

U.S. arms will strengthen maritime security: Pakistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 18. Pakistan has claimed that the endorsement of the \$1.2-billion arms package by the U.S. Congress for the country would help fill gaps in its conventional capabilities.

The Foreign Office spokesman, Masood Khan, said: "We commend this decision by the U.S. Congress.

These are modest but significant sales which will help fill some gaps in our conventional capabilities." The systems were geared to strengthen maritime security and thus reinforce Pakistan's defence posture.

Rejecting the Indian reservations on the defence package, Mr. Khan said that Pakistan would continue to fulfil its modest defence needs. Also, the package did not in any way disrupt the existing conventional balance.

"In fact, we have to go a long way in redressing the existing asymmetry that widened during the 1990s due to U.S. sanctions."

Major U.S. ally

The U.S. package is the largest since sanctions against

Pakistan were lifted in 2001.

It was announced by the Bush administration apparently in recognition of the role played by Pakistan as "a major ally in the fight against terrorism."

The Bush administration last month notified Congress of its intention to sell to Pakistan sophisticated weapons, including eight P-3C Orion planes to beef up surveillance of its coasts and borders. Washington had said that Pentagon could conclude negotiations with Pakistan on the proposed sale unless Congress acts to stop it within 30 days.

According to Pentagon, the command-and-control capabilities of the aircraft would improve Pakistan's ability to restrict the movement of guerrilla forces along its southern border and ensure its overall ability to maintain integrity at the borders.

Request for more

Quoting media reports, the Associated Press of Pakistan said that besides the Orion surveillance planes, Pakistan had also requested 2,000 TOW-2A anti-armour guided missiles and six Phalanx Close-in Weapons Systems for its

warships.

"The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region," the U.S. Defence Security and Cooperation Agency had said in a statement of notification to Congress when announcing the package.

The weapons will increase Pakistan's search-surveillance-and-control capability in support of maritime interdiction operations and increase its ability to support the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom operations.

The P-3s also are designed to hunt ships and submarines and will increase the "regional influence" of the Pakistani Navy, the Pentagon said.

The TOW anti-armour guided missiles were valued at \$82 million, while the Phalanx weapons systems were put at \$155 million.

The Pentagon in its notification said the TOW anti-armour-guided missiles would help Pakistan "provide for its own legitimate self-defence needs and enable it to support U.S. operations against terrorist activity along its porous borders" with Afghanistan.

19 DEC 2004

THE HINDU

F-16 deal may still elude Pervez

'I've come to congratulate Bush on win'

Agencies
Washington, December 4

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf is here for talks with his US counterpart, George W. Bush, but Washington is not expected to announce a deal on the sale of F-16 fighter planes to Islamabad during the General's visit.

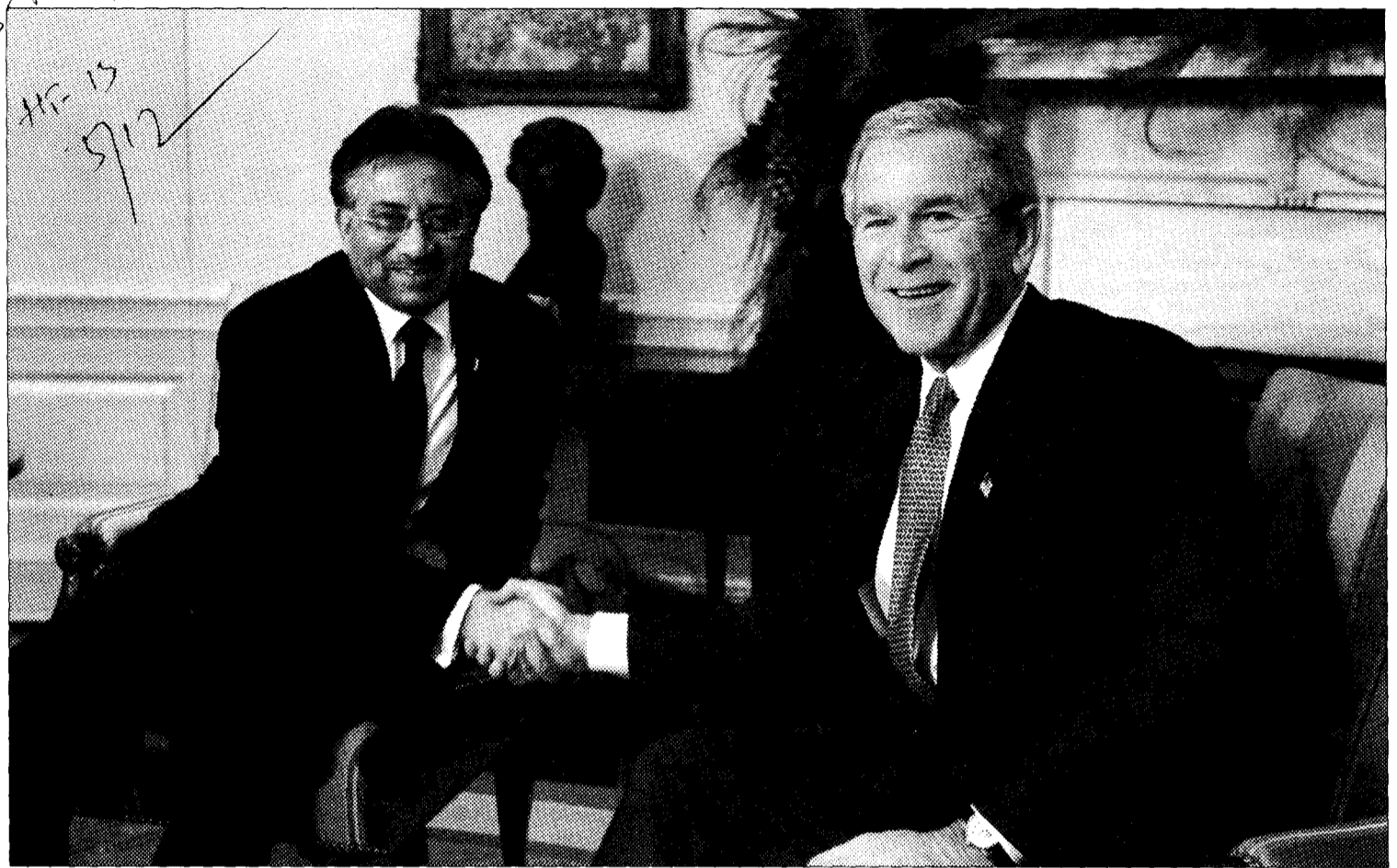
"I don't expect any such announcements on matters like that (sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan) at this time", White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters here yesterday. When asked if Bush was satisfied with everything that Musharraf and his government were doing in the hunt for the al-Qaida and, specifically, Osama bin Laden, McClellan said: "I think there's always more that can be done...But we've had good close cooperation with Pakistan in going after some of the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida members.

"And we're going to continue working closely with them. We have good intelligence cooperation and this is something that's a priority for both our nations".

About the Bush-Musharraf meeting scheduled to take place later in the day, McClellan said, "It'll be an opportunity to talk about our bilateral relationship as well, and to talk about regional issues — like the situation between India and Pakistan". Speaking to reporters upon his arrival from Mexico at Andrews Airport earlier, Musharraf said he had come to congratulate President Bush on his election victory. "That's my basic purpose".

"In my view, in respect of international perspectives, it (President Bush's second tenure) will augur well in the resolution of the main international issues", he said.

"Taking advantage of the meeting, we also are going to discuss international issues, regional issues and bilateral issues", he said, and replied in affirmative when asked if the visit would strengthen bilateral ties. "It'll be a wholesome meeting, hopefully", he said. "We have good relations. There's no doubt the relations will improve. They're already good. They'll move further".



Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf with US President George W. Bush at the Oval Office in White House, Washington, on Saturday.

REUTERS

'Pak govt, Opp negotiating power deal'

Agencies
Islamabad, December 4

FORMER PAKISTAN Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has denied reports about talks with President Pervez Musharraf for the release of her husband from prison, as well as her return home, amid reports that the two were negotiating a power-sharing deal.

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, in a statement last night, denied that Musharraf phoned her in Dubai. PPP spokesman Senator Faratullah Babar said the reports in this regard were not correct.

Bhutto's husband, Asif

Ali Zardari, was released last month on bail by the country's Supreme Court after eight years of imprisonment amid speculation of an emerging rapprochement between Bhutto and Musharraf.

Meanwhile, local newspaper *Daily Times* today reported that the Musharraf regime and the PPP were currently negotiating a "deal" or "formula" for power-sharing which, if clinched, could lead to the dissolution of Parliament, fresh elections in 2005 and a relinquishing of the office of army chief by the President.

The daily said the Musharraf regime had also deci-

ded to affect a thaw in relations with the PML (Nawaz) and was trying to involve Shahbaz, brother of exiled Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the political process earmarked for 2005.

President Musharraf wants to share power with the PPP and bring the PML-N into the loop, but his proposal excludes the return to power of both Bhutto and Nawaz as Prime Minister, it said. In this regard, the PPP is more amenable to the government's proposals than Sharif, but "negotiations are continuing with both sides", an official was quoted as saying.

Interestingly, the gover-

ment's emissaries "are learnt to have assured Bhutto that Musharraf will shed his uniform some time soon and pull back army personnel from civilian institutions after the next elections", he said.

Musharraf — while proposing to permit the PPP and PML-N to form a government if they win the polls — wants both Bhutto and Sharif to stay out, the newspaper said, adding Bhutto is demanding that all cases registered against her and her husband should be dropped and all PPP prisoners released.

In return, Bhutto is said to have agreed to accept

Musharraf as President till 2007 and support him for remaining in office for another term after 2007, it said.

She also seems agreeable to staying out of the country until 2007, although she will be entitled to make brief visits to Pakistan to meet Zardari, who intends to stay in the country for the long haul, it said, adding that some PPP insiders are hinting Bhutto may accept an interim position with the UN for the time being with the blessings of Islamabad.

Meanwhile, senior PPP leader Amin Fahim left for Dubai to hold talks with Bhutto.

Pentagon arms Pak with \$1bn gift

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: Pakistan has received a billion dollar arms bonanza from the United States within days of President Bush's re-election.

The Pentagon is said to have notified Congress on Tuesday about three proposed arms deals with Pakistan, including the sale of eight P-3C Orion surveillance aircraft valued at up to \$970 million.

In addition, it plans to sell Pakistan 2,000 TOW-2A missiles and 14 TOW-2A Fly-to-Buy missiles in a deal valued at \$82 million, the news agency Reuters has reported.

There is no word yet on the F-16 fighter planes that Pakistan is desperately seeking, but given indications that Washington is re-opening the arms tap to Islamabad, New Delhi can hardly take comfort in assur-

ances from the administration that the big ticket item will not go through. Some experts feel the P-3C Orion deal itself is a lethal force-multiplier for Pakistan, blunting India's larger air force. The surveillance aircraft has a range of capa-



bilities, including real-time battlefield images transmission ability and submarine detection sensors. It carry a variety of weapons such as the Harpoon anti-surface missile and the MK-50 torpedo.

Pakistan already has P-3C Orion's in its inventory and the addi-

tional supplies, coming from US Navy surplus, is seen as a needling response to India's campaign to thwart the supply of F-16s, while at the same time answering Islamabad's plea to address the military imbalance between the two sides.

