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20/12

A VINDICTIVE MOVE

Disarmament

THE UNITED STATES has launched an ill-judged and bloody-minded campaign to deny the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohammed ElBaradei, a third term after his current tenure expires in 2005. In justification of its campaign, Washington cites the "Geneva rules" that are generally observed by the 14 countries that provide the bulk of the funds for the various United Nations institutions. According to the U.S., these rules stipulate that those who head U.N. agencies should not serve more than two terms. However, the commonly held view is that these so-called rules have no binding force. Most countries represented on the IAEA's board of governors have a positive assessment of Dr. ElBaradei's performance in office since his appointment in 1997 and are prepared to set aside the convention. Under these circumstances the U.S. might not be able to win the support of 12 countries on the 35-member board so as to be in a position to block the Egyptian technocrat's re-appointment. As an alternative, Washington is looking for a candidate who can oppose the incumbent in an election. However, if the recent voting record of the board is an indication, these efforts might not produce the desired result.

The U.S. recently failed to persuade the IAEA board to condemn Iran for pursuing a nuclear weapon programme and to have the matter referred to the U.N. Security Council. Washington believes it would have succeeded had the IAEA chief categorically stated that Iran had violated its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. (According to reports that have not been denied, the Central Intelligence Agency tapped Dr. ElBaradei's telephones in search of evidence that he was hiding vital information about the Iranian programme.) However, other

members of the board believe that the IAEA chief did a commendable job during tough negotiations with Teheran. While Dr. ElBaradei took the view that the Iranians did not pose an imminent proliferation threat, he consistently pressed them to dispel all doubts. The IAEA chief worked closely with a troika of European Foreign Ministers to secure an agreement that led to the suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment activities. France, Germany and the United Kingdom now believe that they can provide the incentives necessary for making Iran give up any plans it might have to acquire nuclear weapons. These countries are not likely to support any change in the leadership of the IAEA at this juncture since that will complicate the process of arriving at an amicable settlement.

The opposition to the U.S. plans is at least partly attributable to the widespread perception that the real reason for the move against the IAEA chief is quite different from what is cited. Dr. ElBaradei incurred the displeasure of the U.S. administration when he certified that Iraq did not have a nuclear weapon programme — and thereby negated a principal justification advanced for the illegal invasion. The call for his ouster became more strident after the IAEA announced several hundred tonnes of explosive material were missing from an Iraqi depot because the invading U.S.-led forces had failed to secure the site. Opinion-makers sympathetic to the Republican Party accused the IAEA chief of engineering this supposed leak at the peak of the campaign season in order to damage President George Bush's prospects for re-election. The Bush administration, which has a record of punishing those who oppose its schemes, should not be surprised if others believe it is acting against Dr. ElBaradei out of vindictiveness.

20 DEC 2004 THE HINDU

US spying on IAEA chief

Agencies
Washington, December 12

IRKED BY International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei's "soft" position on Tehran's nuclear programme, the US is scrutinising transcripts of dozens of his telephone talks with Iranian diplomats, in search of ammunition to prevent him from getting a third term in the post, US officials were quoted as saying on Sunday.

"The intercepted calls have not produced any evidence of nefarious conduct by ElBaradei," the *Washington Post* reported, quoting three unnamed US officials who had read the transcripts.

"Some people think he sounds way too soft on the Iranians, but that's about it," one official said.

The Egyptian diplomat, 62, had invited the ire of Washington by questioning



Mohamed ElBaradei
Thorn in the US flesh

US intelligence on Iraq and the George Bush administration opposes his winning a third term in 2005 as the chief of the UN nuclear watchdog. Washington has no clear candidate to replace him but is nevertheless "searching for material" to support its argument that he should step down, the *Post* said.

Action against Iran not ruled out

THE US doesn't rule out the possibility of military action against Iran if the ongoing diplomatic efforts fail to result in the "permanent abandonment" of its nuclear programme, a senior Bush administration official was quoted as saying on Sunday. "I don't think that anybody should be ruling in or ruling out anything while we are conducting diplomacy," US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, Douglas J. Feith, told *The Jerusalem Post* on the possibility of a military action in an interview.

PTI, Jerusalem

13 DEC 2004

INDIAN EXPRESS

Iran seeks IAEA monitoring of N-programme

Associated Press

VIENNA, Nov. 15. — Iran has agreed to suspend all uranium enrichment within a week and has asked the UN nuclear watchdog agency to monitor its compliance to the deal it worked out with key European nations, the agency said today.

The agreement detailed in a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency appeared to represent a breakthrough for the Europeans after months of stonewalling by the Iranians.

“Iran’s acceptance of suspension is a political decision, not an obligation,” foreign ministry spokesman Mr Hamid Reza Asefi said.

Iran’s promise to meet a key

agency demand with the suspension appeared to hurt US hopes that the IAEA board would decide later this month to enlist the UN Security Council to crack down on Iran for what Washington says is a secret weapons programme.

But the deal does not settle the enrichment issue and buys Iran more time. Teheran has committed only to a temporary suspension, leaving open the possibility that it could resume enrichment within months — and with it activities that the USA says are geared toward making nuclear weapons.

The agreement commits Iran only to suspend for the time it takes to work out the details of an aid package with the Europeans or until negotiations collapse.



Iran's acceptance of suspension is a political decision, not an obligation — Hamid Reza Asefi

The Americans want a permanent suspension or Iran to scrap any enrichment technology. In Teheran, Mr Hasan Rowhani, Iran's top nuclear

negotiator, emphasised that the freeze was temporary.

“In the agreement there is no talk of cessation but only voluntary suspension” of enrichment, he told reporters shortly after the report was released to diplomats accredited to the Vienna-based IAEA.

He said Iran’s full suspension didn’t include operations at a heavy water production plant Iran was building in Arak, central Iran.

Under the agreement, a working committee would be formed in early December to define what economic, technological, security and nuclear cooperation Europe will provide. Mr Rowhani said, adding it would report back within three months.

“This is a preliminary agree-

ment that will lead us to a final agreement between Iran and the Europeans,” he said.

The same agency report that cited Iran’s pledge to freeze enrichment also said questions still remain about whether Iran had been trying to develop technology to make nuclear arms.

All nuclear material that Iran had declared to the agency in the past year has been accounted for, “and therefore we can say that such material is not diverted to prohibited (weapons) activities,” said a report.

But it also said its author — IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei — was “not yet in the position to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials” that could have been used for a weapons programme.

16 NOV 2004

THE STATESMAN

The Nuclear Watchdog

ElBaradei Should Continue As IAEA Chief

By T P Sreenivasan

It is India's good fortune to play host to Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). By now, his profile, which resembles Mahatma Gandhi's with his bald head, spectacles and large ears, has become familiar around the world. His nomination for the Nobel peace prize 2004 was on account of the efforts he made to avoid, or at least delay, the Iraq war by repeatedly stating to the UN Security Council that he had not yet found any evidence of nuclear weapons or related activity in Iraq. But the Nobel committee felt Wangari Maathai's million trees did more for mankind than ElBaradei's unsuccessful bid to prevent war.

The Iraq episode is not the only feather in ElBaradei's cap. He runs one of the most efficient UN specialised agencies both in terms of technical capability and political skills. The IAEA has never been plagued by scandal. It enjoys the support of a wide variety of states, ranging from those without even a nuclear laboratory to nuclear weapon states. The nuclear weapon states rely on it to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons beyond themselves by building a robust inspection system, based on the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguards Agreements, backed further by threat of political action by the UN Security Council.

The IAEA is the only UN body to which the US continues to contribute 25% of its budget. India, Pakistan and Israel are active in the IAEA to safeguard their special status. Those who have large nuclear programmes work with the IAEA to satisfy the international community that their activities are within the parameters established by their treaty obligations. The vast majority of the member states, who have no nuclear programmes, depend on the agency's technical cooperation programme to secure nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. They obtain technology and equipment in areas like health and eradication of pests in return for their commitment not to develop nuclear weapons. The IAEA is more than a watchdog; it has the responsibility to foster the growth of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. It has to maintain a balance among its three pillars, namely, technology, safety and verification.

Iraq, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran and Libya posed different challenges to the agency. DPRK was a case of a member of the NPT cheating and then leaving the treaty to acquire nuclear weapons. The US turned to the IAEA to make a determination that the

DPRK was not in compliance with the safeguards agreement. The IAEA board had no difficulty in coming to that determination, but the revelation that Pakistan might have assisted the DPRK in its nuclear programme added a dimension, which was important from our perspective. The pro-Pakistan elements in the board tried to gloss over the issue when we raised the matter, but we succeeded in including in the chairman's statement on the DPRK a reference to the sources of supply, thus indicting Pakistan.

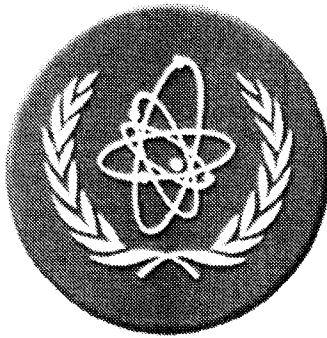
The Iran saga is yet to be played out, but the IAEA has handled it well. Its first report on Iran in June 2003 indicated clearly that Iran had something to hide, and asked it to explain its failure to act in accordance with its obligations. The board of governors asked Iran and the IAEA to work together to resolve all the issues. The constant endeavour was to keep all issues within the confines of the IAEA. The saga continues as pressure mounts on Iran to give up its uranium enrichment programme, even as France, Germany and the UK try to evolve a package that would meet Iran's needs for energy development without the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The basic position of the IAEA remains that discussions should continue and Iran be given more time to clarify the various issues raised. The November 15-16 meeting of the board would be the next occasion for Iran to avert international action by proving its adherence to its obligations.

The US and UK sprang the Libya surprise on the IAEA, when they said in December 2003 that Libya, a party to the NPT, had

been working on developing nuclear weapons for the last 20 years. Libya had a change of heart suddenly and agreed not only to abandon its programme but also surrender the material they had assembled and subject themselves to IAEA inspections. The IAEA was quick to act to ensure that the vestiges of Libya's nuclear adventure were quickly disposed of.

ElBaradei completes his second term and a total of eight years as director general in 2005 and has already indicated that he will be available for another term. There is an opinion that the heads of agencies should have only two terms in future. The Group of 77, which constitutes a majority of the member states in the agency, has already pledged its support to ElBaradei and several other countries are positively inclined. The present situation of the agency demands the continued leadership of ElBaradei regardless of the norms being established for heads of Agencies. India will do well to reiterate its support to him publicly to reinforce the G-77 position.

(The author represented India at IAEA.)



Nuclear Outlaws

Rogue States Make a Mockery of NPT

By K Subrahmanyam

General Musharraf recently claimed that Pakistan was no more a rogue state in the eyes of the world. The world, according to him, was convinced that Pakistan was not instrumental in nuclear proliferation. In his Iftaar party speech on October 25, he said he had wisely handled the issue of A Q Khan and other scientists on the international stage.

Within a few hours of this claim, the *Washington Post* of October 26, 2004 carried a well-researched front-page article by Barton Gellman and Dafna Linzer, on Pakistan's proliferation. The article makes a startling disclosure — that Dr A Q Khan's proliferation activities were perhaps not confined to North Korea, Libya and Iran. Dr Khan's documents overseas suggest that there was a fourth country to which Dr Khan might have arranged supplies of uranium enrichment equipment. A whole shipload of equipment was expected in Libya in addition to 500 tonnes earlier unloaded and surrendered to the US authorities. The ship did not arrive and was believed to have been diverted to another destination. The US and British intelligence authorities are as yet unable to identify the fourth country. But they suspect it to be Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, in that order of probability.

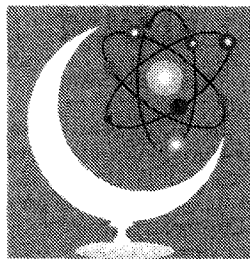
Pakistan has denied western authorities and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to Dr A Q Khan. According to the authors of the article, while Pakistan supplies answers to written queries by the US and UK intelligence, its cooperation is less than wholehearted. Given the dismal record of western intelligence in tracking proliferation, it is difficult to accept their conclusions on the suspect fourth country. The most logical candidate is Saudi Arabia. It has already purchased long range CSS-2 nuclear-capable missiles from China. It is unlikely to tolerate a Shia, nuclear Iran without an appropriate response. The Saudis have financed Pakistan's nuclear programme. Prince Sultan was the only foreigner to be permitted to visit the nuclear facilities at Kahuta.

When the NPT review conference is held next year, the nuclear member nations not recognised by NPT — Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Iran and the unnamed nation — could well outnumber the five recognised members, namely, the US, Russia, Britain, France and China. Of the six outside the pale of NPT, North Korea, Iran and the unnamed nation deliberately violated the treaty, thanks to Pakistan. Israel, India and Pakistan are not signatories to the treaty. Strangely, the US and UK do not consider Pakistan as a proliferating country, even as they concentrate their ire on Iran and North Korea.

Iran was subjected to WMD attacks by Saddam Hussein while the western powers looked the other way. Saddam's nuclear, chemical and biological weapon proliferation received tacit support from western companies. After this, Iran sought nuclear weapon technology from Pakistan in 1987, as was mentioned by Dr A Q Khan in his confession and confirmed by General Aslam Beg. Today, most observers agree there is no stopping North Korea and Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Sanctions are unlikely to work against oil-rich Iran or the hermit country, North Korea. After the US experience in invasion of Iraq, military action against either country seems unlikely.

It is obvious that the safeguards envisaged in the non-proliferation treaty have failed to stop members from defying the regime and acquiring nuclear weapons. Pakistan, the major proliferator, aided North Korea and Iran to turn nuclear, cocking a snook at the much-touted NPT and yet not attracting any penalties. This has only increased the risks of further proliferation. In view of this, the US and its allies have attempted to put in place new measures to halt proliferation, not envisaged in the NPT.

They include criminalisation of proliferation, expediting US help to Russia under Nunn-Lugar amendment to safeguard fissile materials of the Cold War era, tightening supply of equipment and materials, strengthening the IAEA as a policing organisation, among others. Since these measures have been unilaterally mooted by the US and its allies, they have run into opposition, particularly from



China, the original proliferator to Pakistan. It is now clear that a new regime is needed to prevent nuclear weapons and materials falling into the hands of non-state actors. The risks of jihadi non-state actor attempting to get at nuclear weapons and materials are higher in the Gulf region which has seen 1,300 years of religious rivalry between Shias and Sunnis. With Shia power expanding in West Asia and Iraq coming under majority Shia control, tensions are likely to increase between majority Shia populations and Sunni-ruling elites in the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia.

