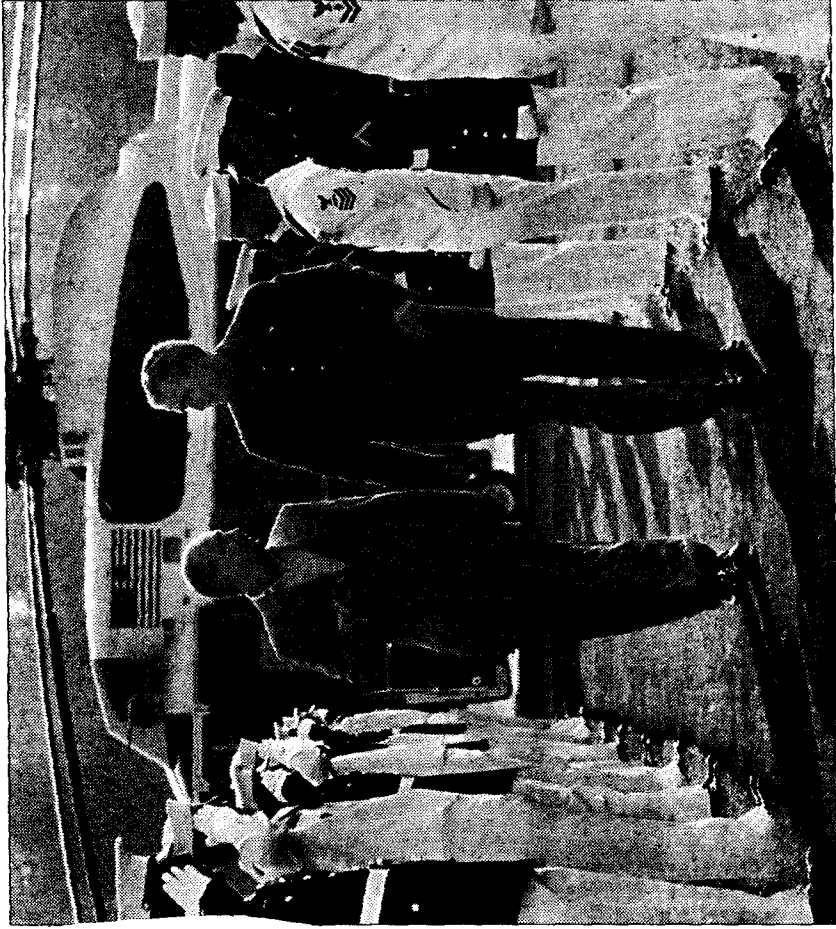


# Bush, Putin urge Iran & N Korea to drop N-plan



President Bush welcomes Russian President Vladimir Putin at Camp David on Friday. — AP/PTI

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMP DAVID, Sept. 27. — US President Mr George W Bush and Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin today called on Iran and North Korea to stop their suspected nuclear weapons programs. The leaders, standing by each other at a news conference after two days of talks, also said they looked forward to building a free, democratic Iraq despite differences over the US-led war.

Mr Bush, speaking about Iran, said: "We share a goal and that is to make sure that Iran doesn't have any nuclear weapon or a nuclear weapons program." The USA and Russia, he said, "also understand that we need to work together to persuade Iran to abandon any ambitions she may have". Mr Bush also said: "What's important is we understand that its in our national interests to insure that Iran doesn't develop a nuclear weapon."

Mr Putin said the USA and Russia wanted to send "a clear but respectful signal to Iran" to increase its cooperation with the world agency that oversees nuclear nonproliferation. Addressing both Iran and North Korea, Mr Bush said: "We strongly urge North Korea to completely and verifiably and irreversibly end its nuclear programs. We strongly urge Iran to comply fulfill all of its obligations under the nuclear nonproliferation treaty."

Despite differences over the Iraq war, Mr Bush and Mr Putin stressed their strong relationship. "I'm honoured to have him here and

I appreciate the great dialogue we had last night and today," Mr Bush said. It was their first meeting in four months since they held talks in St Petersburg, Russia, and an economic summit in France. Mr Bush and Mr Putin met at the end of a week of US diplomacy aimed at encouraging other countries to help the US-led effort in rebuilding Iraq.