The US had earlier offered the P-3B Orion version to India, at a cost of \$894 million for the eight aircraft with an upgrade package. But that deal was nixed after New Delhi sought the new-generation P-3C Orion, which is far more advanced, but also more expensive. The P-3C deal is still under discussion. New Delhi has often spoken of replacing its aging fleet of Russian IL-38 and TU-142 M reconnaissance aircraft and had a good chance to study the P-3C Orion capabilities when it took part in the Malabar naval exercises between India and US.

US 'pressure' on Pak to curb infiltration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 13. — A diplomatic roadmap has been drawn by the United States to bring down tensions between India and Pakistan talks of putting "pressure" on Islamabad to prevent regrouping and infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir and strengthen India's ability to effectively monitor the LoC, media reports here said.

The roadmap titled 'Fiscal Year 2005 Plan for Regional Stability' outlined a US criterion for measuring performance goals to check cross-border infiltration which states that the "number of arrests is a direct but crude measure of the Pakistani government's crackdown on terrorist groups," the *Dawn* reported.

The plan says the US government would also "work to support India's ability to monitor the border" and to deepen military cooperation and ties

and to strengthen rule of law and counter-narcotics capability of New Delhi.

"Overall frequency and level of dialogue, stringency of transportation controls, and implementation of CBMs best assess the state of bilateral relationship", it said. The plan also speaks about making efforts to conduct a poll in 2005 to determine the level of "Kashmiri's satisfaction".

As per the plan, the US government's target for 2005 include pilot programming in Kashmir with tangible benefits by fostering "cooperative and confidence building programmes in Kashmir in areas such as employment generation and civil society development and between India and Pakistan in areas such as people-to-people contacts and economic cooperation". The US would also continue to strengthen Pakistan's counter-terror capability and its military cooperation.

14 NOV 2004

THE STATESMAN

US backs Pak's J&K plan

Musharraf's recent formula very forward-thinking, says Armitage

Agencies
Islamabad, November 9

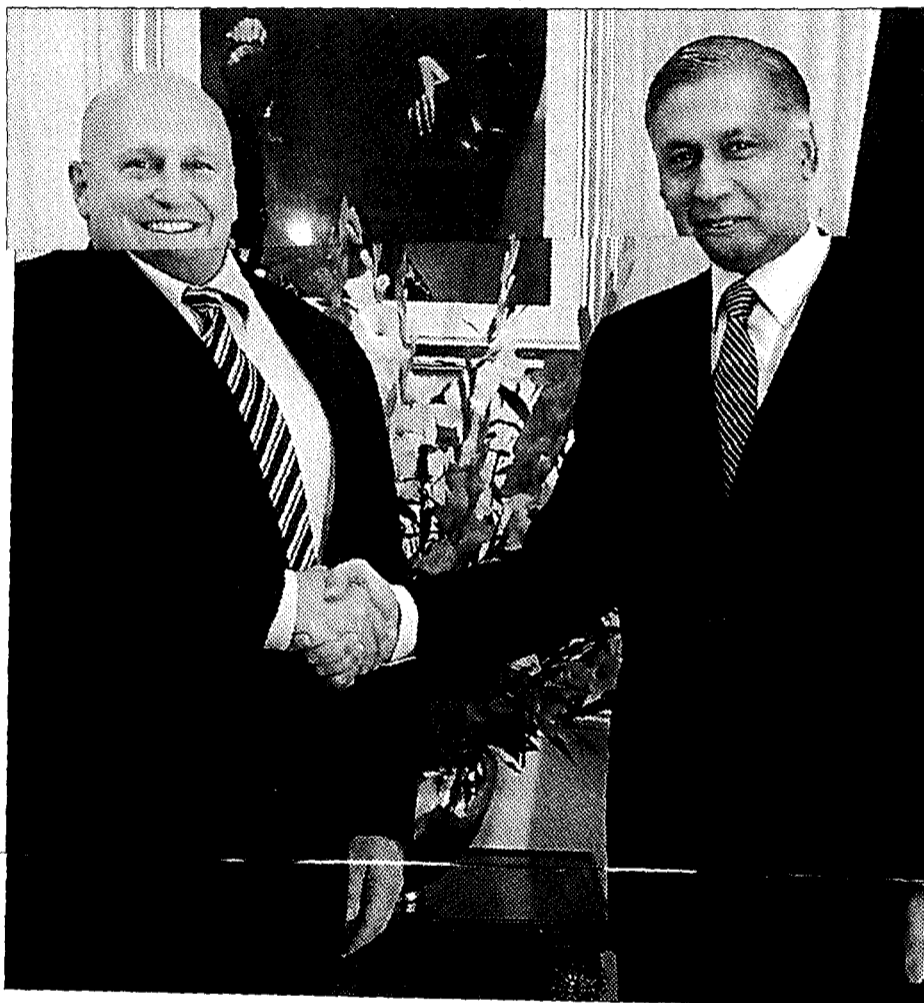
TERMINING PAKISTANI President Pervez Musharraf's recent formula to resolve the Kashmir crisis as "forward thinking", US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage today said he was "very forward-thinking".
"I think he (Musharraf) has caused a great deal of thinking, both in Delhi and here in Islamabad, about the way ahead," Armitage, currently on a visit to Pakistan, told PTV in an interview.

Armitage was referring to the October 25 "food-for-thought" remarks made by Musharraf at an Iftar party. The General had suggested dividing Kashmir on both sides of the LoC into seven regions, demilitarising them and granting them the status of independence or joint control or under UN mandate.

Pak Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri subsequently clarified that Musharraf's suggestion was not a proposal and referred to a "hypothetical situation".

Asked about involving Kashmiri leaders in talks to resolve the dispute, Armitage said: "Kashmiris must be able to speak their minds and they should be heard to." Referring to US-Pak ties, Armitage said the two countries have "travelled to new lengths" after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. "The key for success here is that we establish a relationship with Pakistan."

Stressing that bilateral



Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz (right) with US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage (L) in Islamabad on Tuesday.

AFP

ties would be accelerated during US President George W. Bush's second term, he said thrust would be on political and economic ties. "The changes we see are changes of acceleration. We

want to have relations with Pakistan that are both political and economic.... We need to get some foreign direct investments in here. We certainly want to continue our excellent cooperation with

the military and want to develop cultural exchange with Pakistan," Armitage said. He also paid rich tributes to Pakistan for cooperating in conducting recent elections in Afghanistan.

'Terror camps flourish in Pakistan'

Zorawar Singh Jauwal
Jammu, November 9

EVEN WHILE the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are on in full swing, India seem to stand firm in its stand that Pakistan should stop funding and providing shelter to terrorists.

Official figures and data with the Union Home Ministry have revealed that Pakistan was continuing to fund terrorists training camps, both in Pakistan as well as Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Logistic infrastructure of training camps has not been dismantled," state the official records of the ministry that has also pointed out that "new camps have been opened while the old ones have been revived."

It was further revealed that the launching detachments, which were earlier closed have also been opened again. Besides, 47 training/transit camps in PoK, 26 in Pakistan and 10 in Northern areas are still existing while 33 launching detachments have been observed to be active.

Reports indicate terrorists remain well-organised in PoK/Pakistan with 32 control stations clustered in 6 locations in POK and one in Pakistan.

US accepts Musharraf continuing as army chief

16/10 (11-12) US-PAK
Washington: Apparently accepting Pakistan Parliament's nod to allow President Pervez Musharraf to hold the post of chief of the army, United States has said it expects Islamabad to continue its transition to a full and sustainable democracy with free and multi-party parliamentary elections as scheduled in 2007.

"Our view is that Pakistan needs to continue to make progress towards democracy. Whether he (Musharraf) takes this specific step is something that's going to have to be decided in Pakistan," state department spokesman Richard Boucher said. Asked specifically if the state department had no opinion on the matter, he told reporters: "I'm trying to suggest that we've said before, we thought it would be a good step (that) progress towards democracy in Pakistan doesn't rest solely on this step (i.e. Musharraf shedding his uniform).

"We continue to encourage progress, and we continue to encourage Pakistanis to look for ways to make progress," Boucher told reporters on Thursday.

He said "we want these (2007) elec-

tions to meet international standards, and we want to see Pakistan in the meantime strengthen judiciary and Parliament to enable political parties to operate freely and increase transparency." President Musharraf regularly affirms his vision of Pakistan's progress towards democracy. That's a vision that we share, and we'll continue to encourage him to move in that direction."



Pakistan national assembly on Thursday passed a bill allowing Musharraf to hold the dual posts of the President and the army chief. Asked if the US was not opposed to Musharraf continuing as army chief, he said, "we've always encouraged Pakistan to make steps towards democracy. When this potential step of relinquishing his military titles was discussed, we said yes, that would be a good thing.

When asked if he still thought it would be a good thing, Boucher said, "We still think it would be a good thing, but the decision on whether to do it or not is going to be his. And in the meantime, we continue to encourage all sorts of steps that move in the direction of democracy". PH

THE TIMES OF INDIA

16 OCT 2004

Karamat new Pak envoy to US

Islamabad, Sept. 23 (PTI): Pakistan has appointed former army chief General Jehangir Karamat as its ambassador to the US to replace Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, who is the UN special envoy in Iraq.

The appointment of General Karamat, who was the chief of army from 1996 to 1998, has been approved by the US, the state-run media said here today quoting official sources.

Karamat, who had quit his post as army chief after differences with the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was succeeded by Pervez Musharraf who eventually seized power from Sharif in a bloodless coup in 1999.

Karamat was also involved in diplomatic exchanges between India and Pakistan. He is also a visiting fellow at Stanford University in Stanford,



Jehangir Karamat

California, and the Washington-based Brookings Institution. Karamat was also part of a UN-sponsored study on Afghanistan and is the chairman of the Policy Research Institute's board of governors in Islamabad.

Karamat is currently in

New York to attend the UN General Assembly session as part of an official delegation accompanying Musharraf.

Qazi had resigned in July after his appointment as the UN secretary general Kofi Annan's special representative in Iraq.

Militants charged

Ten members of a shadowy Islamic militant group linked to al Qaida were formally charged today with trying to assassinate the military commander of the southern Pakistani city of Karachi earlier this year.

Lieutenant-General Ahsan Saleem Hayat survived the June 10 gun and bomb attack on his motorcade on Karachi's busy Clifton bridge, but 10 other people — six soldiers, three policemen and a civilian — were killed.

THE TELEGRAPH 24 SEP 2004

Pak facilitated Osama, says 9/11 report

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: Far more than Iraq or Iran, Pakistan played a frontline role in facilitating Osama bin Laden and the events leading up to the world's deadliest terrorist attack, the report of the 9/11 commission has revealed.

A detailed reading of the 585-page report shows the inquiry has indicted Pakistan and its intelligence agencies in several places while obliquely criticising Washington's feckless handling of what was evidently a rogue terrorist state.

US counter-terrorism officials recommended tough action against Pakistan, including declaring it a terrorism sponsor, but they were repeatedly overruled by State Department mandarins. At the very outset, in tracing the growth and movement of Osama bin Laden, the report says, "It is unlikely that Bin Laden would have returned to Afghanistan (from Sudan in 1996) had Pakistan disapproved."