If the fourth state to which Pakistan proliferated happens to be Saudi Arabia, then the world should worry about the possibility of nuclear escalation between Wahabi Saudi Arabia and its ally, jihadi Sunni Pakistan on one side, and the Shia Iran and Iraq on the other. The longest war with highest casualties in the developing world was waged between Shia Iran and Sunni-led Iraq, in which WMD was used. The international community should develop an effective anti-proliferation regime, keeping in mind the prevailing tensions in the Gulf, while ensuring that nuclear materials do not fall into the hands of non-state actors in this region.

01 NOV 2004

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Iraq nuke material being looted, says UN

Vienna, Oct. 12 (Reuters): The UN nuclear watchdog is worried the US-led war aimed at disarming Iraq may have unleashed a proliferation crisis if looters have sold equipment that can be used to make atomic weapons, western diplomats said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitored Saddam Hussein's nuclear sites before last year's Iraq war, said yesterday equipment and materials that could be used to make atomic weapons have been disappearing from Iraq but neither Baghdad nor Washington had noticed.

"If some of this stuff were to end up in Iran, some people would be very concerned," a diplomat close to the IAEA said. "The IAEA's big concern would be profiteering, people who would sell this stuff with no regard for who is buying it." The profiteers could have sold the items on to groups or countries interested in weapons, the diplomat added.

The US today said it would investigate the IAEA's report. "Obviously we'll do a full investigation, working with the Iraqis," US deputy ambassador Anne Patterson said at the UN when asked about the report by the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog.

The US believes Iraq's



A woman takes a rifle, said to be Saddam Hussein's favourite weapon, to an arms collection point in Baghdad. (AFP)

neighbour, Iran, is secretly developing nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian atomic energy programme. Tehran denies this, insisting its nuclear ambitions are limited to generating electricity.

Pre-war US allegations that Saddam had revived his atomic weapons programme from the early 1990s have never been proven.

But the IAEA has warned countries to keep a close eye on all their nuclear sites due to multiple warnings from western intelligence agencies that terrorist organisations are interested in getting their hands on a nuclear device.

Satellite imagery shows entire buildings in Iraq that

once housed high-precision equipment have been dismantled, IAEA chief Mohamed El-Baradei said in a letter to the UN Security Council.

British foreign secretary Jack Straw said he believed most of the removal of materials and equipment took place in the chaos that reigned shortly after the invasion last spring. "It is not clear, but it appears, and I'm seeking more details after receipt of the IAEA report overnight, that most of the unauthorised removal took place in the immediate aftermath of the major conflict in March and April last year," Straw told parliament.

The diplomat close to the

IAEA said Straw's comment implied the removal of materials and equipment that took place after April 2003 had been authorised.

"If that is the case, the IAEA would like to know," he said, adding that the UN watchdog had received no response so far from the Iraqi, U.S. or British authorities in this matter.

In 1991, the IAEA detected Saddam's clandestine nuclear weapons programme and spent the next seven years investigating and dismantling it. By the time UN inspectors fled the country in December 1998, Iraq's covert atom bomb programme was gone.

IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said that before the US-led invasion in March 2003, all the nuclear materials, equipment and facilities that have disappeared from satellite photos were accounted for and were not being used in a weapons programme.

"This is dual-use stuff of which — when we were there — we were certain was not being misused," he said, adding that everything had been tagged or sealed and was closely monitored. "It was systematically removed," Gwozdecky said.

Inspectors welcome

If UN nuclear inspectors want to return to Iraq to check for missing equipment and materials, they are welcome, a government minister said today.

Science and technology minister Rashad Omar was responding to concerns raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency at the "apparent systematic dismantlement" of the physical remnants of Saddam Hussein's once-vigorous nuclear programme. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today he hoped all Shia fighters in Baghdad's Sadr City would join a cash-for-weapons disarmament programme.

China blames impasse on USA, N Korea

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 29. — China's foreign minister blamed the "mutual lack of trust" between the USA and North Korea for the impasse in six-nation talks on resolving the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

In an interview yesterday with news agencies at China's UN mission, foreign minister Mr Li Zhaoxing said there had been "important progress" in three previous rounds of talks in Beijing involving the USA, the two

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Korea, Russia, China and Japan. A fourth round of talks had been scheduled to take place by the end of September, but North Korea pulled back after revelations about South Korean experiments with nuclear weapons technology.

South Korea disclosed recently that its scientists conducted a plutonium-based nuclear experiment more than 20 years ago and a uranium-enrichment experiment in 2000.

"The main difficulty is the exceptional mutual lack of trust between

North Korea and the United States," Mr Li said.

Asylum seekers

About 45 suspected North Korean asylum seekers today barged into the Canadian Embassy here in an attempt to flee from the poverty-stricken Stalinist state. A Canadian Embassy official told reporters that the Embassy staff were providing essentials to the group of people. The large group, apparently scaled the high and barbed compound wall, adds PTI.

Diary **N Korea has
N-arms to
deter USA** *5/2*

UNHQ, Sept. 28. — North Korea says it has turned the plutonium from 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods into nuclear weapons to serve as a deterrent against increasing US nuclear threats and to prevent a nuclear war in north-east Asia.

Warning that the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula "is snowballing," vice-foreign minister Mr Choe Su Hon told UN General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting that Pyongyang had "no other option but to possess a nuclear deterrent" because of US policies he claimed were designed to "eliminate" North Korea. "Our deterrent is, in all its intents and purposes, the self-defensive means to cope with the increasing US nuclear threats and further, prevent a nuclear war in NE Asia," he said after his speech. — AP

THE STATESMAN

29 SEP 2008

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IRAN AND NON-PROLIFERATION

WHILE IRAN HAS the capacity to enrich uranium to weapon grade levels, it is apparently less interested in developing nuclear arms than in securing external assistance for its energy programme. The United States and other countries that seek to enforce the global non-proliferation regime rely on two arguments to support their contention that the Iranian nuclear programme has a weapon orientation. First, they maintain that a country rich in petroleum resources does not really need alternative sources of energy. Secondly, they contend that if the intention and purpose of enrichment is peaceful, uranium needs to be enriched only to much lower levels than Iran is currently capable of. The first line of reasoning is weak: no country can impose energy policies on another; moreover, it was Washington that encouraged the Shah's regime to develop a nuclear programme. In response to the second argument, Teheran says it is willing to reach an agreement on enrichment levels through negotiations but will not bow to *diktats*. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has tried to strike a compromise but the attempt has not succeeded mainly because it is under American pressure to take a tough line. At a recent meeting of the IAEA's executive board, other member-countries were able to fend off Washington's demand that the matter should be referred to the United Nations Security Council and sanctions considered if Iran refused to wind up its enrichment programme by October 31. Instead, the Agency called for a freeze of all enrichment activities and decided to reconsider the issue at an executive board meeting in November. While rejecting this call, Teheran signalled an intent to continue converting uranium yellowcake into gas. However, it declared that it would suspend further enrichment activities as a goodwill gesture. It wants the IAEA to come forward with a new initiative.

As a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Prolifer-

ation Treaty (NPT), Iran is ^{discriminated} entitled to external assistance for its civilian programme. With Washington imposing sanctions in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, such assistance has not been available. Iran relied on clandestine methods to sustain the programme until 1995, when Russia signed a contract to build reactors for the 1000 megawatt Busheer power plant. In June 2003, the IAEA declared that Iran "had failed to report certain nuclear materials and activities" it had developed with assistance from rogue proliferators, including the network run by Pakistan's Abdul Qadeer Khan. This finding led to a confrontation between Teheran and Washington that might have taken a dangerous turn had the United Kingdom, France and Germany not intervened. Adopting a constructive stance, these countries offered to help the Iranian energy programme once the controversy over enrichment activities was cleared up. Iran's current manoeuvres are clearly aimed at making the votaries of the NPT deliver on their promises and live up to their obligations under the discriminatory global nuclear bargain.

While the leaders of the theocratic regime have declared that they have no intention of developing weapons, many governments are reluctant to take them at their word. Teheran must avoid falling into the temptation of believing that non-conventional weapons would confer a measure of security, given a strategic situation in which the U.S. has invaded and occupied countries to its east and west. Iran follows a policy of strategic ambiguity in an effort to strengthen its demand that Israel too should be pressed to give up its nuclear weapons. The Zionist state, which is not a signatory to the NPT, has not been under any pressure to give up the arsenal it is known to possess. Iran has just cause to complain that the votaries of the non-proliferation regime persist with their blatant double standards.

THE HINDU 23 SEP 2004

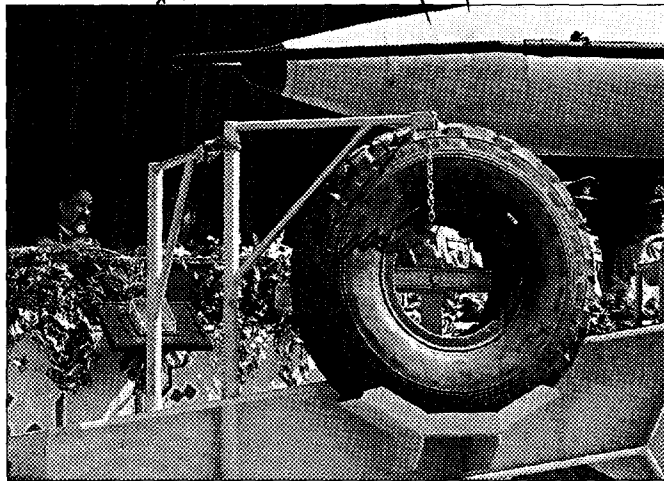
Iran vows to continue N-drive

Agence France-Presse
Tehran, September 21

IRAN STAGED its annual show of military might, with President Mohammad Khatami vowing the Islamic republic will push on with its controversial nuclear programme even if it risks international isolation.

Khatami's warning came as Iran paraded its range of ballistic missiles draped in banners vowing to "crush America" and "wipe Israel off the map", and announced it had begun converting a large amount of uranium mineral into the feedstock for enriching uranium. The President said the international community had to "acknowledge our natural and legal right and open the path for understanding... so we can accept comprehensive international supervision and we can continue our path to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes".

"Otherwise we will continue on this path even if the result is the cutting off of international supervision," he told a parade marking the beginning of "Sacred Defence Week", the anniversary of the outbreak of war with Iraq in 1980. "We have made our choice and it is now the turn of others to chose," he said in a response to a tough



AP

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami (left) looks at the *Shahab-3* missile during a military parade in Tehran on Tuesday.

resolution passed on Saturday by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Vienna-based body has demanded that Iran halt its controversial uranium enrichment-related activities, a part of the nuclear fuel cycle that can be directed to both energy and weapons purposes.

The US in particular accuses Iran of using an atomic energy drive as a cover for weapons developments, and is seeking to have the country hauled before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

But Khatami also repeated denials that Iran was seeking nuclear weapons. "If we are under supervision or not, we will in no way try to acquire nuclear weapons because it is against our religion and culture. We are opposed to nuclear weapons," he said.

The military parade, held near the mausoleum of Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the southern outskirts of Tehran, featured ballistic missiles, tanks and militiamen on off-road motorcycles.

US to arm Israel against Tehran

THE US plans to sell Israel \$319 million worth of air-launched bombs, including 500 "bunker busters" able to penetrate Iran's underground nuclear facilities, Israeli security sources said on Tuesday. The *Haaretz* quoted a Pentagon report as saying the planned procurement sought "to maintain Israel's qualitative advantage and advance US strategic and tactical interests." But a senior Israeli security source who confirmed the *Haaretz* story said: "This is not the sort of ordnance needed for the Palestinian front. Bunker busters could serve Israel against Iran, or possibly Syria."

Reuters, Jerusalem

A banner stating "Israel must be wiped off the map" was draped on the side of a Shahab-2 missile, while a banner saying "We will crush America under our feet" was on the side of a trailer carrying the latest Shahab-3 missile.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 22 SEP 2004

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UN inspectors visit S Korea for nuke probe

Winn
Associated Press *SP*

2004
SEOUL, Sept. 19. — A UN nuclear watchdog team arrived in South Korea today for a follow-up probe into the country's secret nuclear experiments.

The visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency team comes after South Korea recently acknowledged that its scientists once dabbled in extracting plutonium and enriching uranium — both of which can be used to make nuclear arms.

South Korea has repeatedly said the experiments were purely scientific research, but acknowledged it should have revealed details to the UN nuclear agency.

After arriving, the five-member delegation declined to give details of their investigation and left for the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute in Daejeon, 200 km south of Seoul, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. An IAEA team made an initial visit earlier this month.

South Korea's announcement of its nuclear activity has threatened to disrupt already troubled efforts to hold another round of talks aimed at persuading North Korea to end its nuclear weapons programme.

Pyongyang yesterday said the USA was ignoring the nuclear activities of its allies while trying to pressure the North to give up its nuclear capability. "South Korea's clandestine experiments go to prove that the US double standards are a fundamental factor of the nuclear proliferation," said KCNA, the North's official news agency.

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THE STATESMAN

20 SEP 2004

Teheran snubs IAEA demands

TEHERAN, Sept. 19. — Iranian lawmakers today called on the government to ignore demands from the UN nuclear watchdog agency that the country freeze all uranium enrichment work and a top official said the demands are "illegal" — but held out the possibility of negotiations on the issue.

In remarks that were at times defiant, Teheran's top nuclear negotiator Mr Hasan Rowhani boasted Iran had advanced its nuclear know-how despite international attempts to rein it in. He warned Iran later might limit its cooperation with the United International Atomic Energy

Agency, but stopped short of outright rejection of its demands.

"We are committed to the suspension of actual enrichment, but we have no decision to expand the suspension," Mr Rowhani said a day after the IAEA governing board issued its demand to freeze all enrichment-related work and said it would judge Teheran's compliance in two months. "This demand is illegal," he said. "The IAEA board of governors has no right to make such a suspension obligatory for any country."

"Actual enrichment" refers to

'BAN ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT WORK ILLEGAL'

as production, assembly and testing of centrifuges, were likely to continue.

If the IAEA refers questions about Iranian nuclear activities to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions, According to a treaty Iran signed last year, Teheran is required to allow unfettered inspections of its nuclear facilities. Iran began implementing the additional protocol right away, though technically it has yet to be ratified by the parliament and made into law.

More than 200 lawmakers in Iran's conservative-dominated

parliament threatened to block ratification. "While resolutely rejecting the illegal provisions of the resolution, we warn that the continued defiance of principles by the IAEA's board of governors leaves no room for the parliament to approve the additional protocol, and will lead us to the conclusion that what is the benefit of opening the country to IAEA inspectors?," the lawmakers said in a letter read out in an open session of parliament today. They also called on the government to "continue the policy of controlling the nuclear fuel cycle and ignore the (IAEA) resolution." — AP



Iran's nuclear negotiator Mr Rowhani the injection of uranium gas into centrifuges. Mr Rowhani indicated Iran's other activities, such

10-11-04
By Ian Traynor

U.S., Europe fall out over Iran's n-plan

By Ian Traynor
VIENNA, SEPT. 16. The U.S. was at loggerheads with Britain, France and Germany yesterday over how to deter Iran from developing a military nuclear programme.