Despite a lack of pledges from other countries, Mr Bush said he was not disappointed. "We're working to get a satisfactory resolution out of the UN," he said. As for US-Russian differences over the war, Mr Bush said they were able to move beyond disagreement on a single issue. "I like him. He's a good fellow to spend quality time with," Bush said about Mr Putin.

Mr Putin said "we have differences over Iraq" on the practical ways to address the problem, but "we have an understanding on the essence of the problem." Mr Putin, who opposed the war, has expressed distress over the continuing conflict and demanded a greater UN role in the reconstruction.

Russia has lucrative contracts to help to build an \$800 million power plant in the southern part of Iran. The White House claims Russian technology is helping Tehran develop nuclear weapons and contribute to the proliferation of unconventional weapons. Russia and Iran insist the aid is going only for electricity production, and Mr Putin has not shown willingness to back out of the deal.

Mr Putin sees the Chechnya war as part of his own battle against terrorism. US opposi-

tion to Moscow's military campaign against separatists eased after Mr Putin offered support for the US-led fight against terrorism.

A state department official said the topic was among the most troubling issues ahead of the Camp David talks. The comments infuriated the Russians. Mr Putin has accused the United States of holding secret talks with rebel representative Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, former president of Chechnya, who lives in Qatar.

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# U.S., Russia to strengthen ties

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, JUNE 1.** Putting behind them differences over the war in Iraq, the Russian and American leaders pledged to intensify strategic partnership in all areas.

"Our relations are stronger than the events that tested them," the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said after talks with the U.S. President, George W. Bush, in St. Petersburg on Sunday. It was their first meeting after the war in Iraq, which Russia strongly opposed.

"We reiterated with Mr. Bush that there is no alternative to our continued strategic partnership," Mr. Putin told a joint press conference with Mr. Bush. The U.S. President echoed the sentiment, vowing "to make our relations stronger, not weaker". Both leaders were clearly glad to demonstrate their good personal chemistry, calling themselves friends and patting each other on the back. "We will show the world that friends can disagree," Mr. Bush said.

He met Mr. Putin on the sidelines of celebrations of St. Petersburg's 300th anniversary attended by over 40 world leaders, including the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The Russian and American leaders exchanged the instruments of ratification of a 2002 strategic arms control treaty, which commits their two countries to slashing nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

"The treaty reflects the new strategic relationship that is emerging between our two countries," Mr. Bush said. He

confirmed that the U.S. and Russia would cooperate in building a missile defence system, describing it as a critical factor of security for both countries. The two leaders also pledged to work together on the most divisive issue of Iran's nuclear programme.

Washington claims that Moscow's supply of a nuclear reactor for the Bushehr power plant will help Iran build a nuclear bomb. Mr. Putin sought to play down the differences on the problem, saying that the positions of Moscow and Washington were closer than they seemed.

"We do not need to be convinced that there should no proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

At the same time, he made it clear that Russia would resist U.S. pressure to halt nuclear energy cooperation with Iran.

"We are against (peaceful) nuclear programmes being used as a pretext for unfair business competition against our companies," Mr. Putin said. However, both leaders stressed that their bilateral cooperation agenda was much larger than their differences.

"We have agreed with Mr. Bush to expand cooperation in strengthening strategic stability, combating terrorism, opposing proliferation of mass destruction weapons, jointly working to settle regional conflicts, (and) ensuring steady progress in bilateral relations across their entire spectrum," Mr. Putin said. Mr. Bush said he had invited Mr. Putin to visit him in Camp David in September.

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# U.S. threats to Syria irk Russia

By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, APRIL 15.** Russia voiced displeasure at accusations by the United States that Syria was harbouring overthrown Iraqi leaders and possessed chemical weapons. Such charges "do not contribute to normalisation of the situation in Iraq and to stability in the region as a whole, including the Arab-Israeli settlement," the Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed Russian diplomat as saying.