Even more damnably, the report says, "The Pakistani military intelligence service probably had advanced knowledge of his coming, and its officers may have facilitated his travel." It also goes on to say that "Pakistani intelligence officers reportedly introduced Bin Laden to Taliban leaders in Kandahar...out of hope that he

would...make his terrorist camps available for training Kashmir militants."

Elsewhere, the 9/11 commission report notes that when National Security Adviser Sandy Berger wanted to send a U-2 surveillance plane to track Bin Laden, it was opposed by counter-terrorism czar Richard Clarke who wrote

that this would require Pakistan's approval and "Pak intel is in bed with Bin Laden". He also warned that the US was getting ready for a bombing campaign.

The report also refers to Pakistan's perfidious Kargil invasion in May 1999 and says patience with Islamabad was wearing thin at that time in both the State Department and the NSC. It then quotes NSC director Bruce Riedel as writing a memo to Sandy

Berger saying, "Islamabad was behaving like a rogue state in two areas backing Taliban/Bin Laden terror and provoking war with India."

While the Clinton administration dabbled over Pakistan's role in terrorism, the report suggests the Bush White House did not do any better. Soon after taking over, Bush wrote to Pakistan's military dictator Pervez Musharraf in February 2001 telling him that Bin Laden and Al Qaida were "a direct threat to the United States and its interests and that must be addressed," the report reveals.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

24 JUL 2002

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, July 16. -- The USA today wrote off nearly half a-billion dollar debt owed by Pakistan under an agreement signed between the two countries, a day after Mr Richard Armitage visited Islamabad to discuss, among other things, Pakistan's chances of sending troops to Iraq.

The agreement to write off the \$495.3 million debt was signed here by US Ambassador to

USA writes off Pak debt

Pakistan Ms Nancy Powell and Secretary of Pakistan Economic Division Mr Waqar Masood Khan, taking the total debt cancellation during the past two years to \$1.5 billion.

Mr Powell appreciated Pakistan's economic policies initiated during the past five years and said the write-off marked a continuation of the US partnership

day during which he held talks with top Pakistani leadership.

Though Mr Armitage said the US has not made any request to Pakistan to send troops to Iraq as part of the UN peacekeeping force, he left the issue open saying that it was upto Pakistan to "make up" its mind.

Today's debt cancellation culminates an extraordinary period

of debt relief and emergency financial assistance from the USA to Pakistan after 9/11 attacks, which included 600 million dollar cash transfer in November 2001 for balance of payments and budget support, rescheduling of three billion dollar debt for over 38 years in August 2002 and writing-off of one billion dollar debt in April 2003.

After the latest write off, Pakistan's debt to the USA stands at around \$1.6 billion.

Last year, President Bush had requested Congress to provide \$3 billion assistance to Pakistan in the next five years for its cooperation in the war against terrorism. While half of it was meant for assistance to buy military equipment, the rest was earmarked to bolster macro-economic stability and invest in human capital and private sector development in Pakistan.

Tainted or not, Raja Bhaiyya is a minister

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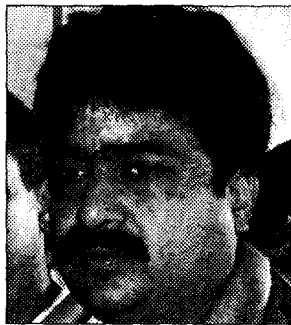
Statesman News Service

LUCKNOW, July 16. — The irrepressible Independent MLA from Kunda, Raja Bhaiyya, alias Mr Raghuraj Pratap Singh, free from the Pota charges, has become a Cabinet minister in the Mulayam Singh Yadav government.

"Kunda ka goonda", that is how his rival Mrs Ratna Singh of the Congress, a daughter of adjoining erstwhile Kalankar state had once described the scion of erstwhile Bhadri state.

Mr Yadav himself said he had been a great help in the formation of his government. Tainted or not was not a factor in his becoming a minister again.

He described the induction of Raja Bhaiyya in his Cabinet today as matter of



"principle" as the party campaigned against Pota. Till recently, Raja Bhaiyya was in jail after Pota was invoked against him by the previous government of Miss Mayawati.

Mr Yadav talking to reporters, soon after the swearing-in ceremony, said: "The cases pending against Raja Bhaiyya in the courts has no connection with his being sworn as minister. I am aware of the cases but till he is proved guilty it does not

make any material difference.

There have been a lot of deliberations on the personality of Raja Bhaiyya. I do not need to answer any questions." He said that it has become clear that Pota was "misused" and there was no need for such Acts as provisions of IPC and CrPC were good enough to tackle any crime.

The large crowd of supporters of Raja Bhaiyya had gathered and a number of vehicles were present outside the Raj Bhawan when the swearing-in took place giving the impression that the ceremony involved a full fledged Cabinet rather than a single person.

Raja Bhaiyya, after the oath by the Governor, Mr TV Rajeshwar, said that he had "no grudge" against Miss Mayawati.

SCHOOL OF BURNING

M.R. VENKATESH

Kumbakonam, July 16: The fire of sustenance turned into a mass pyre for children between the ages of seven and nine with at least 86 getting charred to death, trapped in their blazing thatched-roof classrooms.

Unofficial estimates put the number of dead at over 100 in the fire that started in a kitchen on the ground floor when the mid-day meal for children was being cooked, witnesses said.

The resident medical officer at the government hospital here placed the toll late tonight at 86. He said 108 children with severe burn injuries had been brought to the hospital, but most were already dead. Many had died of asphyxiation.

Thirty-five others were taken to a hospital in Thanjavur.

Located on the narrow Kasiraman Street, Saraswati English Medium School does not appear from the outside to have proper ventilation. The school building consists of two blocks joined together. The first has four storeys where high-school classes are held. In the smaller adjoining block, above the first floor, primary classes were going on under a thatched roof where the kitchen fire quickly spread, helped by a strong wind.

Local residents said around 11.30 am, they saw thick columns of smoke billowing out of the building and heard cries of children. Reports of how the children got trapped inside differed.

Some said the door to the second-floor classrooms had got locked from outside as the watchman fled. In any case, the



Fathers hold their injured children. (AFP)

staircase leading down was so narrow most kids could not escape.

Burnt schoolbags and open lunch boxes littered the staircase. In one part of the school, tiny blaze-blackened bodies covered the floor — two, three piled on top of each other.

Sobbing parents gathered at the hospital where the names of the dead were being read out. A middle-aged woman came running towards the casualty ward, crying: "Have you seen my girl?"

She would have collapsed had accompanying relatives not held her steady.

From amid the litter of charred children's bodies one horrifying truth struck out — witnesses said the teachers had fled on noticing the fire.

A former armyman at the site said: "Even hens have an instinct to preserve their chicks, but not these teachers."

Only one teacher had been admitted to hospital. Late at night the person who ran the school was arrested.

The Tamil Nadu government suspended four education department officials, including the chief education officer of Thanjavur district.

An official at the spot said had it not been for the quick response by the fire and rescue service staff, who arrived within 15-20 minutes, the toll would have been much higher. At the time of the fire, 193 children were in the primary classrooms.

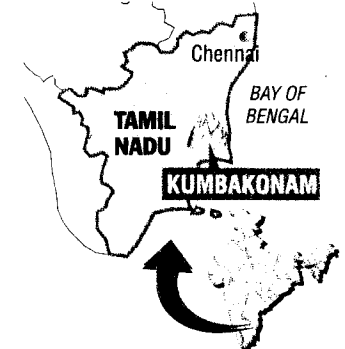
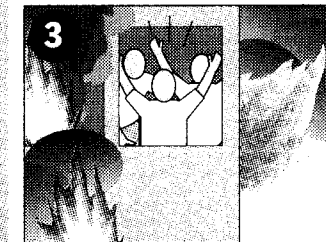
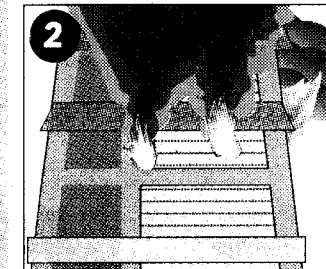
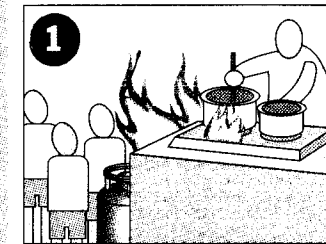
A 30-year-old woman said between sobs that she had lost her son and daughter. The children were late for school and were allowed in by the guard at the gate after much pleading by her.

A group of children who had clasped their hands tight in fright were seen charred to death in that posture, the former armyman said. Although witnesses said at least 200 bodies had been removed from the school, officials would only confirm that 108 were admitted to the hospital. There were children who had managed to come out and were still missing.

Kumbakonam this evening was a town of wailing mothers accompanying their husbands who carried dead children wrapped in a *thuli* (a white cloth hung from a pole, resembling a makeshift cradle) on their shoulders for cremation across the Cauvery.

Known for producing the mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujam, this temple town tonight had only its dead to count.

■ See Page 8



HOW THE FIRE SPREAD

- 1 Fire starts in the kitchen of Saraswati English Medium School as lunch is being cooked for 450 students aged 6-13
- 2 From the thatched roof of the kitchen, the fire spreads to the second floor, also with a thatched roof, with a strong wind blowing
- 3 With only one main door and a narrow staircase, the children cannot escape. Some say a watchman while fleeing in panic shut the door from outside
- 4 Firemen arrive in 15-20 minutes, local people had rushed in earlier. The lane is narrow and water pressure in fire hoses weak

Parents trying to identify the bodies of their children in the hospital. A Telegraph picture

Graphic: RAJ

US keeps Pak promise

Islamabad, June 16: President George W. Bush today named Pakistan a major non-Nato ally of the US, making it easier for the country to acquire US arms.

The announcement rewards Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf for supporting the US-led war on terrorism.

Secretary of state Colin Powell told Musharraf in March that his country would get the designation. A memorandum issued by Bush today made it official.

The status of major non-Nato ally is also enjoyed by Australia, Bahrain, Israel, South Korea and Morocco. As a major non-Nato ally, Pakistan could use US funding to lease some defence items and would become eligible for loans of military supplies for research and development projects.

It would also become eligible to buy depleted uranium ammunition, to have US-owned military stockpiles on its territory outside American bases and to receive US military training on easier financial terms. However, the designation does not confer the mutual defence and security guarantees enjoyed by Nato members.

The US imposed sanctions on Pakistan after it conducted nuclear tests in 1998 but most were lifted in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the US, when Pakistan became a key ally in the war on terror.

Given Pakistan's porous border with Afghanistan, its help is seen as vital if the US is to catch Osama bin Laden and defeat his al Qaida network.

Many in Pakistan have not forgiven the US for refusing to deliver 28 F-16 fighters in the 1990s because of worry over Pakistan's nuclear programme. The planes had been paid for, but it took eight years for the money to be refunded.

India opposes the sale of F-16s to Pakistan and the decision

to grant Islamabad major non-Nato ally status could trouble New Delhi, which does not have that status, although it has growing military contacts with Washington as part of their overall "strategic partnership."

"India is one of our closest allies," a senior Bush administration official said. "We have wonderful bilateral relations with India and we will continue to do so."