The row paralysed a crucial board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Washington balked at European attempts to give Iran one last chance to dispel doubts about its 20-year-old nuclear programme, and insisted on a formula that would see

Teheran reported to the U.N. Security Council for sanctions unless it complied with the IAEA.

The session was called off yesterday and last night diplomats said the meeting could end without agreement tomorrow.

'Too lame'

The Americans accused the Europeans of being too lame and accommodating towards the Islamic Republic.

The E.U. draft resolution, which reflects exasperation at what it considers to be broken

promises by Teheran in the past year, threatens penalties for the Iranian Government's reluctance to come clean.

It urges Iran "immediately and verifiably" to suspend all parts of its uranium enrichment programme, the key to producing a nuclear bomb.

The draft says the row has dragged on long enough, and that when the nuclear watchdog's board next meets in November, it should reach a final verdict on what to do.

That is too soft for the Americans who are demanding tougher wording, setting a

deadline for compliance and making Iran's referral to the Security Council in New York automatic if it defies the ultimatum.

'Remedy all failures'

A rival formula submitted by the U.S. said: "It is essential and urgent that Iran remedy all failures identified by the agency ... no later than October 31."

The E.U. draft also asks the IAEA's chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, to deliver a comprehensive verdict on Iran's nuclear activities by November, including "his best assessment of the im-

plications" — in plain language, whether Iran is running a secret bomb programme.

It is unlikely that Dr. ElBaradei will be able to deliver such a statement within six weeks. Failure to rule out a covert Iranian military project could be enough to demand sanctions.

The American line is being dictated by John Bolton, the hawkish Undersecretary of State for Counter-Proliferation, who was in Europe last week and who was consulted on the E.U. draft last Friday in Geneva.

— ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2004

Mushroom cloud over N Korea raises N-fears

KIM MIYOUNG & PAUL ECKERT
SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 12

A HUGE explosion rocked North Korea near the border with China three days ago, producing a mushroom cloud that sparked speculation Pyongyang might have tested an atomic weapon, Yonhap news agency reported today.

The South Korean agency said the blast on Thursday in Kimhyungjik county in Ryanggang province appeared much bigger than a train explosion that killed at least 170 people in April.

South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-Young sought to play down an atomic link, telling reporters after a National Security Council meeting that Seoul's assessment so far was the explosion was unlikely to have been part of the Communist North's nuclear ambitions.

"There are some foreign media reporting such possibilities, but we are judging at the moment the explosion is unrelated to such reports," Yonhap quoted him as saying. Chung chairs the National

US says it's unlikely blast was due to nuclear test

SEOUL: US and South Korean officials on Sunday said it was unlikely the blast could have a nuclear weapons test despite the appearance of a "peculiar cloud" over the area. But US officials in Washington said there was no definitive explanation yet, although the blast did not appear to be nuclear.

A British junior minister visiting North Korea said he had asked for an urgent explanation from the authorities.

—Reuters

Security Council, which advises President Roh Moo-Hyun.

There was no immediate reaction from neighbouring China.

"We've heard the report, and we are checking the details, including what's in the report itself," said Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Akira Chiba.

Thursday was the 56th anniversary of North Korea's founding. The reclusive Communist state often stages extravaganzas and big events to mark anniversaries.

South Korean intelligence offi-

95-7
cials said they were monitoring the news, but declined detailed comment on the reports, which were based on "informed sources" in Beijing and in Seoul. Yonhap did describe the blast site.

The reports surfaced as South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and the United States were seeking to persuade North Korea to return to the negotiating table to discuss its nuclear ambitions.

"There were rumours that the explosion was much bigger than the one at Ryongchon train station and the United States is showing a big interest as the blast was seen from satellites," Yonhap quoted an unnamed source in Beijing as saying.

The agency reported a mushroom cloud up to 4 km in diameter was spotted after the blast in remote Ryanggang province in the country's northeast near known missile bases.

The New York Times reported in its Sunday edition that the Bush administration had received recent intelligence reports that some experts believed could indicate North Korea was preparing to conduct its first nuclear weapons test explosion.

—Reuters

N Korea gears up for N-test, say reports US Intelligence Divided Over Fallout

By David E Sanger &
William J Broad

Washington: US President George Bush and his top advisers have received intelligence reports describing a confusing series of actions by North Korea that some experts believe could indicate the country is preparing to conduct its first test explosion of a nuclear weapon.

While the indications were viewed as serious enough to warrant a warning to the White House, American intelligence agencies appear divided about the significance of the new North Korean actions, much as they were about the evidence concerning Iraq's alleged weapons stockpiles. Some analysts in agencies that were the most cautious about the Iraq findings have cautioned that they do not believe the activity detected in North Korea in the past three weeks is necessarily the harbinger of a test.

A senior scientist who assesses nuclear intelligence says the new evidence "is not

conclusive", but is potentially worrisome. If successful, a test would end a debate that stretches back more than a decade over whether North Korea has a rudimentary arsenal, as it has boasted in re-

activities they have detected, but some of the information appears to have come from satellite intelligence. One official with access to the intelligence called it "a series of indicators of increased activ-

Explosion rocks Pyongyang

Seoul: A huge explosion rocked North Korea's Northern



Inland province of Ryanggang last week, triggering a mushroom cloud at least two miles in Radius, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said on Sunday. The explosion appeared to be stronger than the April 22 blast that killed more than 150 people and wounded about 1,300 others in Ryongchon near the western tip of North Korea's border with China, it said. "The

United States was known to have shown its keen interest in the explosion after spotting its traces by satellite," the source was quoted as saying. AFP

cent years. Some analysts also fear that a test could change the balance of power in Asia, perhaps leading to a new nuclear arms race there.

In interviews on Friday and Saturday, senior officials were reluctant to provide many details of the new ac-

ity that we believe would be associated with a test", saying that the "likelihood" of a North Korean test had risen significantly in just the past four weeks. It was that changed assessment that led to the decision to give an update to Bush. NYT News Service

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

US tip for CBMs: N-risk centres

PRANAB DHAL SAMANTA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 12

INDIA and Pakistan may have made a modest start in taking ahead the process of instituting nuclear CBMs but there is hope in the US the two countries will soon be looking at taking a qualitative leap by working out new bilateral communication in the form of nuclear risk reduction centres.

The idea, which stems from a similar agreement between the US and the erstwhile USSR to reduce nuclear risk, has already been a subject of detailed discussion at non-governmental levels. And, now, Washington appears to be keen on drawing the attention of India and Pakistan to establishing such centres.

To take the idea further, a group of Indians, Pakistanis and Americans put together a draft agreement three months ago for the perusal of the two governments. The group comprises several experts, including M.K. Narayanan, who has since been appointed Special Advisor in the PMO.

mation on missile tests, alerts in case of an accidental incident that could lead to misinterpretation, military exercise, the NRRRC has separate computer consoles for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Senior operations officer at the NRRRC Colonel R. Hardexy said there were nearly 25,000 exchanges by the centre last year and about 40 per cent of them with Russia and other former states of the USSR.

"It is an extremely effective confidence building measure which allows us to remain in direct touch. This prevents any misinterpretation which may be caused due to events that can just happen like accidental deviations, some mistake or error," says Hardexy.

The agreement drafted by the group with the help of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies here also charts out a similar mechanism of communication. The group estimates it would cost between \$10,000 and \$50,000 annually to set up a dedicated cable for teletype and voice communication in South Asia.

Draft guidelines

- NRRCs will complement existing communication channels like the one between the two DGMOs
- Both sides will notify each others' activities or events on its territory that may be misperceived and lead to conflict
- Exchange information that both sides are obliged to pass on under existing security agreements
- Seek and receive clarifications on ambiguous events in each other's territory

The US Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre (NRRRC) has also taken a look at the recommendations and feels it should be implemented as soon as possible to meet the objectives in the MoU reached between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan in Lahore in 1999.

Senior officials at the NRRRC say the mechanism has been extremely useful for the US, even after the break up of the USSR. Today, in an effort to maintain exchange of infor-

India, US must get over 'hiatus'

PRANAB DHAL SAMANTA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 12

INTAKING the bilateral relationship with India further, the US believes that no expectations must be attached to the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) agreed between the two countries in January.

While the exchange on issues outlined in the NSSP are to gather momentum, officials describe this as "phase one" with much of the spadework yet to be undertaken. A senior US State Department official said there was a "hiatus" due to elections in India. The official added that the relationship with the new government has been warm.

Progress on civilian nuclear cooperation, civilian nuclear activities, high technology

trade and missile defence will involve issues that US believes cannot be resolved "overnight". For Washington, taking ahead the relationship is also linked to its position on non-proliferation in the context of the NPT.

According to Stephen P. Cohen of the Brookings Institution, these issues can be addressed by both sides but New Delhi will need to consider ways to be as committed as an NPT member towards proliferation despite not joining the treaty. But analysts believe ties have reached a point from where it would be difficult to reverse the tide. "This relationship has developed into a strong one which will not be affected by change of governments in either country," said Michael Krepon of the Henri L. Stimson Center.

Iran uranium 'traced to Pak'

Associated Press

VIENNA, Aug. 10. — The UN's nuclear watchdog has traced some particles of enriched uranium found in Iran to Pakistan. However, the International Atomic Energy Agency still cannot fully verify Teheran's claims that all such material came into Iran on equipment bought on the black market, diplomats said today.

The reported finding boosts Iranian claims that it did not process uranium into its enriched form, which can be used both as fuel to generate power or as the core of nuclear warheads. It also weakens the case being built by the USA and its allies, which accuse Iran of past covert enrichment as part of a clandestine weapons programme.

The diplomats, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said the agency had only been able to conclusively link one sample found at one Iranian site to Pakistan — particles enriched to 54 per cent — although another sampling enriched

TEHERAN CLAIMS

- Iran claims that all traces of enriched uranium came into the country on "contaminated" equipment it bought on the nuclear black market. This is being probed by the IAEA as it tries to determine whether Teheran has violated the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.
- Faced with evidence, Iran over the past year has acknowledged clandestinely assembling a centrifuge programme to enrich uranium for what it says are plans to produce electricity but has denied actually embarking on the process.

ed to a lower degree might also have come on equipment bought from the network headed by Pakistani scientist Dr AQ Khan.

They said while the findings strengthened Iran's hand ahead of the 13 September meeting of the IAEA board of governors, the a-

gency still was far from establishing the origin of all traces of enriched uranium found in Iran, adding it may never be able to do so.

The diplomats, who are familiar with Iran's nuclear dossier, said lack of clarity on that issue and Teheran's past cover-ups, its spotty record of cooperation with the IAEA and its insistence on the right to enrich uranium still keep it in the UN agency's spotlight.

The IAEA refused to comment today. IAEA spokeswoman Ms Melissa Fleming said no new findings of the agency would be made public ahead of a report being prepared for the September meeting.

The report, being written by IAEA director-general Md El-Baradei, will review the agency's progress in clearing up open questions about nearly two decades of secret nuclear activities by Iran that were first revealed in 2003.

Most of the still-unanswered questions focus on the sources of traces of highly enriched uranium found at several sites in Iran, and the extent and nature of work on the advanced P-2 centrifuge, used to enrich uranium.

Bush ups the ante

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. — Iran must "abandon" its nuclear ambitions, President George W. Bush said vowing to stand by Washington's allies to pressure Teheran to do so.

"Iran must abandon its nuclear ambitions. That's part of the role of the USA, and to work with others to send that same message," Mr Bush said yesterday during a campaign event at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annadale. The US President, however, stopped short of issuing any threat to use force against Iran.

Every situation requires a different response when it comes to foreign policy. And so we tailor our responses based upon the reality of the moment." Mr Bush asked the international community to keep up pressure on Iran and condemn its "illegal" nuclear activities. "We've got to continue to keep pressure on the (Iranian) government, and help others keep pressure on the government, so there's kind of a universal condemnation of illegal weapons activities," he said. — PTI

Disarmament

Six parties agree on nuclear freeze

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, June 25. — The USA has accepted a proposal on freezing nuclear programmes as the first phase of the non-nuclearization process on the Korean Peninsula, the host of six-party talks, China, confirmed today.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Ms Zhang Qiyue said a consensus had been reached by all participants that a nuclear freeze would be

the first step to the non-nuclearization of North Korea. "A fundamental political consensus exists that a nuclear freeze is the first step towards non-nuclearization and corresponding measures should be adopted," she said.

"The consultations of the delegation heads on the third day of the talks were candid and useful and they agreed to start the nuclear freeze and take corresponding measures as the first phase of nuclear abandonment at

an early date."

Ms Zhang, however, added that there were still differences on some specific issues, including the implementation of the freeze. "Of course, there are differences as to how to implement the nuclear freeze, but we have seen promising signs that the parties concerned wish to earnestly study the various proposals."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher told reporters that the US

proposal would involve "a short preparatory period" for dismantlement and removal which would include the disabling of nuclear weapons components and key centrifuge parts. Permanent and verifiable dismantlement and removal of North Korea's nuclear programmes would follow. At the same time, the parties would be willing to take steps to ease the political and economic isolation of the country.

Mr Kim Kye-gwan,

head of the North Korean delegation, said he would put forward concrete plans on freezing nuclear programmes if the US party withdrew demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement and accepted a "freeze for compensation" programme.

It is the first time the USA and North Korea have publicly confirmed their specific plans for the solution of the nuclear issue since the standoff began in October 2002.



MEETING POINT: US Assistant Secretary of State Mr James Kelly (right) and North Korean deputy foreign minister Mr Kim Gye Gwan in Beijing on Friday. — AFP

5-2 MJB

India under pressure to join N-security club

By Rajat Pandit/TNN

London: The US and UK have renewed their efforts to make India jump onto the controversial Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) bandwagon. "India has been approached for the PSI...it has indicated interest but nothing has concretized yet. The importance of India is self-evident due to its geographical location and maritime abilities," said a top British government official.

India, however, has so far publicly reacted cautiously to US President George Bush's nuclear non-proliferation initiatives, calling for greater consultations to gauge how New Delhi could fit into the entire process.

under the us-led psi, first announced in may 2003, the 14 core members like uk, japan, australia, france and germany have pledged to pool their collective capabilities to interdict shipments believed to be carrying weapons of mass destruction or related material to terrorist groups or "countries of proliferation concern". "Russia has been a very good recent catch for the PSI. Sixty-two countries have expressed readiness to join it. We would also

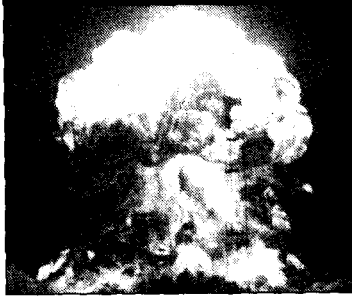
like China to join this group," added the official. PSI measures have been strengthened after the revelations about the international network run by A Q Khan, architect of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, to proliferate nuclear technology and know-how.