Another high-ranking source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax that Moscow took "a sceptical view of Washington's charges against Damas-

cus." Meanwhile, a retired senior officer at the Defence Ministry said Moscow had refused to sell Syria advanced anti-missile systems because of opposition from the U.S. and Israel. "I was witness to an agreement between the (Russian) Defence Minister, Igor Sergeev, and (Syrian President) Hafez Assad, to supply the S-300 (air-defence systems) to Syria, but the deal was never cleared because the U.S. and Israel raised objections," Gen. Leonid Ivashov (Retd.) said in an interview. Gen. Ivashov was head of the international cooperation department in the Russian Defence Ministry at the time.

THE HINDO

## Talks cordial, says Rice

*Ms. Kundu*

**MOSCOW, APRIL 7.** The U.S. National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, met Russian officials on Monday on a visit to mend ties that had frayed badly amid sharp differences over the war in Iraq.

Dr. Rice smiled as she emerged from a meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, and told reporters that they had held "very good discussions."

The Foreign Ministry didn't immediately comment on the agenda, but the Interfax news agency quoted an unidentified diplomat as saying that Sunday's incident, in which a convoy evacuating the Russian Ambassador and other diplomats from Baghdad came under fire, was among the subjects discussed.

On Monday, Dr. Rice met the Russian President, Vladimir Putin's Security Council chief, Vladimir Rushailo, and the Defence Minister, Sergei Ivanov. She did not meet Mr. Putin.

The U.S. President, George W. Bush, spoke to Dr. Rice after she arrived in Moscow on Sunday morning, the White House said.

The day before, Mr. Bush had spoken with Mr. Putin, and the two leaders emphasised the need to continue the two countries' political dialogue

despite differences over Iraq, according to the Kremlin press service.

Mr. Putin strongly condemned the war in Iraq when it was launched, but he tempered his tone in several public statements last week, saying that a U.S. defeat would not be in Russia's interests.

He also said on Saturday that Kremlin would urge Russian lawmakers to ratify a key nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, which the lower house of parliament had postponed indefinitely last month as a sign of protest ahead of the imminent war.

"The message is being sent to Mr. Bush: ... don't think badly of us, we can be friends, moreover, we badly want to be friends," the business daily *Kommersant* commented on Monday.

Some observers say the change in tone reflects Russia's hope of winning a role in Iraq's post-war reconstruction, as well as its desire to prevent further damage to ties with the United States.

The U.S.-Russian relations were bolstered by Mr. Putin's strong support for the U.S. war in Afghanistan, but cooled over Iraq — AP

## Condoleezza in Moscow for talks

**MOSCOW, APRIL 6.** The U.S. National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, arrived in Moscow on Sunday for discussions on deepening U.S.-Russian cooperation in spite of deep differences over the war in Iraq.

Rice was scheduled to meet with a number of top Russian officials, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said. She was to leave Moscow on Monday, said the spokesman, who could not offer any specifics on her agenda.

"We are committed to our long-term strategic partnership with Russia," the spokesman said. "We've been through some difficult times, and differences over Iraq have strained the relationship."

Moscow has been strongly opposed to the U.S.-led war, and Russian officials and media alike have often poured derision on U.S. actions. However, Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has struck a softer tone over the past week, saying that a U.S. defeat in Iraq would not be in Moscow's interests and pledging to continue cooperation with the United States.

On Saturday, he said his administration would urge lawmakers to ratify a key nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, which the lower House of Parliament indefinitely postponed last month as a sign of protest ahead of the war.

Some analysts say the change in tone reflects Russia's hope of winning a role in Iraq's post-war reconstruction, as well as preserving its existing economic ties with the U.S. — AP

7 APR 2003

THE HINDU

# Bush-Putin war of words over 'supply of arms'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 25. The Bush administration is seriously concerned that its war efforts may be jeopardised by Russian firms selling sophisticated weapons to Iraq, a suggestion brushed aside by Moscow.

The United States President, George W. Bush, is said to have exchanged some plain words with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on Monday on the issue.

Mr. Putin is believed to have told Mr. Bush rather bluntly that the American war was sparking a humanitarian "catastrophe" in Iraq, a view shared by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, especially as it pertained to the area around Basra.