Waziristan attack

Despite army claims that they have secured full control of the Shakai area — a hideout for foreign militant in South Waziristan — military outposts in the area came under attack by alleged terrorists today and yesterday.

A day after troops shot and killed a Chechen militant and his three accomplices at Jhandola on the outskirts of South Waziristan, two suspected foreign terrorists and a Pakistani soldier were killed in a shootout early today after 70 armed separatists attacked a military checkpost at Lada, 45 km northeast of Wana.

Chief military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan said on Monday that the military operation in Wana was over and the security forces were in full control of the Shakai area, north of Wana. Officials claim hundreds of pro-al Qaida and Taliban militants — Chechens, Uzbeks, and Afghans — are hiding in the Shakai area.

AGENCIES AND IMTIAZ GUL

Pak stands up to US

IMTIAZ GUL

Islamabad, May 5: Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali today insisted that his government would take its own decisions regarding militants in the semi-autonomous tribal region bordering Afghanistan, following US accusations that it was not cracking down on them hard enough.

"We are a sovereign country and take our own decisions, we have not released any Taliban or al Qaida suspects," Jamali said.

This followed a statement by US General David Barno on the recent events in South Waziristan, where scores of Pakistani tribal militants, several with a suspected Taliban past, were pardoned after weeks of confrontation.

Barno, the military commander leading some 13,500 US forces in Afghanistan, had on Monday asked Pakistan to kill or capture foreign militants holed up in the tribal rim instead of granting them amnesty.

He also questioned the Pakistani strategy (of pardoning wanted militants) by suggesting it could undermine the war against terrorism.

But Masood Khan, the Pakistani foreign ministry spokesperson today hit back at Gen. Barno. "We don't kill peo-

ple for the sake of sport, which is very dangerous.... We are making our own operational decisions under a well thought out strategy," Khan said.

"The ultimate objective is to flush out terrorists...our strategy is good and contributes to the war on terror; second to none," emphasised the spokesperson.

Pakistani authorities had on April 24 agreed not to prosecute five tribal militants wanted for allegedly sheltering al Qaida and Taliban fighters in the South Waziristan. In exchange, the tribesmen promised not to indulge in terrorist activities or act against the country's interests.

More than 100 soldiers, as well as several local and foreign militants, were killed in an encounter that began on March 16 in the Kaloosha village west of Wana and continued for many days.

During the operation, the army arrested over 170 local and foreign suspects, saying several were of Chechen, Uzbek or Arab origin. But none of the alleged foreigners were brought before the public except for an unidentified body.

Masood Khan added that Pakistan had protested to the US against this week's intrusion by its troops into Pakistani territory.

TIM... 6 MAY 2001

Pakistan protests US incursion

WS-Park
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Press Trust of India 6/5

Hijack plot exposed

ISLAMABAD, May 5. — Pakistan today said it has lodged a protest with America over an incursion into its territory by US-led coalition troops operating in Afghanistan and demanded an inquiry into the incident.

Pakistan found that the coalition troops "intruded" into North Waziristan area bordering Afghanistan and searched a number of shops before moving back to Afghanistan on Monday evening, foreign office spokesman Mr Masood Khan said.

Earlier, reports here said that some 60 coalition soldiers in four Humvee trucks intruded two kilometres inside the Pakistani territory in Lwara Mandai Bazaar in Dattakhel tehsil, about 90 kilometres west of regional headquarters of North Waziristan tribal region.

Mr Khan said the US government has been asked through diplomatic and military channels to hold inquiry into the border violations and share its details with Pakistan.

"The intrusion has been estab-

lished. We have protested with US authorities both through the diplomatic and military channels. The US version is that this was a misunderstanding and inadvertent."
The American explanation was that they withdrew after coming to know that they were on the Pakistani side of the border. "Still we have protested and requested US authorities to conduct an inquiry and share the results with us."

THE STATESMAN 6 MAY 2001

US pursues Khan's nuclear network

United Nations: The United States is still pursuing the underground network established by Pakistani nuclear scientist A Q Khan across many nations, a top US official has said.



Assistant under-secretary of state John R Bolton, who briefed the UN security council on Tuesday on weapons of mass destruction, said Khan's network may have passed sensitive information to several nations.

Declining to name the countries which might have received the information, he said the US was concerned about Iran and North Korea which have nuclear technology. The US was trying to collect details, he said.

"There are several others. There's a lot of information that we don't necessarily have corroboration for, but we are pursuing our concerns where we do have information, trying to get additional information, learning from others, and trying to assess the exact magnitude of the threat," he said.

Bolton said at least four countries were misusing nuclear non-proliferation treaty for developing nuclear weapons.

"States like Iran are actively violating their treaty obligations, and have gained access to technologies and materials for their nuclear weapons programmes. North Korea violated its NPT obligations while a party, and then proved its strategic decision to seek nuclear weapons by withdrawing from the treaty entirely," he said. Agencies

Pakistan as a U.S. ally

By Sumit Ganguly

us-pak

HD-10
9/4

WHAT EXPLAINS the American decision to declare Pakistan a "major non-NATO ally?" The sheer significance of the decision, especially its timing, at least on the face of it, borders on the bizarre. Yet an examination of the historical record will reveal that this is simply the latest evidence of the pronounced propensity of the American foreign policy establishment to seek short-term political and strategic gains.

The United States, as is well known in India, repeatedly sought Pakistan's assistance during the Cold War to prosecute the strategy of anti-Soviet containment in South Asia. Pakistani decision-makers repeatedly and dexterously positioned themselves as valued allies in this quest. Yet as any self-respecting analyst of South Asian security knew, the Pakistani position was utterly disingenuous. Pakistan was interested in currying favour with the Americans solely because it wanted to build up its military capabilities against India.

Sadly, the paucity of South Asia expertise in the State and Defence Departments, the overweening interest in containing the Soviet Union and the maladroitness of Indian diplomacy all conspired to Pakistan's benefit. From the arms-transfer relationship forged under the Eisenhower administration in the U.S. in 1954 to the supply of sophisticated weaponry and financial assistance during the Zia-ul-Haq regime in Pakistan, Islamabad was a major, if fitful, beneficiary of Washington's military largesse.

This U.S.-Pakistan nexus did yield some strategic benefits to Washington, especially in the short run. In the early 1950s, the U.S. could carry out reconnaissance missions across Soviet Central Asia from its air bases in Pakistan. Later, during the Zia years, the close military ties between the two states permitted the U.S. to pursue its not-so-covert war against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Consequently, it would be dishonest to suggest that the U.S.-Pakistan relationship was of little or no strategic value to Washington.

That said, at the end of the Cold

The designation of Pakistan as a non-NATO ally is the latest evidence of the pronounced propensity of the American foreign policy establishment to seek short-term political and strategic gains.

War, Pakistan's significance to the U.S. ended. The U.S. had few inherent interests in the region and virtually none in Pakistan barring the trite piety that it wanted good relations with a "moderate, Muslim state." Not surprisingly, Pakistan became the object of a raft of U.S. economic and military sanctions. Most of these remained in place during the 1990s despite fitful attempts to remove them. The 1998 Indian and then Pakistani nuclear tests brought more sanctions on Pakistan. Indeed, until the George W. Bush administration decision to lift the test-related sanctions in 2001 Pakistan had the unique distinction of being the state facing the most number of U.S.-imposed sanctions. The Bush administration lifted them because it had a markedly different approach to non-proliferation: namely, economic sanctions were of limited value in shaping a regime's strategic choices. More to the point, it was keen on courting India for a variety of reasons and thereby had to lift the Clinton sanctions. Pakistan, in effect, also became a beneficiary of this policy shift toward India.

The democracy-related sanctions on Pakistan remained in place. The events of September 11, 2001, as is well known, brought about a dramatic shift in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. Once again, strategic geography proved to be Pakistan's enduring asset in dealing with the U.S. After having spawned, nurtured and sustained the loathsome Taliban regime, Pakistan notionally agreed to participate in its destruction. However, just as it behaved during the Zia years, its cooperation was far from full-blown. Long after the U.S. started its military campaign in Afghanistan, the Taliban spokesmen operated with impunity from Islamabad. Elements of the Pakistan Army also maintained their ties to their erstwhile acolytes.

The U.S., keen on obtaining Pakistan's cooperation in the war against terror, only exerted limited pressure on the Pervez Musharraf regime to sever all ties with the Taliban.

Worse still, the U.S. evinced even less concern about Gen. Musharraf's continued support to the most egregious Kashmiri terrorist groups. It was only after the attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, that the U.S. finally placed the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-i-Taiba on the Foreign Terrorist Organisation list. Despite this, Gen. Musharraf continued with his shell game with the array of Kashmiri terrorist organisations, shutting down their offices in one part of Pakistan but allowing them to re-open elsewhere and under slightly altered nomenclature.

The crisis in Indo-Pakistani relations after the attack on Parliament set off an array of American efforts to stave off a full-scale war in the region. However, even during this period the U.S. did not lose sight of its core interests in South Asia, namely the evisceration of the Al-Qaeda and the destruction of the remnants of the Taliban regime. As long as these interests were paramount, the Indo-Pakistani fracas was mostly an unwelcome distraction. India's misgivings about Pakistan's continuing support to a range of terrorist groups in Kashmir remained a distant concern. Consequently, the Bush administration engaged in what was mostly a fire-fighting exercise on the sub-continent. The central question of Pakistan's involvement with a regional and a global network of terror remained mostly un-addressed as long as it provided unhindered American access to Afghanistan.

Even the public revelations earlier this year of A.Q. Khan's clandestine nuclear and ballistic missile sales

network failed to generate much American opprobrium. Instead, the State Department seemed to accept Gen. Musharraf's anodyne characterisation that Dr. Khan was an independent actor and the powerful Pakistani military a hapless and innocent bystander. Such a public position well suited the State Department's view that keeping Gen. Musharraf in power was a paramount American concern. Interlocutors in the State Department in public and private conversations stated that Gen. Musharraf was deemed to be indispensable in the quest for Osama bin Laden and his *condottiere*.

The quest for Osama, of course, assumed far greater significance following the continuing American military setbacks in Iraq. This was especially true for a President who had promised his countrymen that he could render the world a safer place through his exercise of American military might. In an election year, President Bush can proffer the American electorate few, if any, successes on the domestic political front. Consequently, he desperately needs some dramatic success in the foreign policy arena. What better symbolic success for his self-proclaimed "war on terror" than the head of Osama bin Laden?

Sadly, previous efforts to curry favour with Gen. Musharraf have yielded only very limited dividends. Accordingly, some dramatic gesture had to be made to elicit his cooperation. In this quest, what better reward could be offered than to make Pakistan a "major, non-NATO ally?" If this move alienated India, the cost was deemed bearable. After all, with Osama's capture, Mr. Bush's re-election would be all but assured. In a second term, the administration would have ample opportunity to undo any damage to Indo-U.S. relations for having granted Pakistan this new status.

(Dr. Sumit Ganguly holds the Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations and is the Director of the India Studies Program at Indiana University in Bloomington.)