Countries like the US and UK would clearly like the Indian Navy and Air Force to play a role in the intended aggressive interdiction on the high seas. But one of main targets under the PSI is likely to be Iran, which has close ties with India. Moreover, many feel interdiction of third country ships on the high seas is likely to contravene international maritime laws. Another question is whether India will

be an equal partner under the PSI or whether it will be relegated to only a supporting role.

The US, as it is, is yet to formally recognise India's nuclear weapon status. There are also no plans to change the discriminatory nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). While admitting the NPT was "outdated", British officials ruled out any change in the treaty for at least some years to come.

WORRIES MUSHROOM



THE HINDU 25 JUN 2004

Nuke pressure irks Khatami

TEHERAN, June 16. — Iran has no moral obligation to stop enriching uranium and will not accept a resolution criticizing its nuclear activities under consideration by the UN nuclear watchdog agency, President Mohammad Khatami said today.

Mr Khatami stopped short of saying Iran will resume enrichment, or will stop all cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. "With the ongoing trend, we have no moral commitment anymore to suspend uranium enrichment," he told reporters after a Cabinet meeting. "Of course, we don't declare that we want to do something... It also doesn't mean that we are withdrawing from (the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty)."

Mr Khatami's remarks came as support grew for a resolution reprimanding — but not punishing — Iran for blocking a UN probe of its nuclear activities.

"If the draft resolution proposed by the European countries is approved by the IAEA, Iran will reject it," Mr Khatami said.



President Khatami

N. Korea poses
threat: U.N.
nuclear chief

NEW YORK, MAY 15. North Korea poses the "number one" global security problem, and the way the international community responds to that country's nuclear programme will be an important precedent for other would-be proliferators, the U.N. nuclear chief said on Friday.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons "sends the worst signal to the would-be proliferators" that if they accelerate their weapons programmes, they will be "immune" and powerful countries will negotiate with them.

"We need to make sure that that is not the lesson that people would learn from North Korea," he said. "I think it's the number one international security concern. The way we deal with it is very important for the future precedent-setting." — AP

THE HINDU 16 MAY 2004

Sign NPT: US to India, Pak

'Both countries ineligible for significant N-aid'

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, May 10

THE UNITED States has ruled out the possibility of accepting India and Pakistan as nuclear weapon states. Washington is sticking to its stand that the two countries as well as Israel should sign the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapon states.

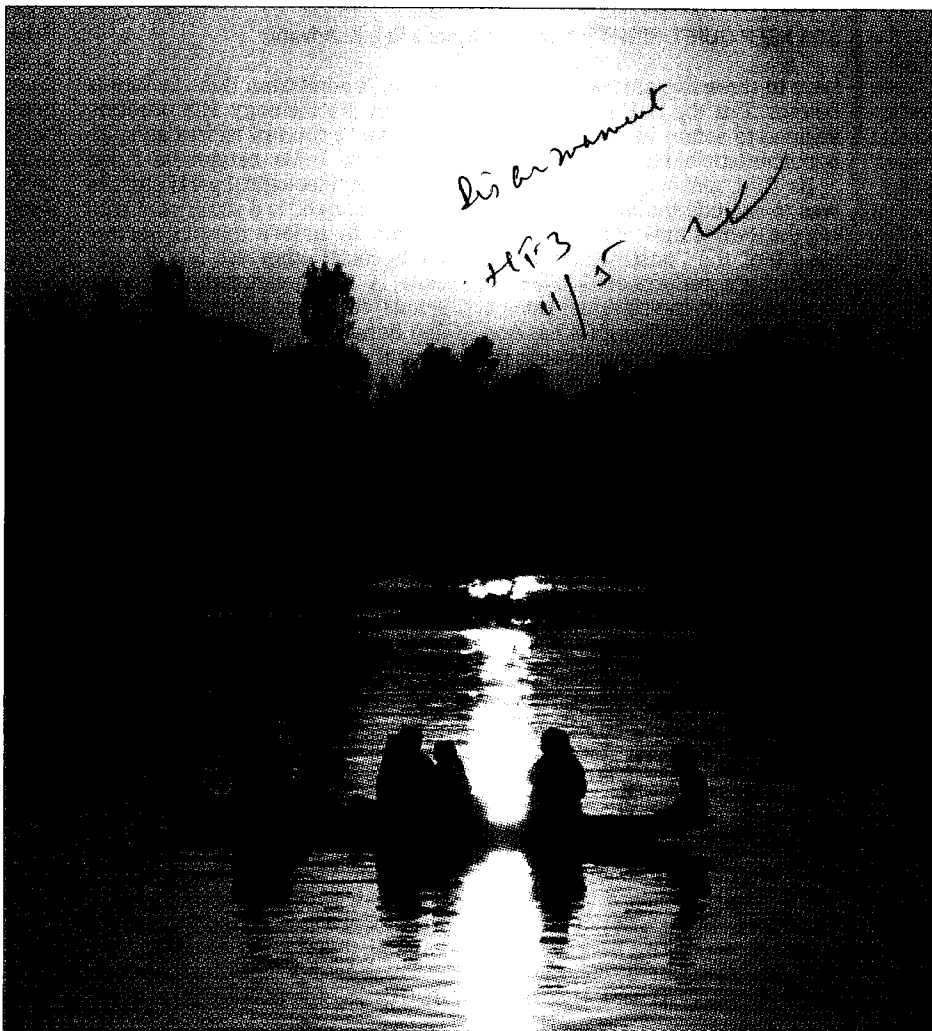
The American views are contained in submissions made over the week to a meeting in New York of the preparatory committee for 2005 NPT review conference.

John S. Wolf, the US assistant secretary for non-proliferation, sought to make it clear that Washington remains resolute on universal NPT adherence regardless of its concerted moves lately to bolster ties with both India and Pakistan in recent times.

"These steps should not, however, be taken to suggest that we have 'accepted' the status of either country as a nuclear weapon state under the NPT. We have not," he stressed. Wolf attributed the reordering of ties "to advance our regional goals, enhance the fight against terrorism, and to secure cooperation from both countries on export controls". The official went on to say that the US "will not reward either country for their decisions to acquire nuclear weapons or for the 1998 tests that made the world and the region a more dangerous place".

Without signing the NPT, India and Pakistan remain ineligible under the US law and policy for any significant assistance to their nuclear programmes. Wolf emphasised that the US has steadfastly avoided taking any actions that would be contrary to its "long-established nuclear control policy".

The US statement, however, does not respond to India's long-held view that the NPT is discriminatory, weighted in favour of the nuclear-haves. Instead, it seeks



The sun sets on a placid lake in Srinagar on Monday. After years of boycotting elections, hundreds of violence-weary people in the troubled region shrugged aside militant threats and voted in the last phase of polls.

to make out a case for strengthening and enforcing the treaty's non-proliferation undertakings. Washington's focus in South Asia, according to Wolf, has been and remains on preventing actions that would undermine the global non-proliferation regime and regional stability.

"We continue to call on India and Pakistan not to conduct nuclear tests, to end the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, to take steps to reduce regional tensions and to prevent the use of nuclear weapons," he said.

'US extended de facto recognition'

- Pakistan on Monday said the United States and the rest of the world have extended a 'de facto' recognition to Pakistan and India as nuclear weapon states.
- This has been done by engaging the two countries on security-related issues and promoting a dialogue between them to work out nuclear confidence building measures.
- Pakistan Foreign spokesman Masood Khan said that the neighbours are nuclear capable and nuclear weapons states.
- Khan said de jure recognition cannot be given to the countries because of obvious reasons.

No roadmap for Kashmir issue so far: Pakistan

Press Trust of India
Islamabad, May 10

ASSERTING THAT no roadmap has been worked out to resolve the Kashmir issue, Pakistan on Monday said it hoped the peace process initiated by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf will not "take a dip" in the light of exit poll projections of a hung Parliament after the Lok Sabha polls.

"There is no roadmap on Kashmir. When we start the foreign secretaries and foreign ministers meetings, they will start the quest for the road map for the road to peace and conflict resolution. But there is no road map so far," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said.

"The two Foreign Secretaries met on February 18 and came up with calendar of meetings from March to August. The whole process will culminate with the Foreign Ministers meeting. Right now this is the only road map that we have," Khan said.

"We hope the process that has been initiated by the two countries should not take a dip. In fact it should be an upward curve because the leaders on both sides have been upbeat about their process and they have committed their political to this process. "The international community is backing it. We need to sustain it," he said.

Declining to speculate about the outcome of the Indian general election, Khan said he preferred to wait till the results were announced. "The momentum of the decisions, which were taken by Vajpayee and Musharraf should be kept up. It should not be undermined by careless and unwarranted utter-

N Korea has at least 8 N-bombs, says US

Washington: North Korea has "at least" eight nuclear bombs, giving it the defensive deterrent against the US and an ability to launch devastating attacks on neighbours who may provide bases to mount a US-led invasion, thus making it invulnerable to an Iraq-type attack, according to a new report being prepared by US officials.

"The US is preparing to significantly raise its estimate of the number of nuclear weapons held by North Korea, from 'possibly two' (earlier CIA estimate) to at least eight, according to US officials involved in the preparation of the report," The Washington Post reported on Wednesday.

The report is expected to be completed within a month, the paper said, adding it would reflect a new intelligence consen-

sus on North Korea's nuclear capabilities after Pyongyang's decision last year to restart a nuclear reactor and plutonium-processing facility that had been frozen under a 1994 agreement with the Clinton administration.

Among the evidence used in making the assessment is a detailed analysis of plutonium byproducts found in clothing worn by members of an unofficial US North Korean facilities several months ago.

Intelligence officials, said the Post, have also broadly concluded that a separate North Korean uranium enrichment programme will be operational by 2007, producing enough material for as many as six additional weapons a year.

The increase in the estimate, said the

use its weapons to attack neighbours, instead of merely deterring a possible attack, said the report, adding some officials believe the new estimate will help pressure Pyongyang's neighbours to back the US position that its weapons programmes must be dismantled without concessions.

The estimates are guesswork based largely on circumstantial evidence. Administrative officials in several agencies have yet to agree on specific numbers. The energy department has pressed for a higher estimate and the defence intelligence agency believes the uranium programme will be operational by the end of this year. However, the state department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research has been most skeptical. Each agency has its own intelligence arm. ^{Agencies}

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Post, would underscore the strides North Korea has made in the past year as the Bush administration struggled to respond diplomatically while waging a war against Iraq in an unsuccessful effort to search for such weapons there.

Experts said an arsenal of eight weapons means that North Korea could

use its weapons to attack neighbours, instead of merely deterring a possible attack, said the report, adding some officials believe the new estimate will help pressure Pyongyang's neighbours to back the US position that its weapons programmes must be dismantled without concessions.

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Khan was shown nuclear devices in N. Korea plant

DAVID E. SANGER

Washington, April 13: Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist who sold nuclear technology around the world, has told his interrogators that during a trip to North Korea five years ago he was taken to a secret underground nuclear plant and shown what he described as three nuclear devices, according to Asian and American officials who have been briefed by the Pakistanis.

If Khan's report is true, it would be the first time that any foreigner has reported inspecting an actual North Korean nuclear weapon. Past CIA assessments of North Korea's nuclear capacity have been based on estimates of how much plutonium it could produce and assessments of its technical capability to turn that plutonium into weapons.

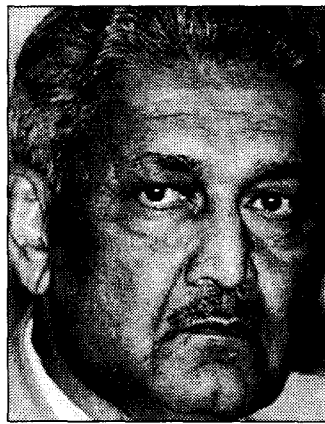
Khan, known as the father of the Pakistani bomb, said he was allowed to inspect the weapons briefly, according to the account that Pakistan has begun to provide in classified briefings to nations within reach of North Korea's missiles.

American intelligence officials caution that they cannot say whether Khan had the time, expertise or equipment to verify the claims. But they note that the number of plutonium weapons roughly accords with previous CIA estimates that North Korea had one or two weapons and the ability to produce more.

White House officials declined to discuss the intelligence reports, saying through a

spokesman that the subject was "too sensitive." But Vice-President Dick Cheney was briefed on Khan's assertions before he left for Asia over the weekend, and he is expected to cite the intelligence to China's leaders to press the point that talks over disarming North Korea are going too slowly, administration officials said.

They expect him to argue that the Bush administration is losing patience and may seek stronger action, including sanctions. Khan also told Pakistani officials that he began dealing with North Korea on the sale of equipment for a second way of



Abdul Qadeer Khan

producing nuclear weapons — through the enrichment of uranium, as opposed to plutonium — as early as the late 1980's. But he said he did not begin major shipments to North Korea until the late 1990's, after the country's plutonium programme was frozen under an agreement with the US. North Korea has since renounced that agreement.

According to officials who have reviewed the intelligence reports from Pakistan, Khan admitted that he shipped to North Korea both the designs for the centrifuges used to enrich uranium and a small number of complete centrifuges. He also provided a "shopping list" of equipment that North Korea needed to produce thousands of the machines.

"We think they've pretty much bought everything on the list, with the possible exception of a few components," said one

American official, adding that the Bush administration is still uncertain exactly where the uranium weapons programme is, or whether it has begun production.

As the intelligence briefing by the Pakistani officials has flowed through South Korea and Japan, it has set off alarms among senior Asian officials. Until now, they have tried to fess up the subject of whether North Korea is already a nuclear power, or was simply bluffing as it works to develop weapons.

China, in particular, has cast doubt on the American and South Korean claims that North Korea is developing a uranium weapon, perhaps hoping to take at least one problem off the table after a year of so-far fruitless talks in Beijing.

"Asia can ignore a lot of things when it deems it convenient," said Kurt Campbell, a senior defence official in the Clinton administration. "But these reports make it very hard for the regional powers — China, South Korea and Japan — to pretend publicly that North Korea doesn't already have a significant nuclear capacity."

Many critical details are missing from the account that Pakistan has given to the US and its Asian allies. Because Pakistani officials are not permitting American intelligence agencies to interrogate Khan directly, American officials are getting their information second-hand.

According to officials with access to the intelligence reports, Khan described being taken to a secret plant that appears to have been different from the main North Korean nuclear plant at Yongbyon. "It was about an hour out of the capital, Khan says," according to one senior Asian official.

