artillery downed a U.S. Predator reconnaissance aircraft, which flew in from Kuwaiti airspace to violate our airspace," a spokesman said. — AFP

Iraq hails downing of U.S. plane

BAGHDAD, DEC. 24. The Baghdad regime celebrated today the shooting down of an unmanned U.S. spy plane after accusing Washington of gearing up for world war as U.N. inspectors prepared to question Iraqi

Kim gambles more, seeks to divide US and South Korea

By Harvey Stockwin
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hong Kong: As the unpredictable North Korean leader Kim Jong IL continues to gamble that he can somehow turn his nuclear weapons programme to his diplomatic advantage, the South Korean electorate is certainly getting what it voted for.

Last Thursday, the South Koreans effectively voted for peace at any price as they gave a narrow majority to President-elect Roh Moo Hyun who had campaigned for more dialogue with North Korea and more equality with the US.

Mr Roh campaigned on the basis of continuing retiring President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of pursuing dialogue with the North, and of responding to the wave of anti-Americanism currently washing over South Korea.

Four days since the election, the North's Kim has clearly indicated that the price for any such peace will be high, and will possibly involve South Korea accepting North Korea becoming a nuclear weapons-owning state.

Now the North Korean leader has moved astutely to further widen the growing gap between South Korean and US attitudes towards resolving the nuclear crisis.

Perhaps unwisely, the US has placed itself in a completely contrary diplomatic position to that chosen by

President Kim and President-elect Roh. The Bush administration has refused to enter into any dialogue with North Korea until it winds up its nuclear weapons programme, which is a clear violation of a 1994 Agreed Framework between Washington and Pyongyang.

The American position is understandable—that of refusing to reward North Korea for breaking its international agreements. As a White House official told "The New York Times" on Monday: "We

NEWS ANALYSIS

think it is important to let the North Koreans know that the way to engage and inte-

grate with the international community is to live up to treaties and agreements and obligations, not to break those agreements and then ask for more in return."

The North Korean response has been to break even more agreements, hoping thereby to make the Americans willing to negotiate—but, in fact, making the Americans even less willing.

This has been particularly true in the last few days as North Korea has broken all the seals and removing all the monitoring cameras used to check its small plutonium-producing research nuclear reactor in Yongbyon.

These seals and cameras were placed so that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could see that North Korea abided by the 1994 Agreed Framework.

26 DEC 2002

N. Korea moves fuel rods into nuclear reactor

Seoul: South Korea's President Kim Dae-Jung said on Thursday that his government would never tolerate North Korea's efforts to develop nuclear weapons, as the communist nation began moving fresh fuel rods into a mothballed nuclear reactor.

He told a special cabinet meeting that the standoff should be resolved through dialogue, despite deepening concerns that North Korea is preparing to restart facilities that experts say could produce nuclear weapons within months.

"We must closely cooperate with the United States, Japan and other friendly countries to prevent the situation from further deteriorating into a crisis," Mr Kim said in remarks released to the press by his spokeswoman, Park Sun-Sook.

North Korea defended its decision as an effort to get badly needed electricity because Washington had reneged on a promise to provide energy sources. But US officials said power that would be obtained from the reactor was negligible.

"The United States is going around trying to stir public opinion internationally, as though this is a sign of developing nuclear weapons," state-run radio Pyongyang said in a commentary.

"Our measure has got nothing to do with plans to develop nuclear weapons. Our republic constantly maintains an anti-nuclear, peace-loving position," the report said. It was carried by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency has three inspectors staying

in North Korea, visually monitoring the activities of North Koreans. The number of inspectors was increased from two to three this week. North Korea has allowed the UN nuclear watchdog to increase the number of inspectors at its nuclear facilities, even as communist engineers move freely around a reactor in violation of international arms control agreements.

North Korea's willingness to publicly flout its international commitments suggests it is trying to force itself onto Washington's agenda to win an oft-stated goal: talks with its longtime foe about a non-aggression treaty.

Possibly as part of that brinkmanship strategy, North Korea has stepped up its anti-American rhetoric in recent days, warning the US policy was leading the region to the "brink of nuclear war."

The United States, however, has said it will not negotiate with North Korea unless it abandons its nuclear activities, and that the North's moves to reactivate its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon amount to blackmail. The standoff has raised fears of another nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula like one in 1994 that some say nearly led to war.

The US fears the plant - frozen in a deal that averted the earlier crisis - could be used to make nuclear weapons, and has urged the north not to reactivate it. Intelligence analysts believe North Korea already possesses one or two bombs that were made from the reactor in the 1990s. AP

Pyongyang begins reactivating N-plant

Seoul, December 26

NORTH KOREA has begun moving fresh fuel rods into a mothballed nuclear reactor at the centre of a diplomatic standoff with the US, deepening concerns it is preparing to restart facilities that experts say could produce nuclear weapons within months.

So far, North Korea has loaded 1,000 rods of nuclear fuel into its reactor at Yongbyon, which is capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency said here on Thursday.