Pervez was aware of Khan's activities: US

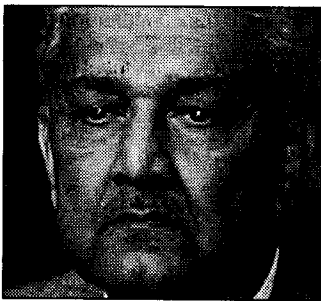
Washington, March 31 (Reuters): Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf was aware of Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear black market activities for at least a few years, but political pressures kept him from moving aggressively against Khan until recently, US undersecretary of state John Bolton said today.

But Bolton reaffirmed Washington's view that Musharraf and other top Pakistani officials were not "complicit in or approved of (Khan's) proliferation activities" and therefore are not subject to US sanctions.

Bolton, testifying before a congressional committee, came under fire from Opposition Democrats. They accused the Bush administration of failing to hold Pakistan's leaders accountable for Khan's blackmarket activities and for not using economic muscle to keep countries and companies from doing business with Iran and North Korea.

With Iran and North Korea's nuclear activities a growing concern for Washington, nonproliferation issues could loom large in the 2004 election.

Since Khan, the father of the Islamic bomb, confessed in February to selling nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya, US officials have insisted only



Pervez Musharraf (top) and Abdul Qadeer Khan

Khan was responsible, not Musharraf and his government.

Bolton reiterated that position, saying US officials investigated Khan's activities and "we have no evidence that President Musharraf and top officials of the government of Pakistan are complicit."

But under questioning by the

US House of Representatives International Relations Committee, Bolton said Musharraf was aware of Khan's activities when he fired him as head of Khan Research Laboratory in the year 2001.

"I think it was a very difficult question for President Musharraf in the face of the internal political dynamic in Pakistan, which has resulted in the past two months ... in two assassination attempts against him," Bolton said.

"In fact, it was the exposure of the Iranian nuclear weapons programme... and (Libyan leader Muammar) Gaddafi's decision to forswear all of his WMD (weapons of mass destruction) programmes that brought us to the point that it was possible for Musharraf to take the actions that he did," Bolton said.

Musharraf, who seized power in 1999, had to balance US demands for action on Khan against a risk of angering the army, his base of support, experts say. Representative Gary Ackerman said Bush's most recent decision making Pakistan a non-Nato ally goes too far, adding: "This double standard with regard to Pakistan makes a mockery of our nonproliferation efforts around the world."

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2004

✓ NS P... PATRON AND CLIENT ✓ 119-10 ✓ 2875

THE UNITED STATES and Pakistan have revived the patron-client relationship that they have intermittently shared over the past 50 years. U.S. President George W. Bush has determined that statutory provisions, which prohibit direct assistance to a country whose elected government was toppled, should not apply to Pakistan. In lifting the sanctions imposed after the military coup of 1999, Washington added substance to its earlier decision to confer the status of a "major non-NATO ally" on the South Asian country. In theory the countries that enjoy this status are eligible to obtain weapons and other forms of military assistance on a priority basis, but those so categorised do not really benefit if they cannot pay for the items on their wish list. A cash-strapped Pakistan now has reason to believe that it will be able to modernise its forces, especially since other restrictions imposed after the nuclear weapon tests of 1998 were also set aside. Military allocations are expected to make up almost half of the \$3 billion worth of aid that the Bush administration has agreed to provide over five years and advanced weaponry might well be included in the package. However, the appropriations for each year will have to be cleared by a Congress where many members do not look kindly on a Pakistani establishment that was deeply involved in both *jihadi* militancy and nuclear proliferation.

New Delhi will have to keep a close watch on the developing relationship between Washington and Islamabad even though the military balance in the sub-continent might not be decisively altered. While nuclear weaponisation in South Asia has created parity at the ultimate level, India has a significant edge in conventional weaponry that Pakistan might not be able to blunt even with American assistance since it does not have the economic base to compete over the long term. A U.S. administration that wants to maintain ties with all the

countries of the sub-continent and has a vital stake in Afghanistan might not be overly interested in strengthening Pakistan's offensive capabilities. However, the historical record does throw up a cause for concern. The Pakistan military pursued adventurist policies whenever it was emboldened by a strategic relationship with the U.S.; it resorted to such an approach in the 1960s and then again in the 1980s. With President Pervez Musharraf indicating that the current ceasefire will not endure if progress is not made towards a resolution of the Kashmir dispute, there is a chance that history might be repeated. However, Washington and Islamabad should have learnt by now that *jihadis* cannot be closely controlled and that they will follow their own agenda once they have been provided the wherewithal.

New Delhi has not responded to Washington's condescending offer to accord it the status of a "major non-NATO ally" if it so desired. Such a relationship will go against the grain of India's non-alignment and independence in international relations. India will also need to re-examine the real import of the "new steps in strategic partnership" that it has decided to undertake along with Washington. The establishment of this partnership is supposed to facilitate the acquisition of advanced equipment for the non-military nuclear programme and other purposes. The Bush administration projects this agreement as an indicator of a desire to deal with each of the sub-continental rivals on its own merits. However, Washington has an objective that it wants to achieve in the immediate future. India is required to set in place a tighter legal and administrative framework to prevent nuclear proliferation before it can expect its partner to deliver. India must on no account be pushed into any new relationship that is not of its own choosing and that is not in its deeper, long-term interest.

Bush lifts sanctions against Pakistan

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IANS & PTI

WASHINGTON, March 25. — The USA has lifted the sanctions imposed on Pakistan in 1999 after President Pervez Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup. In a statement yesterday, Mr George W Bush said the lifting of the coup-related sanctions would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan and was important to the US-led war on terrorism.

Mr George W Bush, who has already removed most of the nuclear-related sanctions against Pakistan, yesterday issued an order waiving off the coup-related restrictions, and said: "It's important to US efforts to respond to, deter, or prevent acts of international terrorism." This would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan, Mr Bush said in the order.

He instructed the Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell to transmit "this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the Federal Register".

Gen. Powell during his visit to Pakistan on 18 March had declared the South Asian nation as a major non-Nato ally, triggering a strong reaction from India which termed the decision as having "significant implications" for Indo-US ties. The subsequent US announcement that it was willing to con-



Another gift to Gen. Musharraf

Significance?

With this, Pakistan would be able to receive direct US economic aid. The US had slapped sanctions on Pakistan after Musharraf stunned the international community by staging a coup to seize power more than four years ago. However, the two countries' relations have greatly improved as Pakistan cooperated closely in the US-launched war against terrorism following 9/11.

sider according the same status to India got a cold response.

The Bush order reads: "Determination to Waive Military Coup-Related Provision of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programmes Appropriations Act 2004 with respect to Pakistan.

"Pursuant to the authority

vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including Public Law 107-57, as amended by section 2213 of Public Law 108-106, I hereby determine that, with respect to Pakistan, a waiver of any provision of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programmes Appropriations Act, 2004 (section 508 of Public Law 108-199, Division D), that prohibits direct assistance to the government of any country whose duly elected head of government was deposed by decree or military coup: - would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan..."

50 ultras killed: minister

More than 50 terrorists have been killed in Pakistan's largest military operation yet against suspected Al-Qaida fighters and local sympathisers in its tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, the interior minister said today.

Interior minister Mr Faisal Saleh Hayyat vowed that the operation in South Waziristan, which began 10 days ago, would continue until the "complete elimination" of terrorists holed up there.

"Over 20 terrorists have been killed in the operation so far and it is expected that 30 to 35 more dead bodies of terrorists will be recovered as the operation concludes," the minister told lawmakers in a National Assembly debate.

Pak denies US help in Wana seige

Press Trust of India

LAHORE, March 21. — Dispelling doubts of US involvement in flushing out suspected Al-Qaida fighters from its north-western region, Pakistan today said its forces were better equipped to carry out anti-terror operations. "Our forces are better equipped to undertake such operations compared to those of the USA," Pakistan information minister Mr Sheikh Rashid told reporters here.

Mr Rashid, however, admitted that Pakistani forces engaged in the military operation in the frontier regions of Wana were getting technical aid from the US army. "We do have US Cobra Helicopters but they are piloted by the Pakistanis and not by the Americans."

On time required to flush out Al-Qaida operatives from Pakistan, Mr Rashid said "keeping in view the current situation in Wana it seems quite probable that the operation may prolong for another couple of days. The crackdown on terrorists had become inevitable after they refused to surrender in response to government's offer of amnesty, he said.

The terrorists were also assured that they would not be handed over to any other country but they opted to resist.

Benazir angry: Mrs Benazir Bhutto today criticised the military leadership for mishandling the operation to drive out suspected Al-Qaida operatives from the NWFP, claiming it had resulted in civilian casualties and displaced a large number of tribals without capture of any "high value target." In a statement, the Pakistan People's Party chairperson said the tribal operation was a stunt to deceive a foreign power of President Pervez Musharaf regime's commitment against terrorism.

US daily raps 'Musharraf's military' Powell

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, March 21. — An influential American daily has sharply criticized US Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell for lavishing "undeserved praise" upon Pakistani "military dictator" Gen. Pervez Musharraf for democratic progress instead of urging him to "stop manoeuvring against unfettered elections and the country's main secular parties".

"Such declarations diminish American credibility as a consistent force for democracy," the *New York Times* said in an editorial. Gen. Powell, it said, struck a "somewhat surreal" note in Islamabad when he announced that Washington was preparing to designate Pakistan a "major non-NATO ally", easing access



Gen. Powell with Gen. Musharraf in Islamabad. — AFP

to military sales, it added. "Pakistan's efforts to capture Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri are welcome, but it is excessive to offer even a symbolic promotion to one of America's "least reliable" allies.

Behind a "constitutional facade", it said, Gen. Musharraf rules as a military dictator, accountable to no civilian authority and basing his power on Pakistan's armed forces. "It is the army high command that General Musharraf must negotiate with if he truly wants to move against the Taliban, Kashmiri terrorist groups or the nuclear weapons establishment," it stressed.

Musharraf, the paper said, would deserve praise if his troops captured Al Qaeda's No. 2 leader, al-Zawahiri, whom they think they may have sur-

rounded near the rugged border with Afghanistan. "Short of capturing Osama bin Laden himself, there could be no clearer way for General Musharraf to demonstrate how valuable his cooperation can be," it added.

The *NYT* said it is also hard to think of a more timely way to distract American attention from the many legitimate questions now surrounding Gen. Musharraf's leadership and the true depth of his cooperation with the USA. One subject that surely came up in that meeting, the *Times* said, was the extent of military or government involvement in Pakistan's nuclear weapons assistance to North Korea, Iran and Libya. But the story about Zawahiri overwhelmed cov-

Delhi red-faced over US tilt to Pak

PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, March 20: A red-faced India today admitted the US decision to designate Pakistan a "major non-Nato ally" is a disappointment.

The official Indian reaction to the US decision came nearly 48 hours after US secretary of state Colin Powell said in Islamabad that his government wished to designate Pakistan a "major non-Nato ally".

Though restrained in his words, foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said Powell's decision had taken the Indian establishment by surprise.

"The secretary of state was in India just two days before this statement was made in Islamabad. While he was in India, there was much emphasis on India-US strategic partnership. It is disappointing that he did not

share with us this decision of the United States government," Sarna said.

"We are studying the details of this decision, which has significant implications for India-US relations. We are in touch with the US government in this regard," he added.

Under the circumstances, the Indian establishment can only issue brave statements to hide its embarrassment. On the face of it, the proposed US move could lead to deeper and closer military and defence cooperation between Washington and Islamabad.