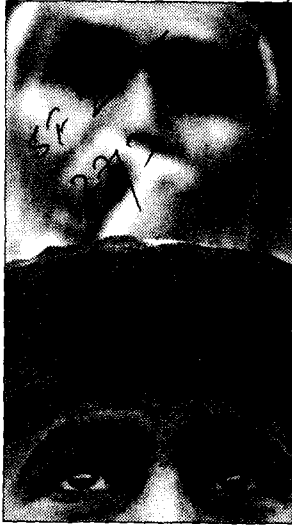
Khan was shown what was described to him as three plutonium devices, he reported. He told his interrogators that the weapons appeared to be complete, not just a jar full of warm material that the North Koreans handed to a visiting American weapons expert earlier this year, telling him it proved their "nuclear deterrent force."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

14 APR 2004

IAEA seeks details of N-network from Pak



A Pakistani boy at an MMA rally in Rawalpindi on Friday. Rallies were held across Pakistan to denounce the military operation against the Al-Qaida. At least 54 soldiers have been killed so far as the operation entered the 11th day. — AFP

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, March 26. — The International Atomic Energy Agency has asked Pakistan to provide "most urgently" all possible information on nuclear black market network of its scientist Dr AQ Khan and expects Islamabad to cooperate in the ongoing investigation on nuclear proliferation.

"The IAEA has requested Pakistan to provide all possible information on nuclear black market network, most urgently," IAEA spokesperson Ms Melissa Fleming said.

The agency expects Pakistan to cooperate in the investigations on nuclear proliferation and illegal nuclear exports, she was quoted as saying by local daily the *News*.

Underlining another expected area of cooperation, she said: "We want Pakistan to allow the IAEA inspectors' visits to the relevant Pakistani nuclear facilities enabling them to take environmental samples which could help in verifying the Iranian claim that highly enriched uranium contamination found in Iran originated from Pakistan."

The spokesperson declined to reveal the details of Pakistani response to the IAEA request.

THE STATESMAN

27 MAR 2004

IAEA to Pak: Open doors for N-inspections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 26

THE UN nuclear agency has officially conveyed to Pakistan a request seeking permission for inspection of some of the Pakistani nuclear installations. This follows admission of proliferation of nuclear technology by top Pakistani nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expects Pakistan to cooperate in the ongoing investigations on nuclear proliferation and illegal nuclear exports, spokesperson and senior information officer Melissa Fleming said in Vienna. "Firstly, the IAEA has requested Pakistan to provide all possible information on nuclear black market network, most urgently," Fleming was quoted today in the local daily *The News* as saying.

She said "the IAEA wants to know from Pakistan whether some other countries or non-state actors had been buying nuclear technology as customers of A.Q. Khan's network". Underlining the second expected area of cooperation by the IAEA, she said, "We want Pakistan to allow the IAEA inspectors visits to the relevant Pakistani nuclear facilities enabling them to take environmental samples which could help in verifying the Iranian claim that highly enriched uranium (HEU) contained



A rally in progress against the ongoing military operations in Wana on Friday. Reuters

Pak welcomes waiver of sanctions by US

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has welcomed the decision by the United States to lift the sanctions imposed after General Pervez Musharraf grabbed power overthrowing the elected government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 1999. "We welcome this decision and hope this is a precursor for the termination of application of this US law to Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesman Meesood Khan told the official media here.

— PTI

minatin found in Iran originated from Pakistan."

Asked to identify the channel used to convey the request, Fleming said, it was "conveyed to the government of Pakistan officially and I would not like to go into further details". She declined to reveal the details of

Pak notes

Tribesmen want troops out

WANA: Fiebel Pakistani tribesmen locked in battle with thousands of troops hunting Al Qaeda militants have refused to hand over 14 hostages until the Army abandoned a bloody 11-day operation against them, tribal elders said on Friday. "Members of the Yargul Khel tribe have refused to negotiate until troops vacate," said Mohabbat Khan Shrani, one of nine elders sent to negotiate with the hostage-holders last night.

2 blasts in Jacobabad

KARACHI: Two small bombs exploded on Friday in a Jacobabad but no damage or casualties were reported, police said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, said Deen Mohammed Baluch, a senior police official. He said the explosions occurred in a commercial area of the city, several kilometers from Jacobabad air base, one of Pakistan's main military facilities. The base is used by US troops to back anti-terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

163 held in Al Qaeda hunt

ISLAMABAD: Around 163 people have been arrested in an operation involving to capture Al Qaeda militants believed to be holed near the Afghan border, an official said on Friday. "All are Uzbeks, Chechens, Afghans and local tribesmen and some Arabs," Brigadier Mehmood Shah, Chief Regional Security Commander for the tribal areas said. — Agencies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON, MARCH 26

WITH Pakistan troops locked in battle with suspected Al Qaeda militants in its northwestern frontier region, the US is mulling over supplying more helicopters and possibly F-16s to Islamabad. "With respect to Pakistan, we are working on the helicopter issue. They need more helicopter capacity in that part of the tribal areas," Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary, Powell said the US had already supplied to Pakistan night-vision goggles to fight Al Qaeda operatives along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

"This night vision goggles, it is done," Powell told Senator Ernest Hollings, a member of the subcommittee. To a question on the supply of Mirages (presumably meaning American built F-16s and not French Mirages) Powell said "well, they hadn't signed the (requirement papers)... They have now... We're working on it. Yeah."

Pak may get more US choppers, F-16s

Pakistan had on Sunday admitted that it's forces were getting technical help from the US Army. "We do have US Cobra helicopters but they are piloted by the Pakistanis and not by the Americans," Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

Meanwhile, the *Defence News* weekly quoted a defence analyst John E. Carbaugh as saying that there is a possibility of Pakistan now getting F-16s — which can carry nuclear weapons "with the slightest modification which any car-penter can do" as the late Daniel Patrick Moynihan put it in Congress — to its new status as a major non-NATO ally (MNNNA).

He quotes a US military analyst he does not name, as saying that "although the MNNNA status is largely symbolic, it allows easier military cooperation and puts Pakistan into elite company."

"It will be used by the US as incentive to coax increased cooperation from Islamabad in the ongoing fight against Al Qaeda and Taliban militants in the Pakistan-Afghan border region," he writes.

70-12
C.R.

By C. Raja Mohan

Looking beyond the NPT

NEW DELHI, FEB. 17. The sweeping agenda unveiled by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, last week to bypass the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) cannot be seen in isolation. It is part of a controversial revolution that the Bush administration has engineered in American arms control policy over the last three years.

The seven-point action plan, announced last Tuesday by the President, is aimed at restructuring the global nuclear order. The attempt to create new non-proliferation instruments is part of a mental make-up in the Bush administration that was reflected in many of its earlier actions.

These include the rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that seeks to put an end to all nuclear tests and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty with Russia that limited the scope of defences against nuclear-armed missiles.

The Bush ideologues never tried to hide their contempt for traditional arms control. The Bush administration believed that many of the old concepts developed during the Cold War had outlived their utility and needed to be refashioned. Cold War arms control had two major pillars — the ABM Treaty and the NPT. The former codified the laws of nuclear deterrence between Washington and Moscow. The latter created mechanisms to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional states.

The logic of Cold War deterrence insisted that

only offensive nuclear weapons could ensure peace between rival superpowers. Any defences, it was assumed by the ABM Treaty, would undermine it.

Pointing out that there is no longer an all-encompassing political rivalry between Washington and Moscow, the Bush administration argued that the threats to American security came from the danger of nuclear weapons falling into the

NEW NUCLEAR ORDER

hands of rogue states and terrorist groups.

To defend against these challenges, it was said, the U.S. needed to develop defences against ballistic missiles. The ABM Treaty that came in the way was torn up amid protests from home and abroad.

Unlike the ABM Treaty, the NPT was not easy to discard. It is a multilateral treaty with near universal membership barring India, Israel and Pakistan. Washington knows that drafting another legal instrument or reforming the current NPT through amendment was near impossible.

At the same time, the Bush administration believes that the threats to American security cannot be met through multilateral treaties alone. It insists there are states which will always cheat on their treaty obligations. Washington posited that it is not possible to verify compliance with the NPT obligations.

It pointed to the fact that technology of weap-

coordinated law enforcement by states against proliferation networks of the type found in Pakistan.

Second, call for a United Nations Security Council resolution that demands nations to make proliferation activity a crime, tighten export controls and secure all sensitive materials. Third, strengthen the current efforts to secure nuclear weapons and materials in the former Soviet Republics and extend the programme to retrain scientists working on weapons of mass destruction in countries such as Libya and Iraq.

Fourth, call for a ban on the sale of uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing technologies to nations that do not at present have full-scale capabilities in these areas. Fifth, the proposal to ban nuclear commerce with those nations, which do not adopt tighter inspections under the so-called Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The fifth and sixth steps call for reforms in the functioning of the IAEA.

Together, this package amounts to the single biggest attempt to reorder the global nuclear system since the NPT came into force in 1970. It will significantly expand the current international law on non-proliferation. Parts of this agenda are expected to move rapidly in the next few weeks at the UNSC and the IAEA.

India, as a self-proclaimed nuclear weapon power outside the NPT, has a delicate diplomatic challenge in coping with the changing nuclear order.

ons of mass destruction will continue to spread. Finally, it concluded that developing national military capabilities and coordinated action with the allies outside the treaty framework is more important than the NPT in dealing with the proliferation risks. These propositions led the Bush administration away from the traditional non-proliferation agenda of the Europeans and the American Democrats. At the top of the old agenda is the demand to universalise the NPT: Get India, Pakistan and Israel to join.

The other ideas are enforcement of the CTBT, negotiation of the Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty, a virtual ban on the trade in nuclear reactors, and an end to sovereign control of non-nuclear weapon states over critical elements of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Leaders of the European Union have repeatedly called on India to sign the NPT. Senator John Kerry, front-runner of the Democratic nomination, has said much the same recently.

Unlike the Europeans and the Democrats in the U.S., Mr. Bush is committed to the commercial future of nuclear energy. Instead of demanding the universalisation of an ineffective NPT, Washington is looking for alternative structures to deal with the challenge of non-proliferation.

The first of President Bush's seven-point action plan expands on the so-called proliferation security initiative (PSI). The PSI calls for preventive military action by selected states to disrupt the international traffic in sensitive nuclear technologies and materials. Mr. Bush now wants

Iran softens stand on inspectors

Agencies

WASHINGTON, March 15. — After temporarily freezing out international nuclear inspectors, Iran has relented and decided to allow a visit at the end of this month, the head of the UN inspection agency said today.

Though Iran had yesterday indicated that it could harden its position against the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, its officials now will allow the inspectors to visit the country on 27 March, said agency director-general Mohamed ElBaradei.

"I think they have come to realise that the only option, the best option, is for them to cooperate with the IAEA, with the international community, if they want to clear their file, if they want to show their program is for peaceful purposes," he told reporters here.

More Pak cooperation needed:

The UN nuclear watchdog needs more cooperation from Pakistan in its investigation of Iran's atomic programme, which is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, Mr ElBaradei has said. He told reporters on a flight from Vienna to Washington that he had "been in touch with Pakistan."

Pakistan has "been cooperating, but I still need more cooperation" from them in allowing "environmental sampling" to compare centrifuge components of a type sold through an international black market to Iran, he said.

Iran claims the centrifuge was the source of highly enriched uranium (HEU) discovered by the IAEA. HEU can be used both as nuclear fuel in civilian reactors or as the raw material for an atomic bomb. IAEA inspectors have found traces of HEU at two sites in Iran.

US faces resistance on Iran

LOUIS CHARBONNEAU
VIENNA, MARCH 12

WASHINGTON and its allies faced tough resistance on Friday as non-aligned members of the UN atomic watchdog rejected a resolution that sharply criticises Tehran's nuclear secrecy and opens the door to sanctions. In back-room meetings at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Canadian, Australian and European diplomats on the IAEA's board of governors met diplomats on Thursday from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to revise a draft IAEA resolution. Earlier this week, the US and the EU's "Big Three" — France, Britain and Germany — reached a tentative agreement on an Australian-Canadian draft text that "deplores" Tehran's withholding of sensitive information from UN inspectors and highlights a possible military dimension to Tehran's nuclear programme.

NAM states have 13 out of 35 seats on the IAEA board and proposed a series of amendments to tone down the harsh language of the resolution. For example, NAM wants the word "deplores" changed to "strongly regrets". However, NAM diplomats complained the US-led camp were not being very accommodating. "They've given us peanuts," a diplomat said. "They don't want to budge."

He said the NAM block — the largest on the board — would not back the resolution if its sponsors did not work a few more of its proposed amendments into the document. As a result, the IAEA board meeting could run into the weekend.



IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei in Vienna on Friday. Reuters

NAM diplomats are not the only ones with problems about the text. Several board members said the Russians also had problems with the text. Russia, which is helping Tehran build an \$800 million nuclear power station in Iran, has objected and tried to soften every US-backed IAEA resolution or statement on Iran in the past year.

"Russia doesn't like this reference to the military and would like to see it out," said one diplomat. He said Russia may be afraid Washington would point to the resolution's wording on a possible military link as a reason for Russia to end its lucrative atomic cooperation with Iran. NAM also wants this section out of the draft.

The draft stops short of referring Iran to the UN Security Council for sanctions, and US officials have said privately that it could have been much stronger. But US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he was confident Iran would be warned it could face sanctions. —Reuters

Probing alleged Iran-N Korea project

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, MARCH 12

THE US is unaware of a new Iran-North Korea nuclear project reported by a Japanese newspaper but is looking into it, US officials said. The *Sanshei Shimbun*, citing a military source, reported this week that N Korea and Iran were working on a project to build an underground factory in the communist state to produce machinery for enriching uranium.

Uranium is a key ingredient in nuclear weapons and Washington has accused both Iran and the North of pursuing nuclear weapons programmes. "I have not seen anything to substantiate that," a US official said.

"We saw the report and we're looking into it," he said. A senior US official said it was the first time he had heard allegations of a N Korea-Iran collaboration. "I would think there would have been some indication in the past if indeed there was such a relationship. If there is any truth to this it's a little surprising that it would come out like this," he said.

The report said the two countries agreed to jointly build a plant to make a centrifugal separator in Kusong, 25 miles northwest of Anju, a site known for nuclear development by Pyongyang. It said that under the accord both nations would use the machinery, with Iran planning to import it as "industrial goods" through a third country, the *Sankei* said.