Washington has been concerned about the sale of military items by Russian firms and in the present context, sees this as putting "our men and women in harm's way", according to the Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

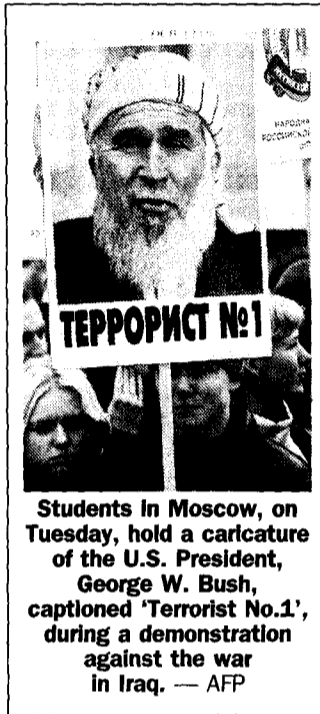
The Russian denial that nothing of this sort is taking place has been promptly brushed aside by senior administration officials here.

Asked if he was certain of the Russian equipment being in Iraq, Gen. Powell simply responded, "Yes".

At the White House, the spokesman, Ari Fleischer, talked of the "ongoing cooperation and support to Iraqi military forces by a Russian company that provides GPS jamming equipment".

This equipment blocks satellite signals that guide bombs and missiles and even troop movements, all of which are very critical to the U.S. and Britain in the conflict with Iraq. The Russians are also being charged with supplying anti-tank guided missiles and night vision goggles.

The Bush administration, even while maintaining that there had been no major adverse impact on the war owing to the sale of the military items, has taken the position that these items were being used by Iraq. "They were not provided



Students in Moscow, on Tuesday, hold a caricature of the U.S. President, George W. Bush, captioned 'Terrorist No.1', during a demonstration against the war in Iraq. — AFP

for the purpose of sitting on shelves", Mr. Fleischer said. Senior officials of the Bush administration are saying that concerns had been raised in the last one year but this was the first time that the President is directly raising the issue with Mr. Putin and has made it known that he was "looking forward" to hearing the results. What is significant is the White House acknowledgement that the conversation was unusually blunt.

## 'Saddam wounded'

Meanwhile, *USA Today* has reported that Saddam Hussein was indeed wounded in the opening salvo of missiles and bombs last week and is still said to be in the Baghdad neighbourhood... "We know we hit him. We know he was wounded", the paper quotes an intelligence official involved in tracking the Iraqi leader. The newspaper said Delta Force Commandos had tapped the underground telephone lines of Mr. Hussein and the Central Intelligence Agency has recruited an informant who knows where the Iraqi leader sleeps.

25 MAR 2003

THE HINDS

# Russia raps U.S. over Iraq, N. Korea

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By Vladimir Radyuhin

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**MOSCOW, JAN. 4.** Russia has accused the U.S. of making politically-motivated charges against Iraq and North Korea. Accusations that Iraq is hiding weapons of mass destruction have no proof, a senior Russian diplomat said. "If anyone possesses factual information that Iraq has banned weapons or continues efforts to build them, it would be logical to make it available to UNMOVIC and IAEA inspectors," Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, told the Itar-Tass news agency on Saturday.

He said such information could then be verified by over a hundred international inspectors deployed in Iraq. Baseless charges are "counterproductive and strengthen apprehensions that the issue of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction is nothing but a smoke-screen for pursuing other goals".

Similarly, Mr. Trubnikov described many Western charges against North Korea as politically-motivated.

"We of course pay attention to Western nations's concerns. But we also take note of the fact that many of them are dictated by political imperatives." While calling on North Korea to "strictly fulfil its obligations as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," Mr. Trubnikov described the row over Pyongyang's nuclear programme as a problem between North Korea and the U.S. and called on them to resolve it "through constructive dialogue and mutual adherence to the 1994 framework accord" between the two countries. Russia "is opposed not only to the policy of double standards, but also to the inclusion of nay countries in the so-called blacklists or white lists,"he said.

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