India is worried about how the designation might help Pakistan get sophisticated military hardware from the US. But the political significance of the US move to elevate President Pervez Musharraf to one of its closest ally might prove more embar-

lamabad-Delhi ties, is resolved. The President also said those fighting in Kashmir were not terrorists but "freedom fighters" battling Indian security forces.

While in Delhi, Powell said all the right things, making the Indian leadership happy. The secretary of state said cross-border violence in Kashmir had to end permanently and could not be seen as a seasonal phenomenon. He added that there were "eight baskets" in the dialogue process between India and Pakistan and that progress was linked to the end of Pakistan-sponsored violence in Kashmir.

The "feel-good" factor created by Powell's speech had led foreign minister Yashwant Sinha to claim during a joint news conference that India-US relations was perhaps at their "best ever" levels.

But in 48-hours, the secretary

of state shook Delhi's confidence. Powell's statement is most embarrassing for India because it came at a time when South Block was still recovering from Musharraf's "home-truths" on Kashmir and terrorism.

Sarna said India was still trying to find out what the US designation means and how it may affect Indo-US ties, but it would appear that Delhi cannot do much right now.

Since the A.B. Vajpayee government had hyped up the peace process with Pakistan and its strong ties with the US as two major foreign policy successes and converted them into an electoral plank, Delhi cannot strongly criticise Musharraf or Powell right now. But it may have to take a stronger position if the Opposition tries to embarrass the government on these counts during the election campaign.



Powell: Surprise move

rassing for Delhi.

The decision could not have come at a worse time for India. Barely a week ago, Musharraf had made it clear that confidence-building measures could not improve bilateral relations unless the Kashmir dispute, which he termed "central" to Is-

Pakistan will be a 'major non-NATO ally': Powell

● 'U.S. for long-term relationship with Islamabad'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 18. THE United States today sought to bolster the position of the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, with an announcement that the country would be named as a "major non-NATO" ally.

The visiting U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, along with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, told a news conference that under the new status, future military relations between Washington and Islamabad would get a boost. Among others, Israel, Japan and Egypt are also "non-NATO" allies of the U.S.

The proposed designation is clearly a concrete expression of gratitude by Washington for the role played by Gen. Musharraf in the fight against terrorism since September 11. The U.S. has also promised to review the travel and visa restrictions with regard to Pakistan. These moves could not have come at a more opportune moment for Gen. Musharraf who is facing flak in the country for implementing the U.S. agenda.

Many independent observers and analysts say that the gesture should help dispel the widely-held view that the U.S. has always dumped Pakistan after its strategic goals are met.

The Pakistani establishment, civil society and press have always felt that Washington was never ready for a long-term relationship. Gen. Powell was at pains to emphasise at the news conference that Washington was genuinely interested in a multi-dimensional and long-term relationship with Islamabad.

Move welcomed

Pakistani officials welcomed the announcement saying it would greatly improve the country's prospect for new arms purchases from Washington. They said the country could have access to advanced weapons for the first time since 1990.

However, it was not immediately clear if Pakistan would get approval for the resumption of the sale of the F-16 fighter planes which was suspended in 1990 when the U.S. imposed sanctions on Pakistan after it con-

cluded that Islamabad was producing nuclear weapons. The U.S. sanctions became tougher in 1998 after Pakistan conducted its maiden nuclear tests. At his press meet in New Delhi, Gen. Powell had indicated that there was no change in U.S. policy in the sale of the F-16s to Pakistan.

Defence cooperation between Islamabad and Washington was revived in 2002. Pakistan has identified a number of hi-tech military hardware it would like to buy from Washington. Indications from the U.S. were that it would like to help Pakistan if it was ready to fight terrorism.

Nuclear proliferation in the context of the scandal involving the transfer of nuclear technology by A.Q. Khan, progress in the operations against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban and India-Pakistan relations were the other subjects that figured in the discussions between Gen. Powell, Gen. Musharraf and the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

Mr. Kasuri expressed the hope that some of the irritants caused by the travel advisory and re-

strictive visa for U.S. would be overcome soon. The U.S. declared Pakistan a "non-family station" and imposed travel and visa restrictions following a blast in a church in the diplomatic enclave here.

To a question on nuclear proliferation, Gen. Powell said questions had arisen as to not only what Dr. Khan and his associates might have been doing, but whether there was knowledge within the Government at the time it was happening. "I think this is a logical and proper question to ask and I am sure that Pakistani authorities would want it known as well. What we are interested in is going after this network; this network that was providing technology to develop nuclear weapons to some very dangerous countries around the world. And it is in our mutual interest, of Pakistan, the interest of the rest of the world, to make sure the network has been completely pulled up and make sure that all those who were participating in the network in one way or the other have been identified," he said.

India's concern: Page 15

Pak gets non-Nato ally status

Press Trust of India

SPI 19/3

Noose tightens around Al-Qaida No. 2

ISLAMABAD, March 18. — The USA will designate Pakistan as a “major non-Nato ally”, a move that’ll strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries and lift restrictions on weapon sales to Islamabad.

Visiting US secretary of state Gen. Colin Powell, after meeting his Pakistani counterpart Mr Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri here, said Mr George W Bush would soon designate Pakistan as a “major non-Nato ally”.

(Following up on the announcement, Gen. Powell said the USA wanted to have a similar relationship with India too.)

“I advised the (Pakistan) foreign minister this morning that we’ll also be making a notification to our Congress, which will designate Pakistan as a ‘major non-Nato ally’ for the purposes of our future military-to-military relations,” Gen. Powell said at a joint press conference with Mr Kasuri. The general is here on the final leg of his three-nation South Asian tour that took him to India and Afghanistan earlier.

The US announcement came despite global concerns about the nuclear proliferation row involving top Pakistani scientist Dr Abdul Qa-

ISLAMABAD, March 18. — Pakistani troops believe they have surrounded Al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri near the Afghan border, officials said. Intelligence indicated Al-Zawahri has been cornered in an operation that began on Tuesday in south Waziristan and involved hundreds of troops and paramilitary rangers. “We have been receiving intelligence and information from our agents who are working in the tribal areas that Al-Zawahri could be among the people hiding there,” said a military official. “All of our efforts are to capture him.” In an interview with CNN, President Musharraf said he’d spoken with the commander of Pakistani troops in the region. “He’s reasonably sure there’s a high-value target there,” Gen Musharraf said. — AP

Another report on page 2

deer Khan. It also coincided with Pakistan launching a fresh offensive against the Al-Qaida and Taliban in areas near the Afghanistan border.

USA on Kashmir: The USA would be helpful but not play a central role in resolving the Kashmir issue which has to be settled by India and Pakistan, Gen. Powell said.

THE STATESMAN

19 MAR 2004

পাকিস্তানকে নেটো বহির্ভূত মিত্রের স্বীকৃতি আমেরিকার

ইসলামাবাদ, ১৮ মার্চ—
পাকিস্তানকে 'নেটো সদস্যদের বহির্ভূত
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সামরিক মিত্রগোষ্ঠী হিসেবে সক্রিয়।
মূলত পশ্চিমি দেশগুলিই এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত।
ঠান্ডা যুদ্ধের যুগে 'নিরপেক্ষ
আন্দোলনের' অন্যতম নেতা ভারত এ
পর্যন্ত কোনও সামরিক গোষ্ঠীর সদস্য
হয়নি। সম্প্রতি সে আমেরিকার সঙ্গে এক
'স্ট্র্যাটেজিক পার্টনারশিপ' গড়ে তুললেও
আমেরিকা কিন্তু এ পর্যন্ত তাকে 'নেটো'র
সদস্য দেশগুলির বাইরে কোনও বিশেষ
মিত্র হিসেবে আলাদা করে স্বীকৃতি
দেয়নি। মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট বৃশের সন্ত্রাস
বিরোধী যুদ্ধে পাকিস্তানের ভূমিকার
পরিপ্রেক্ষিতেই তাকে এই শিরোপা
দেওয়া হল বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে।

সার্ক দেশগুলির মধ্যে পাকিস্তানই
প্রথম এই বিশেষ স্বীকৃতি পাচ্ছে। অন্য
যে দেশগুলি ইতিমধ্যেই এই তালিকায়
রয়েছে, তার মধ্যে রয়েছে— ইজিপ্ট,
জাপান, অস্ট্রেলিয়া, ইজরায়েল,
তাইল্যান্ড, ফিলিপিন্স, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া,
আর্জেন্টিনা, জর্ডন, কুয়েত, নিউজিল্যান্ড
এবং বাহরিন। এই স্বীকৃতির জন্য অবশ্য
মার্কিন কংগ্রেসের অনুমোদন দরকার।
সেটা হলে পাকিস্তান তার প্রতিরক্ষা
গবেষণা এবং উন্নয়নের জন্য আমেরিকার
কাছ থেকে সামরিক উপাদান ধার নিতে
পারবে বা সেগুলো 'লিজ' হিসেবে
নেওয়ার জন্য আর্থিক অনুদান পাবে।
সামরিক প্রশিক্ষণের ক্ষেত্রেও যথেষ্ট
ছাড়ের সুবিধা থাকবে তার। এ ছাড়া,
প্রতিরক্ষার কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য
অবনয়িত (ডিপ্লোটেড) ইউরেনিয়ামও
আমেরিকার কাছ থেকে কিনতে পারবে
সে। শুধু 'নেটো' দেশগুলি যে
পারম্পরিক নিরাপত্তা ও প্রতিরক্ষার
ব্যাপারে 'গ্যারান্টি' ভোগ করে, সেটা
ধাকছে না। মঙ্গলবার পাওয়েল দিল্লিতে
বলেছিলেন, এফ-১৬ বিমানের জন্য পাক
অনুরোধ নিয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত হয়নি। এ বার তা
হবে কিনা, তাও এখনও পরিষ্কার নয়।

ইসলামাবাদে পাক প্রেসিডেন্ট
পারভেজ মুশারফ এবং প্রধানমন্ত্রী
জাফারুল্লা জামালি এবং বিদেশমন্ত্রী
খুরশেদ মহম্মদ কাসুরির সঙ্গে
পাওয়েলের পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রসার,
লাদেনের উদ্দেশ্যে চলতি তল্লাশি
অভিযান এবং ভারত-পাক সম্পর্ক নিয়ে
আলোচনা হয়েছে। পরমাণু বিজ্ঞানী
কাদির খানকে নিয়ে আমেরিকার অস্বস্তি
পুরোপুরি না মিটলেও পাওয়েল আজ
জানিয়ে দেন, 'দু'দেশের সামরিক
সম্পর্কের ভবিষ্যতের দিকে তাকিয়েই'
তারা পাকিস্তানকে নেটো-বহির্ভূত মিত্র
হিসেবে ঘোষণা করবেন। এমনিতে, বহু
দিন থেকেই পাক পরমাণু কর্মসূচির উপর
আমেরিকার তীক্ষ্ণ নজর থাকায়
পাকিস্তানকে অত্যাধুনিক অস্ত্র ও জঙ্গি
বিমান সরবরাহ করতে রাজি ছিল না
মার্কিন প্রশাসন। ১৯৯৮ সালে চাঘাইয়ে