Libya to allow snap nuclear inspections

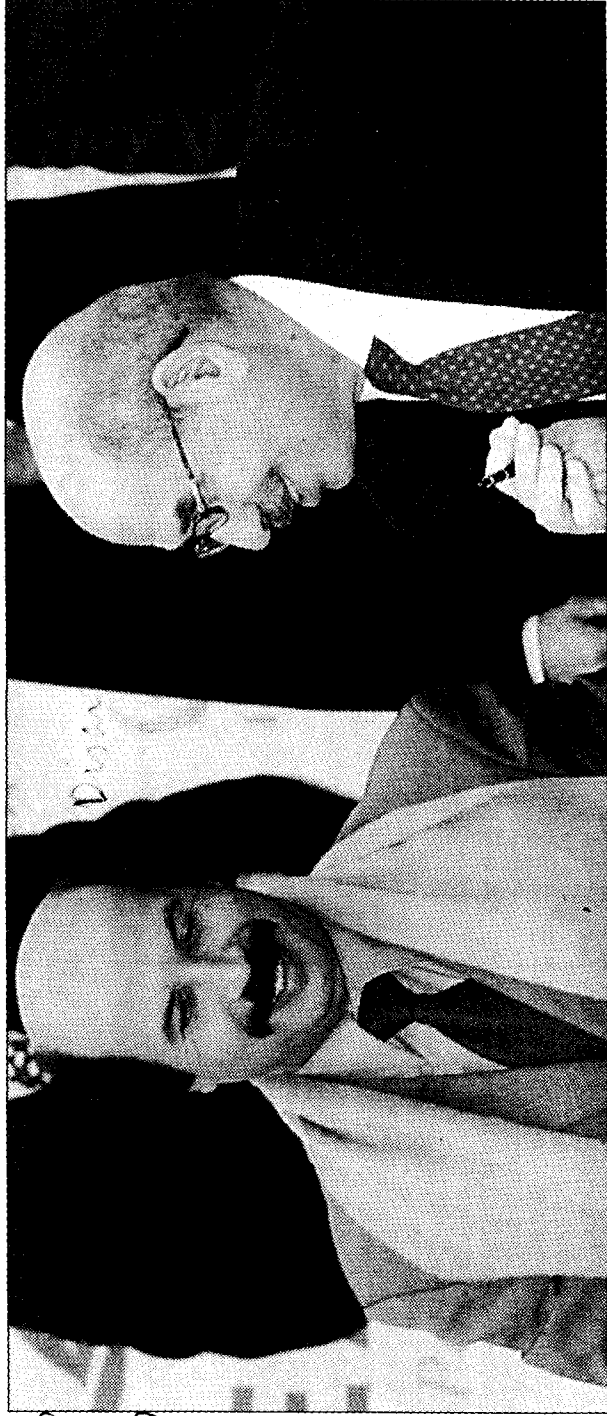
Vienna, March 10 (Reuters): Libya took a fresh stride towards international rehabilitation today by signing an agreement allowing the UN atomic watchdog to conduct snap inspections of nuclear facilities.

"This is a step by Libya to be clean of all nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction," scientific research minister Maatoug Mohammed Maatoug said after signing the accord with Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

ElBaradei said: "Libya's decision could be, and should be, a first step towards an Africa and West Asia free from weapons of mass destruction and at peace."

Earlier, the IAEA's governing board passed a resolution praising Libya for dismantling its secret nuclear weapons programme and commending Tripoli to the Security Council.

Diplomats said the resolution noted Libya's past nuclear



Libyan minister of scientific research Maatoug Mohammed Maatoug (left) and International Atomic Energy Agency director general Mohamed ElBaradei during the signing in Vienna. (Reuters)

activities had put it in breach of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but applauded its current disarmament moves.

The moves marked significant fresh steps by Libya — long branded as a rogue state for sponsoring attacks like the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing — to reintegrate itself into the international community.

Tripoli made the surprise announcement last December

it was abandoning all WMD programmes and would cooperate with the IAEA, the US and Britain to dismantle them.

On Saturday, Libya dispatched a shipload to the US containing all the equipment believed to remain from its nuclear weapons programme, along with longer-range missiles and launchers.

On Monday, the IAEA supervised an airlift from Tripoli to

Russia of 80 per cent enriched uranium from a reactor near the capital. The agency said the metal was almost pure enough to be used in a nuclear weapon.

Asked if there would be further shipments of nuclear-related equipment, Maatoug said: "There's nothing still to be removed." Under the additional protocol, IAEA inspectors can obtain short-notice access to any declared or undeclared

sites where nuclear material may be present, in order to check for evidence of banned weapons activity. In recognition of Libya's efforts, the Bush administration announced last month it would allow US oil firms to begin negotiating to ease restrictions on American travel to Libya and decided to let it establish a diplomatic presence in Washington.

Probe to track rogue nuke firms

1073 T-2 Disarmament
B.R. SRIKANTH

Bangalore, March 9: The probe by the International Atomic Energy Agency into the global nuclear black market fuelled by tainted Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan would expose a number of rogue firms that formed crucial links in the sinister network, said Indian atomic energy expert M.R. Srinivasan.

These enterprises, operating in Europe and Asia, abetted Khan's clandestine operations since the early nineties.

"We had heard whispers (among atomic energy experts) of his deals with some European companies for sensitive equipment and materials, ones that violated the export control regime of the land" Srinivasan, a retired chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, said in an exclusive interview.

"That's how he managed to ship in maraging steel (for centrifuge cylinders) and equipment for making uranium hexafluoride gas. Over the last decade, he has sub-contracted the manufacture of equipment for uranium-enrichment plants to companies in Malaysia and North Korea," he said.

He said the independent investigation by the Vienna-based agency would also expose the terrorist groups that had acquired the knowhow and fuel for a nuclear weapon. Besides, the role of political leaders of Pakistan in such deals would be brought to light.

"The IAEA has established his role in the nuclear programmes of Libya and Iran, but none of us believe that he could have traded the nuclear secrets without the Pakistan government's (knowledge) or tacit approval of the prime minister, president or chief of the army staff," Srinivasan said.

On the question of stealthy proliferation of nuclear weapons, Srinivasan said some details would be handed out by Pakistani and US experts at a Track II discussion scheduled in London from March 11 to 13.

"They (delegates from Pakistan and the US) will be able to tell us more about his (Khan's) network. We will discuss the implications of such proliferation

to non-state groups and how the US could initiate credible steps to check such proliferation," he said.

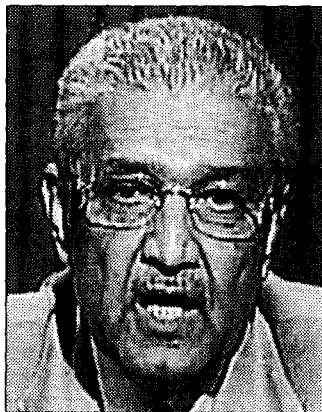
As chief of the atomic energy commission, Srinivasan said he had heard of the differences between Khan, who was allowed to operate a parallel nuclear programme dedicated to weapons, and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission chairman Muneer Khan.

"Dr Muneer Khan interacted with me and the other atomic energy experts on peaceful use of nuclear power while Dr Qadeer Khan was known for his vainglorious attitude," he said.

The working group meeting in London, initiated as part of the confidence building measures between Pakistan and India, would be hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington. The meeting would also focus on scaling down the risk of a nuclear conflict between the two countries.

Several retired diplomats, including Salman Haider, former director-general of military operations Gen. Raghavan and former IB director M.K. Narayan would be part of the Indian delegation. The Pakistan team would be made up of former foreign secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, former chief of army staff Gen. Jehangir Karamat, former ISI director Gen. Assad Durrani and Gen. Talat Masood, former secretary, defence production.

Robert Einhorn, former assistant secretary of state in Bill Clinton's administration and senior advisor of CSIS would coordinate the discussions.



Khan: Blacklisted

Documents prove China-Pak link

CAROL GIACOMO
WASHINGTON | MARCH 6

NEWLY declassified US government documents made public on Friday shed new light on almost three decades of US unease over China's suspected cooperation with Pakistan's nuclear arms programme. For 15 years, over the course of four US administrations, China denied repeated US inquiries about Beijing's cooperation with Pakistan.

But a briefing paper released on Friday states: "We have con-

cluded that China provided assistance to Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme" in fissile material production and possibly in nuclear device design.

Researchers who made the

Nuclear

Proliferation

documents public said, exactly what the US government knew about Chinese nuclear sharing with Pakistan remains secret.

But the newly released cables and memos provide specific details on how US offi-

cials looked at the China-Pakistani nuclear relationship, how they persistently discouraged it and how Chinese diplomats denied any involvement, said William Burr of the National Security Archive.

The material obtained by the Archive under the US Freedom of Information Act run from 1965 through 1997 and discusses US concerns about China-Pakistan security and military cooperation dating back to the mid 1960s. The documents' release come at a time of great interest in proliferation because of revelations by Pakistani scientist

Dr A.Q. Khan, who recently admitted to selling nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Burr said that until the revelations from the Libyan files, "no evidence had surfaced that conclusively linked China with Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme." However, the Bush administration, which boasts that US ties with China have never been better, has played down the Chinese connection.

But CIA Director George Tenet, in a report, said his agency could not rule out continued ties between China and Pakistan on the nuclear issue. — Reuters

More information on Khan's network: Powell

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has given US "additional information" about the proliferation activities of nuclear scientist Dr A.Q. Khan, Secretary of State Colin Powell has said.

"We have learnt a great deal about A.Q. Khan's network — information we had before the recent revelations as well as additional information we have acquired from the Pakistani authorities as a result of their inquiries," he said.

PTI

For nuclear disarmament

By Muchkund Dubey

✓ HD-12 6/3

India is the only nuclear weapons state committed to putting its entire arsenal on the negotiating table. Unfortunately, it is not able to leverage the advantage.

ONE OF the most sensational developments in recent times has been the confession by Abdul Qadeer Khan, hero of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, that he has, for quite some time, been operating an elaborate international network for the transfer of nuclear weapon designs, material and technologies. Nobody believes that he was acting on his own, under the influence of the heady mixture of money and megalomania, and that the Pakistani rulers, both military and civilian, had nothing to do with this well-planned and wilful act of nuclear proliferation.

If the United States has decided not to put the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, in the dock, it is because of its judgment that working with him is the most effective way of containing the chain reaction of nuclear proliferation triggered by Dr. Khan. The far-reaching implications of this development have led the U.S. President, George W. Bush, to share with the world some of the details of this act of proliferation, put together by the U.S. intelligence agencies, and to come forward with a seven-point proposal "to strengthen the world's efforts to stop the spread of deadly weapons."

India's main concern at the moment is how these proposals are going to affect the autonomy that New Delhi has acquired in matters of nuclear security and its quest for nuclear technology and material for peaceful purposes. Strategic analysts have examined these proposals mainly to identify the flexibilities in their formulation, which can be utilised to safeguard India's interests. Very few comments have, however, appeared linking these proposals to nuclear disarmament.

It is indeed a sad commentary that there is no mention at all in Mr. Bush's speech of the international community's commonly shared objective of achieving nuclear disarmament. This is in spite of the fact that nuclear disarmament provides the only viable and enduring means of ensuring nuclear non-proliferation. The present non-proliferation regime sanctifies retention of nuclear weapons by the five major powers while denying it to the others. It is, therefore, no surprise that this regime is perceived by the "others" of the world as a design to perpetuate the hegemony of the nuclear weapons powers. This is regarded as a device on their part to safeguard their security while holding to ransom the security of rest

of the world. Such an unjust and unequal regime simply cannot function.

Another major reason for the failure of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime to contain proliferation has been the propensity of the nuclear weapon powers to allow their other foreign policy interests to prevail over their non-proliferation concerns. That is why Israel was allowed to systematically go about equipping itself with nuclear capability. The U.S. interest in containing communism in Afghanistan led Washington to look the other way when Pakistan was obtaining the wherewithal to assemble nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles. That is also why even today, after all the noise about strengthening the non-proliferation regime, the U.S. is dithering in its decision to take effective action to prevent North Korea from walking down the proliferation path.

Indeed, some progress was made in arms control after the end of the Cold War. START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) I and II brought down the size of the strategic weapons of the two superpowers from some 18,000 to 6,000. The Strategic Offensive Weapon Reduction Treaty signed in Moscow in 2002 will have the effect of bringing them further down to 2200 each. But this does not take us anywhere near the goal of nuclear disarmament. Even in terms of arms reduction, it is a far cry from the ceiling of 200 suggested in the early 1980s by Robert McNamara, former U.S. Secretary of Defence, as constituting a sufficient deterrent.

Besides, even with these reductions, the nuclear arms race has by no means come to a halt. The Chinese are feverishly upgrading and augmenting the triad, i.e. land-based, airborne and sea-launched, of their nuclear war-fighting machinery. The size of the Chinese arsenal alone is two to three times larger than that prescribed by McNamara for the superpowers and it includes short-range nuclear missiles, which are highly destabilising. The other nuclear powers have maintained intact their sea-launched tactical weapons, even after

their unilateral decision to withdraw all short-range nuclear missiles. The U.S. Congress has sanctioned funds for the development of deep penetration bombs. And Russia's threat to develop a new offensive weapon to neutralise the contemplated ballistic missile defence system of the U.S. seems to have come very close to realisation with the recent successful testing of what is being described as "hypersonic cruise missile." In such a strategic environment, it is unrealistic to expect the states on the threshold of acquiring nuclear capability to apply self-denying ordinance.

The objective of nuclear disarmament has receded to the background also because of the weakening of the nuclear disarmament campaign, particularly in the Western world. Because of the end of Cold War and the ostensibly impressive progress in nuclear arms reduction, the ordinary citizen in the West is no longer seized of the horror of nuclear holocaust. This has not only driven the anti-nuclear war brigades into somnolence, but has also prompted the governments of the nuclear weapon states to put the issue of nuclear disarmament in the backburner. The indefinite extension of the NPT has made them all the more smug about discharging their obligations under Article VI of the treaty "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament."

In the early 1980s, several Western countries dreaded the possible use of nuclear weapons. Their representatives, therefore, used to vote for the Indian resolution on the non-use of nuclear weapons. But today the same resolution, which continues to be pushed through the General Assembly year after year, evokes only a lukewarm response. One of the first casualties of the post-Cold War nuclear complacency was the former Soviet Union's doctrine of no-first-use which was jettisoned by Russia.

An important organised forum working for nuclear disarmament is the New Agenda Coalition of Eight

countries, including Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Ireland and Sweden. However in its almost exclusive pre-occupation with non-proliferation, this coalition has lost sight of the goal of nuclear disarmament. Unlike the earlier Six-Nation Initiative of which India was a part, this Group has not emerged as a vocal, persistent and authentic voice for nuclear disarmament.

All this is happening at a time when the substantive case for nuclear disarmament is stronger than ever before. With the end of Cold War, the major powers no longer face a nuclear threat to their security from one another. The threat they perceive from the so-called rogue states of the Third World is highly exaggerated. Besides, this threat can be more than adequately taken care of by the conventional weapons of the major powers. The latest technological advance has endowed these weapons with unprecedented lethality, accuracy and destructive power.