"They continue to move fresh fuel rods to the Yongbyon reactor," said IAEA spokesman Mark Gowzdecky. "As of Thursday, they have added 1,000 new rods," he said, adding that the reactor at Yongbyon, 90 km north of Pyongyang, has a capacity of 8,000 fuel rods in all.

North Korea denied its move was a prelude to developing weapons, saying it needed to reactivate the facility to generate electricity. "Our republic constantly maintains an anti-nuclear, peace-loving position," Radio Pyongyang said. The report was carried by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

The Communist nation began moving fuel rods on Wednesday into the 5-megawatt reactor at its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, said Chun Young-woo, director of the disarmament and nuclear energy division at South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Chun did not say whether North Korea has actually begun loading fuel into the Soviet-designed reactor. The move was apparently intended to ratchet up



A North Korean soldier guards the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas on Thursday.

pressure on the US and its allies, which recently cut off oil shipments to North Korea in response to revelations that it had been secretly developing nuclear weapons in violation of an eight-year-old agreement.

The UN atomic watchdog has said North Korea's move to activate nuclear facilities is "very worrying" as South Korea vowed to play a leading role in stopping its Communist neighbour's brinkmanship.

"The big worry (is) if they start to operate the reprocessing plant that will produce plutonium, which can be directly used to manufacture nuclear weapons — and there again we have no way to verify the nature of the activity," IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei told CNN from Sri Lanka on Thursday.

"So the situation is very wor-

rying," he said.

South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung told his security and foreign policy ministers they should seek dialogue with the North through existing channels while working with the United States, Japan and others to defuse the crisis over the facilities closed since 1994.

"South Korea must play a leading role in solving the North's nuclear issue, which is a critical problem for the Korean peninsula," he said, in remarks relayed by his office after the special strategy meeting.

Kim, who favours constructive engagement with the North over the current US approach of playing hard ball, did not spell out specific new measures but his Government has opened channels of communication while discussing aid and reunification.

Gowzdecky said earlier North Korean technicians had broken most seals and disabled UN surveillance devices at all four nuclear facilities at Yongbyon.

Cameras had been monitoring a 1994 oil-for-compliance deal that ended an earlier crisis over the North's nuclear ambitions.

South Korean Defence Minister Lee Jun said the North had made no unusual military moves during the dispute.

A US official, who accused the North of playing games to draw the US into talks on normalising relations, said Washington was unwilling to play the game and predicted diplomatic pressure would be enough to bring the North into line. "It's like a striptease," said the administration official, who asked not to be named.

Agencies

Powell calms Korea war fear

JONATHAN WRIGHT

Washington, Dec. 29 (Reuters): The US today sought to discourage talk of crisis and conflict with North Korea and said it was ready to wait months to see if diplomacy could persuade Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programmes.

US secretary of state Colin Powell said in television interviews that the US was not mobilising any forces nor planning any military attack on North Korea. "I don't want to create a sense of crisis or that we're on the brink of war, because I don't believe we are," Powell told the ABC programme *This Week*.

"We are not planning a pre-emptive strike. The United States has a full range of capabilities — political, economic, diplomatic and, yes, military. But we are not trying to create a crisis atmosphere by threatening North Korea," he told NBC television's *Meet the Press*.

"Military action is always an option, but it is not an option that is in the forefront of our thinking right now, because it doesn't seem necessary or appropriate. There are no forces being put on alert on either side," he told ABC.

But Powell also ruled out immediate negotiations with the North Koreans, arguing that would reward Pyongyang for violating international agreements. Washington continues to have contact with North Korea through third parties, he added.

North Korea last week told UN nuclear inspectors to leave the country as it pressed on with plans to reactivate the mothballed Yongbyon facility, 90 km

north of the capital. The plant can produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The North Koreans say they need the plant to generate electricity, replacing fuel oil withheld by the US, but Powell said it was too small to make a difference.

North Korea's defiance of international opinion has invited comparisons with Iraq, which is under threat of US attack if it does not meet UN disarmament requirements.

But the Bush administration has tried to discourage the comparison, arguing that Iraq has defied the UN for years and that it cannot be sure that North Korea is planning to use the Yongbyon facility for military purposes.

Powell said the US was committed to diplomatic efforts in both cases and, in the case of North Korea, would take account of the views of its Asian allies. "We are monitoring it carefully... We have months to watch this unfold, and see what happens."

US officials said yesterday that Washington favoured what they called a "tailored containment" strategy including economic pressure and possibly stopping North Korea's missile exports by intercepting them at sea.

Powell did not elaborate on any economic measures and he avoided a question on intercepting missile exports. "We would intercept anything we think deserved to be intercepted," he said.

The US and Spain intercepted a ship carrying North Korean Scud missiles in the Arabian Sea this month but Washington let the shipment go on to Yemen when it determined it had no legal grounds for confiscating the cargo.

30 DEC 2002