এর পর পাঁচের পাতায়

● ভারত ভাবতে পারেনি...পৃঃ ৭

পাকিস্তানকে

প্রথম পাতার পর

পরীক্ষামূলক পরমাণু বিস্ফোরণের পর
আমেরিকা বেশ কিছু বিধিনিষেধও
আরোপ করেছিল। কিন্তু ৯/১১-র পর সে
সবই তুলে নেওয়া হয় আর পাকিস্তানও
বৃশ প্রশাসনের পৃথিবী জোড়া সন্ত্রাসদমন
অভিযানের এক বিশ্বস্ত সঙ্গীতে পরিণত
হয়। এই মুহূর্তে পাক-আফগান সীমান্তে
লাদেনকে খুঁজে বার করার যে তৎপরতা
চলছে, তাতেও পাকিস্তান অত্যন্ত জরুরি
ভূমিকা নিচ্ছে।

পাকিস্তানকে বিশেষ স্বীকৃতির
ঘোষণার পাশাপাশি, পাওয়েল অবশ্য আজ
এও পরিষ্কার জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, কাদিরকে
নিয়ে কিছু অস্বস্তিকর প্রশ্ন মুশারফের কাছে
তুলেছেন তিনি। ওই চক্রটি কী কী করেছে,
তার চেয়েও বড় কথা হল, সেই সময়
সরকারি মহলে সে ব্যাপারে কিছু জানা
গিয়েছিল কি না। "আমি মনে করি, এটা
অত্যন্ত যৌক্তিক একটা প্রশ্ন এবং সেটা
আমার মনে হয়, পাক কর্তৃপক্ষও জানতে
চান।" কাসুরি সাংবাদিকদের জানান, তিনি
পাওয়েলকে আশ্বস্ত করে বলেছেন যে,
তারা এই চক্রটির মূলোচ্ছেদের চেষ্টায়
কোনও ত্রুটি রাখছেন না। আর, এ সংক্রান্ত
যাবতীয় তথ্যই আমেরিকার কাছে পৌঁছে
দেওয়া হবে। কাসুরির সঙ্গে যৌথ
সাংবাদিক সম্মেলনে ভারত-পাক
সম্পর্কের ক্ষেত্রে কাশ্মীরকে প্রধান বিষয়
হিসেবে মানা উচিত কি না, সরাসরি সে
প্রশ্নের উত্তর না দিয়ে পাওয়েল বলেন,
কাশ্মীর ভারত-পাক শান্তি আলোচনায়
একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়। "গত ৫০
বছর ধরে কাশ্মীর দু'দেশের মধ্যে একটি
সমস্যা। শেষ পর্যন্ত এর সমাধানও করতে
হবে।" ভারতের তরফে বরাবরই বলা
হয়েছে, পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে দ্বিপাক্ষিক
বিষয়ে আমেরিকা শুধুই এক ভাল বন্ধু
মাত্র। পাওয়েলও বলেছেন, দু'পক্ষকে এটা
নিজেদের মধ্যে কথা বলেই মেটাতে হবে,
আমেরিকার কোনও কেন্দ্রীয় ভূমিকা
এখানে নেই। তবে তিনি ফের যোগ
করেছেন, যখনই প্রয়োজন হবে,
আমেরিকা এ ব্যাপারে সাহায্য করতে
পারে। — রয়টার্স, পি টি আই

টোকিও, ১৮ মার্চ— রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের
পরমাণু অস্ত্র পরিদর্শকদের তেহরানে বিনা
শর্তে কাজ করতে দেওয়া হবে বলে
জানিয়েছেন ইরানের জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা
পরিষদের সাধারণ সচিব হাসান রোহানি।
আন্তর্জাতিক পরমাণু শক্তি সংস্থার (আই এ
ই এ) প্রধান মহম্মদ এলবারাদেই
জানিয়েছেন ইরানে পরিদর্শক দল কাজ
করতে গিয়ে প্রাথমিক ভাবে বাধাগ্রস্ত হয়ে
ছিলেন। তবে ২৭ মার্চ তারা আবার ইরানে
ফিরে যাবেন। — রয়টার্স

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

7 9 MAR 2004

Powell to talk to Musharraf on terrorist camps

● Yet to decide on F-16s for Pakistan

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16. No decision has been taken by the United States on selling F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said today. He said he would speak to the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, about taking action against terrorist camps.

Addressing a joint press conference with the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, Gen. Powell denied that there was any quid pro quo between outsourcing and opening up of the Indian economy even as he urged New Delhi to ease bureaucratic obstacles and take further reform-related measures.

Gen. Powell said he would also speak to Gen. Musharraf about "any involvement" of past Pakistani Governments in nuclear proliferation, or anything "contemporary" in nature relating to it or what Washington refers to as the "A.Q. Khan network."

Gen. Powell met the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, the National Security Adviser, Brajesh Mishra, and the Finance Minister, Jaswant Singh. He is leaving for Kabul on Wednesday.

Asked whether his comment that no decision had been taken on selling F-16s to Pakistan reflected a shift in the Bush administration's posi-

tion, Gen. Powell said: "My comment over here was that we have to take into consideration any requests that are made of us; but no decisions have been made with respect to any particular military package, especially F-16s." He said that last year's \$3 billion economic package for Pakistan did not include F-16s.

On whether Pakistan had taken steps to dismantle terrorist training camps, he said that one of the "essential elements" of the recent agreement between India and Pakistan was an end to cross-border violence.

Saying he was "pleased" that activity across the Line of Control had come down significantly, Gen. Powell hoped it would stay that way. "We, of course, will be watching as the spring season approaches..." he added, aware of Indian concerns about renewed infiltration once the snows melt.

About the "role" of the Pakistan Government in nuclear proliferation, the Secretary of State said: "We certainly know the role played by Dr. Khan for some time now... We are pleased that Dr. Khan has acknowledged what he has done and we are pleased that we are getting a great deal of information from Pakistani authorities as a result of their interrogation of Dr. Khan and his associates..." Gen. Powell said the "Khan network" was "being broken up," making it clear that more had to be done.

USA cautions Pak on nuke, missile projects

PTI & AP

WASHINGTON, March 10. — The USA has urged Pakistan to exercise restraint in its nuclear weapons and missile programme to maintain peace in the South Asian region following the test firing of its *Shaheen-II* missile.

"We continue to urge Pakistan and other countries in the region to exercise restraint in their nuclear weapons and missile programmes, as part of an ongoing effort to relieve tensions and build confidence in the region," State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said yesterday in response to Islamabad's test firing of its first 2,000 km range surface-to-surface *Shaheen-II* ballistic missile. "We understand that Pakistan notified neighbouring countries before the test."

In Islamabad, foreign ministry spokesman Mr

Masood Khan said Pakistan's strategic goal was to have a "minimum credible deterrence".

The timing seemed linked more to internal Pakistani politics, with President Pervez Musharraf facing anger at home over a probe into a black market,

programme under pressure from the West.

"This is internal politics," said Mr Shahid ur-Rehman, author of a widely read book on Pakistan's nuclear programme. The test-firing "was basically aimed at quieting the Pakistani people who have

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Israel 'mullied attacking' Pak N-sites

Israel considered attacking nuclear installations in Pakistan in 1979 after the USA aired concerns over Islamabad's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons to attain parity with India, according to a media report in Jerusalem, adds PTI.

The possibility of an Israeli attack on Pakistani nuclear installations came up during Jimmy Carter's term as US President, *Ha'aretz* daily reported, quoting newly declassified US State Department documents. The documents make it clear that the USA did not hold special discussions to address Israel's "preventive strike" plans.

The documents were recently released by the National Security Archive, an independent research institute that specialises in disclosing unclassified documents under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.



US State Department spokesman Mr Boucher

'We continue to urge Pakistan and other countries in the region to exercise restraint in their nuclear weapons and missile programmes, as part of an ongoing effort to relieve tensions and build confidence in the region'

run by rogue Pakistani scientists, that allegedly sold nuclear know-how to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Many Pakistanis feel the scientists have been made scapegoats, and accuse Gen. Musharraf of jeopardizing the nation's nuclear

been accusing Gen. Musharraf of rolling back the nuclear programme".

He added that the *Shaheen-II* is believed to have been designed by Pakistani scientists based on Chinese technology distinct from North Korea's *Nodong*.

Two former generals hold fort in US-Pak relations

The New York Times
Washington, March 1

SINCE 9/11, US Secretary of State Colin Powell has talked on the phone at least 81 times with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, often when the US is demanding something. There are times when the two men slip into "general to general" mode.

One such exchange, State Department officials said, occurred in mid-2002, when India and Pakistan were massing troops. Powell phoned Musharraf but addressed him not as the secretary of state to a president but as one former general to another.

"All this talk about nukes,

you know, it's unthinkable," Powell told Musharraf, according to the officials.

"I know that," Musharraf was said to have replied.

"Well, we've got to stop talking about it, and we've got to find a way out of this," the secretary said, the officials recounted, adding that later that fall, tensions between India and Pakistan began to subside.

The story illustrates the intensity of the Pakistani-American relationship. It is one defined by mutual suspicion, mutual need, awkward disclosures about Pakistan's nuclear activities and a range of urgent issues.

Another case of unintended consequences with

Pakistan occurred when the Bush administration installed an anti-Taliban government in Kabul in early 2002. The Tajiks who were given most of the power were friendly to India. That led Pakistani security people who had long been close to the Pushtu-speaking Taliban to welcome their presence in border areas.

Pak denies deal with US
Pakistan on Monday denied a report that it had struck a deal to allow US troops to hunt for Osama bin Laden on its territory in return for support for Pakistan's pardon last month of nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. The *New Yorker* had reported the quid pro quo.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 MAR 2004

Nuclear disquiet hits US please-Pak policy

K.P. NAVAR ⁹⁻³ ²⁸⁰⁷

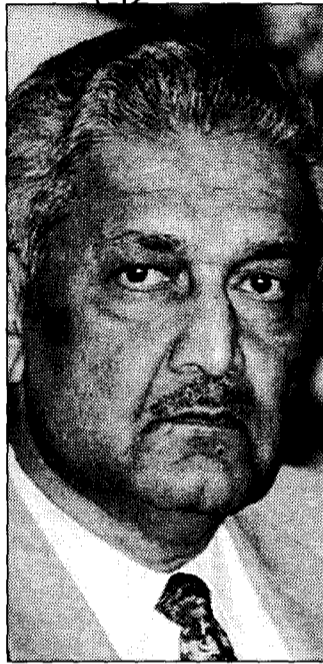
Washington, Feb. 27: For the first time since General Pervez Musharraf became an ally of President George W. Bush, the White House policy of appeasing Pakistan is facing a serious challenge on Capitol Hill, thanks to nuclear proliferator Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Secretary of state Colin Powell, who testified before the Senate budget committee yesterday on the state department's budget request for fiscal year 2005, was harangued over Musharraf's pardon for Khan and Washington's inability to do anything about it.

The budget proposes an increase of \$101 million in excess of what Bush had promised Musharraf when the two men met in Camp David last year. The raise, which takes assistance to Pakistan next year to a total of \$701 million is obviously a reward for Musharraf's fresh efforts to find Osama bin Laden "dead or alive" before the US presidential elections in November.