Disarmament continues to be the avowed objective of the international community; for there can be no peace without disarmament. And nuclear disarmament is the first step towards achieving general and complete disarmament. In a speech at an Anti-Nuclear Arms Convention in New Delhi on June 18, 1963, Jawaharlal Nehru said: "I am quite clear. Before war goes we must have full disarmament..."

As a part of the above legacy, India, after becoming a *de facto* nuclear weapon state, included nuclear disarmament as an important element of its nuclear doctrine. This has put India in the unique position of being the only nuclear weapons state committed to putting its entire arsenal on the negotiating table. But unfortunately, India is not able to leverage this unique position for playing a meaningful role in the field of nuclear disarmament. This is partly because of its apprehension that any initiative on this behalf could derail it from the path of acquiring a minimum nuclear deterrent. Besides, after the 1998 nuclear weapon tests, India has lost its credibility among the nations whose cooperation is essential for pursuing the goal of nuclear disarmament. India must try, without compromising its security interest, to find a way out of this impasse and explore ways and means of regaining its credentials as a state committed to nuclear disarmament.

'N Korea agreed to destroy nukes'

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, MARCH 3

NORTH Korea agreed in the latest nuclear weapons talks to consider a US demand that it dismantle programmes based both on plutonium and uranium, the chief US negotiator told lawmakers on Tuesday.

"The N Koreans came to the table denying a uranium enrichment programme," Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But, in a reversal, he said, "It was clear by the conclusion of the talks that this is now very much on the table." Kelly cited the developments in Beijing as evidence of "a very different, promising atmosphere" in the latest round of negotiations.

As Kelly appeared before the Committee, Secretary of State Colin Powell offered an upbeat assessment of the talks and said cooperation at

the negotiating table with South Korea and other allies was unprecedented.

In a speech to an Asian studies group, Powell said North Korea can expect good relations with its neighbours in the North Pacific once it ends its nuclear programme and embraces a policy of openness. While the Bush administration has ruled out concessions to N Korea as a payoff to end its nuclear weapons programme, Powell said without elaboration: "We want to help the people of N Korea."

Only on Monday in Seoul, however, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun spoke of creating a foreign policy more independent of the US.

On Tuesday, the new South Korean foreign minister, Ban Ki-Moon, met with President Bush and Powell at the White House. US officials provided no account of the meeting.

INDIAN EXPRESS

4 MAR 2001

NUKES FOR SALE

The Evil Empire Of Pakistan's Dr Strangelove

By SANKAR SEN

Abdul Qadir Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, is now in disgrace. In a confession telecast before the nation he has taken full responsibility for proliferation of nuclear secrets from Pakistan to different countries, and pleaded for pardon. He has mentioned his errors of judgment regarding unauthorised proliferation activities and tried to shield other scientists working under his direction. Though AQ Khan has expressed an apology, there were no signs of regret for spreading bomb technology and materials around.

He also literally blackmailed Musharraf into accepting his apology and granting him pardon. His confession and subsequent pardon is clearly a cover-up and looks like some kind of a deal to spare the all-powerful Pakistan army of immense embarrassment. Musharraf has not only pardoned the national hero but also said that Pakistan will not hand over the connected papers and documents concerning proliferation to the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Decorated citizen

He has further ruled out an independent probe into the matter and warned the local journalists not to speculate on the army's role in peddling nuclear secrets. In this connection it bears recall that the rogue scientist AQ Khan is one of the most decorated citizens of Pakistan. The official citation of one of his awards — Hillal-e-Imtiyaz — says "his name will be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of national history of Pakistan for his monumental contribution to the field of nuclear science."

Before returning to Pakistan in 1976 Khan had been in Europe for nearly 15 years studying in Germany and Belgium. He had worked for the Dutch and German Urenco Company, which had access to uranium enrichment facilities at the Amelo plant in Holland. Returning to Pakistan in 1975 he could impress upon the then Prime Minister ZA Bhutto the need for Pakistan's own nuclear bomb.

Bhutto had earlier said "if India built the bomb, we will eat grass or leaves or even go hungry but we will get one of our own." Bhutto was not happy with the slow pace of work of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. Khan could persuade Bhutto that he needed to work alone and not in the structure of the PAEC if he had to succeed in making weapons grade enriched uranium. Thus the Kahuta laboratory was born.

Khan had plundered the Amelo facility for blueprints for enrichment plants, designs and literature relating to centrifuge technology as well as the list of suppliers. He brought with him

not only technical data on ultracentrifuge techniques but also a list of European manufacturers in the nuclear sector. Whenever Western governments tried to block supplies to Pakistan, Khan was able to approach Western companies and get the supplies he wanted.

To get over export controls of Western governments, many fake companies in Europe and the Far East were set up by Khan for procurement of nuclear supplies with the support of the Pakistan government. It was a costly and clandestine operation but it worked. Kahuta started making rapid progress and by 1982, six years after he returned to Pakistan, Khan had succeeded in the production of highly enriched

tritions and monitoring regimes. The enriched uranium route enabled Pakistan to go ahead quickly.

Missile development in Pakistan reflected the divisions existing in the nuclear field. The PAEC looked to China and transformed the Chinese M-11 missile into the Shaheen missile which became nuclear-capable in late 1999. However, AQ Khan took another route and approached North Korea. Pakistan's Ghauri missile is a barely disguised version of North Korea's Nodong rocket, which was supplied in parts by Pyongyang. North Korea got help from Pakistan in its enrichment efforts, and possibly with warhead design. Having acquired the



uranium for a bomb.

America also turned a blind eye to Pakistan's covert nuclear programme after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Overnight Pakistan became the frontline state without whose help America was not in a position to help the *mujahideens* in Afghanistan. The then American secretary of state Alexander Haig told his Pakistani counterpart Agha Shahi that USA will not make Pakistan's nuclear programme the "centre piece of our relations."

Nuclear mogul

After the production of enriched uranium Pakistan needed a warhead. According to Khan he had written to General Zia in 1982 that he had enriched uranium and now wanted to build the warhead. Zia gave the go-ahead signal and the job was accomplished after two years. It seems that Zia had asked AQ Khan as well as Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission to create warheads. By 1983 Pakistan had a serviceable nuclear bomb and the next thing was to produce a missile to deliver it.

The fact cannot be gainsaid that without Khan Pakistan probably would not have the bomb. The PAEC's plans to produce plutonium in its Karachi nuclear power plant was frustrated by numerous international res-

trictions and monitoring regimes. The enriched uranium route enabled Pakistan to go ahead quickly.

In Pakistan Kahuta Research Laboratories had gradually become an unaccountable institution and AQ Khan wielded enormous influence and accumulated extraordinary wealth. Senior officers in PAEC like Dr Munir Khan protested against AQ Khan's clandestine and dubious dealings. But every army chief turned a blind eye to the goings-on in Kahuta. Musharraf's contention that some of the nuclear scientists worked unauthorisedly because of greed and personal ambition does not stand scrutiny. It is true that AQ Khan enjoyed extraordinary autonomy as a laboratory director, but the security of the facility was the responsibility of the army and the ISI.

Both Libya and Iran have reportedly funded Pakistan's preparations for making a bomb and such financing would be followed by demand for knowledge of the fruits of research. Musharraf in an expression of bitter disappointment has said "our Islamic brothers have given our names without telling us".

It is now known that in October last year a US delegation led by deputy secretary of state Armitage placed before Musharraf "mind-boggling" evidence of Khan peddling nuclear tech-

nology and expertise to Iran, Libya and North Korea and attempts to do the same with Iraq and Syria. Pakistan was told that its failure to take action would most certainly jeopardise its ties with USA and other important nations. Among other things US officials presented evidence of Khan's alleged attempts to sell nuclear secrets to Saddam Hussein when he was President of Iraq.

The nuclear trafficking has seriously damaged Pakistan's credibility and dented the image of Musharraf. The powerful non-proliferation lobby in USA is hopping mad and holds the view that stopping Pakistani proliferation is of vital interest to US security. *The Washington Post* in its editorial acidly said that "Pakistan has supplied nuclear technology to rogue states for 15 years and the US must accept the reality that Pakistan's army had done more to threaten US and global security with WMDs than Al-Qaida and Saddam".

Musharraf's image dented

It is not precisely known how many countries have benefited from this clandestine proliferation of nuclear technology. In view of the close and long linkage between the *ihadis* and army establishment, there are enormous worries if nuclear technology has already been passed on to *ihadis* or if they have acquired "dirty bombs". Though Pakistan's nuclear proliferation poses a tricky challenge, America because of its short-term interest may not haul Pakistan over the coals and try to treat the chapter as closed. America badly needs Musharraf's support in launching operations against Al Qaida inside Pakistan and has perhaps cut a deal with him on this score.

However, Musharraf's image has taken a terrible beating. Many Pakistanis feel that he is bending over backwards on the nuclear front under American pressure. The Islamic opposition is accusing him of a sell-out and called for a national strike to protest at Khan's humiliation. Musharraf will also be under immense international pressure for inspection of Pakistan's nuclear assets so that militant groups outside the control of the government may not seize them.

President Bush in a speech before the National Defence University described AQ Khan as a thief and a criminal nuclear proliferator, and unveiled proposals aimed at eliminating clandestine nuclear trafficking. All countries that need nuclear technology for civilian purposes must sign the additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency providing for vigorous international supervision of the country's nuclear facilities. Not only Pakistan but also India will be under pressure to sign the additional protocol.

Panel set up to end N Korean nuclear crisis

Beijing
 Beijing: The six-party talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons programme ended here on Saturday without a breakthrough. However, the participants agreed to meet again and set up a working group to thrash out the "serious differences" to find a peaceful end to the 16-month-old diplomatic stand-off in northeast Asia. The next round of talks will be held between April and June.

The in-camera talks, which began on Wednesday among the US, China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan and Russia, focused on the goal of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.
 Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing, who addressed the diplomats at the closing ceremony of the second round, emphasised that the consensus on setting up a working group and the next round of



Li Zhaoxing

talks was of great importance in pushing forward the peace talks. "Spring is a season full of hope. There is a long, thorny way to go, but time is on our side and time is on the side of peace," he said.
 The US, which de-

scribed the talks as very successful, had demanded a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes. The US also insisted that it would not reward North Korea with aid or other forms of appeasement before it dismantled its nuclear weapons programme.
 However, North Korea remained firm

that simultaneous actions should be initiated under which Washington should guarantee that it would not attack the country while China, Russia and South Korea provided energy aid to it. Last minute disagreements between Washington and Pyongyang foiled Beijing's attempts to issue a joint statement highlighting the "progress" made during the talks. PTI

অবাপ্তিত, কিন্তু অনিবার্য?

Deanna Munn, 8/2/04

উত্তর কোরিয়া, লিবিয়া, ইরান। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের প্রবল চাপের মুখে পড়িয়া এই তিনটি রাষ্ট্রই তাদের গণধ্বংসের অস্ত্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প স্থগিত বা রদ করার সিদ্ধান্ত লইয়াছে। ইহাদের মধ্যে লিবিয়াকে মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট জর্জ ডব্লিউ বুশ তাঁহার 'শয়তানি অক্ষ'-এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত করেন নাই, যাহা ইরাকের সহিত অন্য দুই পরমাণু মারণাস্ত্র নির্মাতা দেশকে করা হইয়াছিল। তবে দূর পাল্লার ক্ষেপণাস্ত্র এবং তাহাতে বহনযোগ্য পরমাণু বোমা হস্তগত করার জন্য লিবিয়ার শাসক 'গোষ্ঠীর' মরিয়্যা প্রয়াসের তথ্য আমেরিকার কাছে ছিল। আর ছিল বিমান ছিনতাইকারী ও সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের প্রতি লিবিয়ী শাসকদের আশ্রয় ও প্রশ্রয়ের সন্দেহ। দুইটি ক্ষেত্রেই প্রাথমিক ঔদ্ধত্য ও অহমিকাপূর্ণ অস্বীকৃতির পর কর্নেল মুয়াম্মার গদ্দাফি পশ্চাদপসরণ করিয়াছেন। ইহা সম্ভব হইয়াছে এক দিকে লিবিয়ার বিরুদ্ধে অর্থনৈতিক-বাণিজ্যিক নিষেধাজ্ঞা আরোপ করিয়া তাহাকে ভাঙে মারিবার মার্কিন উদ্যোগ, অন্য দিকে ইরাকে সামরিক আগ্রাসন চালাইয়া পশ্চিম এশিয়ায় মার্কিন রণনীতির দৃষ্টান্তমূলক রূপায়নের 'শিক্ষণীয়' নজির স্থাপনের সম্মিলিত চাপে। গদ্দাফি যখনই উপলব্ধি করেন যে তাঁহার অবস্থাও সাদ্দাম হুসেনের অনুরূপ হইতে পারে, তখন হইতেই তাঁহার দুতেরা নত হইতে শুরু করেন। ইহার শিক্ষা কি এই যে, এ ভাবে চাপ না দিলে লিবিয়া পরমাণু শক্তির হইবার সামরিক উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষা এবং আন্তর্জাতিক সন্ত্রাসবাদীদের আশ্রয় দিবার অপকর্ম হইতে নিরস্ত হইত না? এ ভাবেই কি বিশ্বের একমাত্র বৃহৎশক্তিকে বিশ্বময় পুলিশগিরি করিয়া বেড়াইতে হইবে?