The Bush administration's efforts to handle Pakistan with kid gloves after Khan's "confessions" did not, however, impress Senators on the budget committee.

Senator Pete Domenici, a Republican from New Mexico, told Powell: "Weapons of mass destruction are moving around the world today like nothing we could have believed. We have a guy in Pakistan that, 10-years-ago, if you would have found him selling that stuff, you would have hung him in the marketplace —



Abdul Qadeer Khan

the worst proliferator ever is that fellow from Pakistan. Is that his name — Khan?"

Powell quietly replied: "Khan, sir — Dr Khan."

Domenici continued: "I mean, can you imagine admitting that he put weapons of mass destruction in five countries and we are still running around saying, well, we don't know what to do about him?"

The committee's chairman, Don Nickles, also a Republican, said: "I don't see him (Khan) being punished... It looks like he's getting off scot-free."

Powell replied that Khan is a national hero in Pakistan and occupies a special place in the life

of the Pakistani people. "President Musharraf is well aware of what Khan has been doing... and he got from Khan full acknowledgement of what he had done and a lot of information. And then President Musharraf felt it was in the best interests of his country and of his government and of the process of uncovering everything we could about this network, for him to give an conditional amnesty to Khan."

Powell said Khan cooperated with Musharraf and that a lot of information was coming out as a result of the nuclear scientist's openness.

"It is important to note that the amnesty he was given was a conditional one... which means full and open disclosure. And we are learning a lot from that."

He said the money proposed for Pakistan in the budget would be used "to help advance security and economic cooperation and opportunity for Pakistan's citizens, including a multi-year educational support programme".

The strong remarks by Senators against Musharraf yesterday coincided with a determination by Bush that Pakistan is cooperating with the US in the global war on terrorism and his directions to Powell to report this determination to the Congress.

There has been criticism of Musharraf on Capitol Hill before, but these have largely been from members of House of Representatives, that too members of the Indian Caucus.

The strong words by Senators makes a significant change that may not bode well for Islamabad.

Bush slams Khan, seeks tougher nuclear curbs

Agencies
Washington, February 12

IN A strong message to Pakistan, President George Bush has come down heavily on states that encourage nuclear proliferation. "Every civilised nation has a stake in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. These materials and technologies, and the people who traffic in them, cross many borders," said Bush.

In his first direct criticism of Pakistani scientist Dr AQ Khan — who is at the epicentre of the storm — Bush publicly accused him of illicit proliferation: "These dealers are motivated by greed and fanaticism," he said.

Bush said nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists and outlaw regimes were a threat to world peace. "The greatest threat before humanity today is the possibility of secret and sudden attack with chemical or biological or radiological or nu-

clear weapons."

Speaking at National Defence University, Bush credited the work of US and British intelligence officials in unravelling the sophisticated network ran by Khan. He also praised President Pervez Musharraf for his investigation into the scandal.

He stressed that direct action was needed to tackle the clandestine weapons network and called for global cooperation.

In another significant announcement that may tighten the nuclear control screws for even non-proliferating nations, Bush proposed a revamp in the UN nuclear agency and said that only the countries that have signed an Additional Protocol on nuclear technology transfer should be allowed to import equipment even for their civilian nuclear programmes.

The countries, which are under investigation for violating nuclear non-proliferation obligations, should not be allowed

to serve on the International Atomic Energy Agency Board as governors, he suggested.

Allowing potential violators to serve on the board creates an unacceptable barrier to effective action," he said. "Any State on the Board that comes under probe should be suspended."

The Additional Protocol requires countries to declare all their nuclear activities including civilian ones and allow the IAEA officials to inspect them.

Among other proposals, Bush called for the expansion of Proliferation Security Initiative. The PSI participants should bring to justice those who traffic

deadly weapons, shut down their infrastructure and freeze assets.

The President also called on nations to strengthen the laws that govern proliferation and asked the UN Security Council to quickly pass a resolution requiring all nations to criminalise proliferation.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 FEB 2002

USA counters Pervez lie

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11. — Seeking to disprove Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's claim that the USA had not given him convincing proof about nuclear proliferation activities, the US State Department has said that it provided "pieces of information" from time to time as part of the "ongoing dialogue" on the issue.

"We have talked to them at different moments about different issues that might have arisen that we might have learned about. So it is not a single moment of information", State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said yesterday.

"It's rather an ongoing dialogue that covered both the general concerns that we have had about possibilities, and then from time to time, pieces of

information that related to different aspects of things that we might have encountered or known were going on."

In an interview with the *New York Times* on Monday, Gen. Musharraf shared blame for the delay with Washington, saying it was not until October that American officials provid-

'We (the USA) have discussed issues on proliferation with Pakistan repeatedly over a long period of time'

ed him with evidence of the activities of the scientist, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan.

But, Mr Boucher said the US non-proliferation dialogue with Pakistan certainly goes back much farther than October (when Deputy Secretary of State Mr Richard Armitage went to Pakistan).

Ballistic Bush

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — Arguing that international efforts to combat nuclear proliferation have been neither broad nor effective enough, Mr George W Bush today called for tougher global action against dangerous regimes and terror outfits that seek nuclear and other deadly weapons. Mr Bush also called for preventing countries from acquiring nuclear enrichment and processing technology under the guise of building civilian power facilities. — AP

"What I would say is that we have had longstanding concerns about proliferation that could come from Pakistan. We have discussed non-proliferation issues with Pakistan repeatedly over a long period of time and it has been an issue of concern to us and President Musharraf as well," he added.

USA tells Pak to pull out N-roots

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10. — The USA has asked Pakistan to “pull up by its roots” the secret network of nuclear sales run by Dr AQ Khan, even as Gen. Pervez Musharraf blamed Washington for not providing evidence of the scientist’s activities on time.

“If they knew it earlier, they should have told us,” the President told the *New York Times*, adding “maybe a lot of things wouldn’t have happened.” He acknowledged for the first time that he had suspected Dr Khan’s activities for at least three years. It was not till October, he said, that US officials provided him with evidence of his involvement in the proliferation.

US secretary of state Gen. Colin Powell told reporters here that the Pakistani government had done quite a bit now to roll up the network: “I said to President Musharraf that we wanted to learn as much as we could about what Dr Khan and the network was up to, and it has to be pulled up by its roots and examined to make sure that we’ve left nothing behind,” Gen. Powell said.

THE POWELL & PERVEZ SHOW



'No one can touch Khan' No-body in Pakistan “could touch” Dr Khan, foreign minister Mr Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri has said. “Imagine the USA doing this to Charles Lindbergh (the first aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic) or Einstein. Dr Khan is that kind of national hero,” Mr Kasuri said.

N-command: The Pakistani army has never been in control of the nuclear programme except under military rule, former army chief Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg told BBC. “The army has never been in control unless there has been a military ruler.”

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THE STATESMAN

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Pak nukes in US hands: report

By Chidanand Rajghatta
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Washington: The United States has been working secretly with Pakistan to protect the latter's nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists or rogue commanders, NBC Television reported on Friday.

According to the TV network, a group of American nuclear experts, called the US Liaison Committee, is "spending millions to safeguard Pakistan's more than 40 nuclear weapons". They meet at least every two months and are helping Pakistan develop state-of-the-art security, including secret authorisation codes for the arsenal. In effect, this

would mean the US has virtually taken control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, one reason why Bush administration officials seem to be so sanguine, rather than agitated, about the developments relating to Pakistan's proliferation activities in the last week.

Asked if the US was not sending a wrong message to proliferators around the world with its blasé attitude to developments in Pakistan, especially the pardoning of A.Q. Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, the smug response from Secretary of State Colin Powell was, "Well, the biggest is

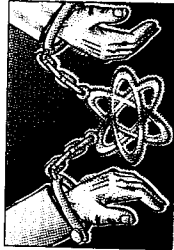
now gone, so I think that is a remarkable success. So we don't have to worry about proliferation from Khan or his network." Mr Powell said the action that Gen Pervez Musharraf

took with respect to pardoning Khan was "something that he felt it was appropriate for him to do and he has explained his position thoroughly".

He said he expected to be talking to Mr Musharraf over the next several days to make sure that there was a "full understanding" of what the Khan network had done, "so that there were no remnants of it left, and then there's no possibility of

further proliferating activities coming out of that network".

In light of the NBC report and statements by Mr Powell and others, it would appear that Washington now has a pretty firm handle on Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Wondering about why Iraq, which had sold no nuclear arms, had been subjected to a conquest, while Pakistan, a violator, was being congratulated, *The New York Times* said on Saturday that "if this bewildering contradiction means that the United States has accomplished something behind the scenes, fine. Sometimes realpolitik requires allowing a man like Gen Musharraf to claim to be standing up to foreign pressures."



Ham

Now, stop N-proliferation: USA to Pak

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. — Amid demands for global monitoring of Pakistan's nuclear programme in the wake of its top scientists providing sensitive technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea, the USA has asked Islamabad to ensure that it is not a source of proliferation again and take steps to prevent the "private network and individuals" from making such transfers in the future.

It is important that Pakistan take steps to make sure that it is not a source of proliferation again, either with materials, equipment, or expertise that can help other countries develop weapons of mass destruction, state department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher told reporters here yesterday.

"We see Pakistan taking steps that go to that end. We see Pakistan

developing information as part of an investigation that is useful to the whole international community to go after this private network, this network of people sharing materials, information and expertise. And we would expect them to share that information with the international community," he said.

In an apparent disapproval of the presidential pardon to the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, for leaking nuclear secrets, he said: "We would expect any country that is conducting an investigation to decide what the appropriate penalties under their judicial system and their laws."

Whether it is Pakistan or Malaysia, the USA, Mr Boucher said, would expect any country that is conducting a probe to decide the appropriate penalties under their judicial system and their laws.

Asked if pardoning a man who has

transferred ^{SR} weapons-related technology to countries hostile to the USA is appropriate, Mr Boucher said:

"I don't think it is a matter for the USA to sit in judgment on... what is important in this case is really two things: One is that the network and the individuals who were doing this in Pakistan or from Pakistan be found out, stopped, prevented from making any such transfers again.

"...that the information that they develop is shared with the international community, because the international community as a whole needs to go after this network that extends far beyond Pakistan in some cases." The actions that Pakistan has been taking with regard to this investigation and uncovering information about the actions of various Pakistanis, said Mr Boucher, need to be seen in the context of the overall international effort against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Fall of a hero

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 6. — Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan must rue the day Colonel Muammar Gaddafi walked into his life a few years ago offering him riches if he would help Libya to build an atomic bomb. He had a proven record in helping Iran and North Korea to develop their nuclear programmes. He was not cheap — the deal would cost Tripoli millions of pounds — but unlike foreign scientists from the former Soviet Union, he was discreet. In exchange for cash transfers to off-shore accounts in the Gulf, Mr Khan established for Libya a network that spanned three continents and employed teams of middlemen, technicians and scientists that would give Tripoli a sophisticated nuclear programme, built almost from scratch.

From 1995 until last year, Mr Khan oversaw the supply of equipment that would enable Libya to convert and enrich uranium and the blueprints for designing and making a nuclear bomb. The network he built involved a Malaysian engineering firm, Somali Precision Engineering, and middlemen from Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Together they delivered in secret thousands of parts to Libya, right under the noses of Western intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. — The Times, London