ইরান ও উত্তর কোরিয়ার দৃষ্টান্তও প্রসঙ্গত উল্লেখ্য। দুই দেশই এখন স্বীকার করিতেছে, তাহাদের পরমাণু মারণাস্ত্র নির্মাণের প্রকল্প আছে। আগে করে নাই। আফগানিস্তানে মার্কিন আগ্রাসনের পরেও করে নাই। ইরাকে ইজ-মার্কিন দখলদারি এবং সাদ্দাম হুসেনের পরিণতির পর করিতেছে। প্রথম দিকে দুই দেশই মার্কিন প্রশাসনের হুমকি অগ্রাহ্য করিয়াছে। এমনকী উভয়েই পাল্টা হুমকিও দিয়াছে। পরমাণু প্রসার রোধে মার্কিন উদ্যোগকে বৃদ্ধাস্থুঠ দেখাইয়া তাহারা মারণাস্ত্র নির্মাণের প্রযুক্তি আয়ত্ত করার মরিয়্যা প্রয়াস পাইয়াছে, চোরাবাজার হইতেও তাহা সংগ্রহ করিতে চাহিয়াছে। 'ইসলামি পরমাণু বোমা'র জন্য লিবিয়া, ইরান ও পাকিস্তানের বিজ্ঞানী ও সমরবিশেষজ্ঞদের পারস্পরিক আদানপ্রদান এক সময় রুদ্ধশ্বাস হইয়া উঠিয়াছিল। পাকিস্তান তো বোমা বানাইয়া তাহার পরীক্ষামূলক বিস্ফোরণও ঘটাইয়া

ফেলে। এ ব্যাপারে উত্তর কোরিয়া ও চিনের সহিত ইসলামাবাদের যোগসাজশের প্রমাণও রহিয়াছে। কিন্তু এই সব ক্ষুদ্র, সামরিক স্বৈরাচারী শাসিত, দায়িত্বজ্ঞানহীন রাষ্ট্রের কুক্ষিতে গণধ্বংসের মারণাস্ত্র মজুত থাকার সম্ভাবনা প্রতিবেশী দেশগুলির পক্ষে এবং সাধারণভাবে এই গ্রহের নিরাপত্তার পক্ষেও এক গুরুতর প্রশ্নচিহ্ন হইয়া ওঠে। মার্কিন প্রশাসন যদি সন্দেহভাজন রাষ্ট্রগুলির পরমাণু উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষার উপর কড়া নজরদারি না করিত, কূটনৈতিক ও সামরিক চাপ সৃষ্টি করিয়া তাহাদের পরমাণু অভিপ্রায় উন্মোচন করিতে বাধ্য না করিত, তবে এত দিনে এ বিষয়ে তাহারা আরও অগ্রসর হইয়া যাইত। তাই দুর্ভাগ্যজনক হইলেও ইহা সত্য যে, পরমাণু প্রসার রোধে মার্কিন দাঙ্গাগিরি বিশ্বকে আরও নিরাপদ করিতে সাহায্য করিতেছে।

পাকিস্তানের কথাই ধরা যাক। সে দেশের পরমাণু বোমার জনক বলিয়া মান্য বিজ্ঞানী আবদুল কাদির খানে বিশ্বের একাধিক 'দুষ্ট' রাষ্ট্রকে বোমা নির্মাণের প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি পাচার কিংবা সে সংক্রান্ত তথ্য আদানপ্রদান করিয়াছেন, ইহা এখন পাকিস্তানের শাসকরাও স্বীকার করিতেছেন। পাকিস্তান অবশ্য জর্জ বুশের 'শয়তানি অক্ষ'-এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয় নাই। আফগানিস্তানে তালিবান মৌলবাদী ও আল-কায়দা জেহাদিদের নিকেশ করার জন্য ইসলামাবাদের সাহায্য বুশ প্রশাসনের কাছে অপরিহার্য বলিয়াই প্রবল সন্দেহ, এমনকী বহু প্রাথমিক প্রমাণ সত্ত্বেও মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র পাকিস্তানকে 'শান্তি' দিতে উদ্যত হয় নাই। অন্তত ইরান, লিবিয়া বা উত্তর কোরিয়ার বেলায় যে কঠোর মনোভাব ও অনমনীয় অবস্থান বুশকে লইতে দেখা গিয়াছে, ইসলামাবাদের ক্ষেত্রে তুলনায় তিনি অনেক সহিষ্ণু থাকিয়াছেন। তবে পাকিস্তানের শাসক গোষ্ঠীও জেহাদি সন্ত্রাসবাদের আত্মনাশা অপচয়ের পাশাপাশি পরমাণু উচ্চাকাঙ্ক্ষার পরিণাম উপলব্ধি করিতেছে। ভারতের সহিত সুসম্পর্কের সম্ভাবনা তাহার অস্ত্র মজুতের সামরিক তাগিদও তত্ত্বগতভাবে হ্রাস করিবে। ইরান ও উত্তর কোরিয়ার শাসকদের কঠোর নরম সুর। 'শান্তির জন্য' পরমাণু শক্তি নির্মাণ ও ব্যবহারের অঙ্গীকারে অবিচল এবং 'মার্কিন চাপের কাছে নত না হওয়া'র প্রকাশ্য দৃঢ়ঘোষণা দেশবাসীর কাছে শাসকদের সার্বভৌমত্ব প্রতিপন্ন করার জন্য জরুরি। তৃতীয় বিশ্বের সব দেশকেই বৃহৎশক্তির 'দাঙ্গাগিরি'র বিরোধিতার ভাণ বজায় রাখিতে হয়। তাই কোরিয়া বা ইরানের শাসকরা আফালন বা হুমকি দিতে পিছপা নন। তবে তাহাদের পশ্চাদপসরণ লইয়া বিশ্ববাসীর কোনও সংশয় নাই। ইহা নিশ্চিত সুসমাচার।

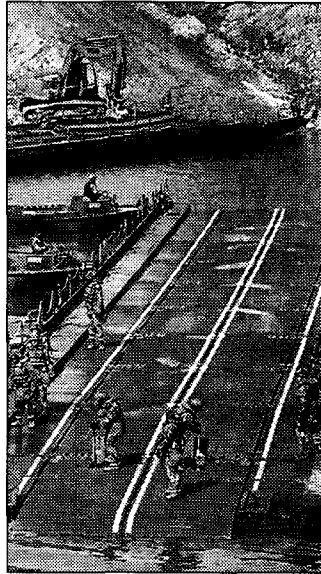
N. Korea signals nuclear halt

Beijing, Feb. 26 (Reuters): North Korea gave signs today it was willing to halt its nuclear weapons programmes but blamed the United States for lack of progress in six-party talks in China.

The North, in a hastily arranged evening news conference, fell back on familiar rhetoric and said that if the US halted its "hostile policy" against Pyongyang, it would give up its nuclear weapons development programmes. "The US is saying that it can only discuss our demands after we give up all nuclear programmes, including for peaceful purposes, as it continues with its stale demand that we give up nuclear programmes first despite our flexible position," the embassy said. "It is because of this that there has not been a breakthrough in the solution of the problems."

US assistant secretary of state James Kelly told reporters he could only comment on the North Korean statement after he had read it. After two days of talks in the exclusive Datoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, details of North Korean proposals were murky and it was not clear what would be agreed in the next session tomorrow. China has said it wants a written agreement.

Russia said earlier the North was ready to freeze its military nuclear programme, but not its "peaceful" one. China's Xinhua agency quoted a North Korean official as saying it was willing to freeze all its nuclear programmes. Diplomatic sources said North Korea also continued to deny it had a uranium enrichment programme for nuclear weapons, the crux of its disagreement with the US. During today's round, South Korea,



US soldiers build a floating bridge during a military drill at Imjin river near the Korean border. (AFP)

China and Russia offered North Korea energy aid in exchange for freezing its weapons programmes, delegates from the sides said.

Russia said the United States and Japan were not ready to take part in the compensation plan.

With the talks heading into a third day on Friday, the six sides were working on a joint statement, the establishment of a working group and when next to meet, delegates said. A Japanese official said the talks would continue beyond Friday if necessary. Russian deputy foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov said North Korea proposed stopping its military nuclear programmes, but wanted to be able to continue their peaceful ones, a reference to nuclear power plants under construction.

Six parties seek more common ground

China Daily/ ANN

BEIJING, Feb. 25. — Six parties involved in the talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula found “some consensus, though differences remained” at the end of the first day, China, the host, said today.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Ms Liu Jianchao told reporters after a first day of discussions that all six parties agreed that “taking action” is the best way to establish trust.

The talks involve China, North and South Korea, the USA, Russia and Japan. Delegates to the negotiations have been “earnest, practical and frank” in their speeches, Ms Liu said, adding the second round of talks had entered a stage of “substantial discussions”.

At the start of today's talks, North Korea and the USA — the two major parties — briefed the others on their positions which were interpreted by analysts as “softening though with firm lines”.

The US delegate demanded a “complete, irreversible and verifiable dismantlement” of North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes. The USA will “seek a complete, ver-



LET'S GET TALKING: Leaders attending the six-party talks shake hands prior to their meeting in Beijing on Wednesday. (From left) US assistant secretary of state Mr James Kelly, South Korean deputy foreign minister Mr Lee Soo-hyuck, North Korea's deputy foreign minister Mr Kim Kye-gwan, Chinese vice-foreign minister Mr Wang Yi, Japanese chief negotiator Mr Mitoji Yabunaka and Russian deputy foreign minister Mr Alexander Losyukov. — AFP

ifiable dismantlement of all of North Korea's nuclear programmes, both the plutonium- and uranium-based weapons,” said chief US delegate Mr James Kelly.

Meanwhile, Mr Kelly reminded the diplomats gathered in Beijing of a promise made by Mr George W. Bush that “the USA is prepared to join with other parties in providing security assurances to North Korea” and made clear it has no inten-

tion of “invading or attacking” the country.

Declaring this week's meeting will decide the future of six-party talks, Mr Kim Kye-kwan, head of the North Korean delegation said his country will show “flexibility while maintaining principled positions”.

Economic aid is a key in Pyongyang demands for its freezing and then dismantling its nuclear programmes while Washington has said a freeze is not

enough. The USA has asked North Korea to first dismantle “all” its nuclear programmes.

Also today, South Korean chief negotiator Mr Lee Soo-hyuck hoped that despite conflicting positions, participants would try to find specific ways of resolving the dispute. Japanese and Russian delegates also made similar calls and expressed gratitude for China's preparations for the talks.

'IAEA finds uranium plant in Tehran air force base'

Disarmament
AGENCIES

VIENNA, FEBRUARY 19 2002

UN INSPECTORS have discovered high-tech uranium enrichment equipment on an Iranian air force base, diplomats said on Thursday. The find appeared to be the first known link of Tehran's nuclear programme to its military.

The diplomats said the gas centrifuge system designs were of a P-2 centrifuge — more advanced than the P-1 model Iran has acknowledged using to enrich uranium for what it says are peaceful purposes. They said investigations indicated they matched equipment found in Libya and supplied by the network headed by scientist A.Q. Khan. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose inspectors are examining Iran's activities for signs it was trying to create weapons, declined comment.

Meanwhile, Iran's judiciary shut two newspapers for publishing a letter criticising Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over the exclusion of reformist candidates from Friday's elections.

...committee, director of the first US nuclear...

Dibakar **Original Sin** *19/2*

To reverse nuclear proliferation, delegitimise such weapons

The non-proliferation treaty is as good as dead. First came news that A Q Khan and his European cronies had together made nonsense of the proliferation control framework. And now comes confirmation that Pakistan's Islamic bomb was in fact made with Chinese help. It turns out that the nuclear big five — in all the time they brandished the NPT as a weapon against the nuclear have-nots — were themselves guilty of overlooking the proliferation activities of China and the many European players in Khan's deadly nuclear ring. It goes back to the 70s when Khan was able to mobilise West European firms to support the Pakistani nuclear programme through export of plant machinery and engineering services. The US looked away from this massive operation in order to enlist Islamabad's cooperation for the mujahideen campaign in Afghanistan. In exchange for European technology proliferated through Khan, China made available to Islamabad the bomb design, tritium and other crucial components. In the 90s came the blatant Chinese transfer of missiles and ring magnets to Pakistan followed by the Islamabad-Pyongyang missiles-for-nuclear technology exchange deal. This gigantic collaboration spanned two lengthy decades and yet the CIA would have us believe that they were unaware of the worldwide proliferation.

The NPT has been damaged beyond redemption by the nuclear weapon powers reneging on their obligations not to proliferate. It is unlikely then that any assurance president Bush now gives in this regard can restore the NPT. The treaty was fatally flawed from the beginning since it legitimised the possession of nuclear weapons by a few. In 1995, this legitimacy was extended in perpetuity. Besides, the major nuclear threat today is not so much from state actors as from non-state terrorist organisations working hard to acquire them covertly. The NPT policing mechanism — through the International Atomic Energy Agency — has also since been exposed as being woefully inadequate: The IAEA failed to trace the origin of proliferation to nuclear industries in Europe. Even today, the big powers are shielding guilty European firms. In other words, a fundamental rethink is called for on non-proliferation. So long as nuclear weapons remain legitimised, proliferation cannot be stopped. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be a distant goal, but surely their delegitimation is crucial to mobilising international public opinion against proliferation. Next year's review conference on the NPT can be used to declare the use, or the threat of use, of nuclear weapons to be a crime against humanity. That would be the first step towards the elimination of such weapons.

THE TIMES OF INDIA 19 FEB 2004

China voices concern over nuke transfer reports

Beijing: Voicing serious concern over reports of nuclear transfers to Libya by a Pakistani-led trading network, China on Tuesday made it clear that it is opposed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "The Chinese side is seriously concerned by the related reports and we are trying to get more information on this issue," foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told reporters here.

A report in the 'Washington Post' said the Bush administration had documents showing China was involved in Pakistan's nuclear programme, an allegation long suspected by Washington but denied by Beijing. The report also said the documents were found in Libya and some included text in Chinese as well as detailed instructions for assembling an implosion-type nuclear bomb that could fit atop a large ballistic missile.

Asked whether she could deny the 'Washington Post' report, Zhang said: "At present, we have seen only news reports. I don't

have any additional information to add at this moment." Zhang's response came a day after the top US expert on arms control John Bolton gave a guarded reaction to the report. Bolton, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, held talks with Chinese officials here on Monday and met Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Shadow Of Doubt

- China restates stated positions on nuclear proliferation
- US official gives guarded reaction to 'Post' report

Mr Bolton confirmed at a press conference on Monday that some documents were found in Libya but declined to comment on whether China had been directly involved. The 'Post' said the designs were sold to Libya by a Pakistani-led nuclear trading network that is now the focus of an expanding international probe.

The focus on proliferation has intensified since the father of Pakistan's atomic weapons programme, A. Q. Khan, confessed to selling nuclear secrets to Libya, Iran and North Korea. In the past China used to flatly deny reports of its proliferation whenever reporters sought a reaction to articles citing Chinese complicity in the spread of WMDs. However, at Tuesday's briefing, Zhang appeared defensive and only restated Beijing's declared positions on proliferation.

She noted that China was a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 1984 and is also a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "China has strictly implemented its obligations concerning the anti-proliferation of nuclear weapons," she said. "We have strengthened export control regime in all fields and in future, we will do more to strengthen the effective faithful implementation of the concerned laws and regulations," she said. PTI

Pak Proliferation

Why Uncle Sam Wore Blinkers

By K Subrahmanyam

President George Bush's seven-point proposals to counter the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) have not set the Potomac on fire. Taken along with the CIA director George Tenet's speech on February 5, this was a public relations exercise to advertise the success of intelligence operations by the US and the UK in breaking up the international nuclear smuggling network headed by A Q Khan.

The president's narration of A Q Khan's smuggling efforts was obviously not meant to enlighten the American and world public of the true nature and scope of a proliferation activity, which, according to Khan's confession, spanned two decades. While the president referred to the manufacture of centrifuge components in a Malaysian facility, he did not elaborate where Khan obtained and passed on plant and equipment for making uranium hexafluoride to which he made a reference, the powerful motors to rotate the centrifuges, the high-tech alloys needed to make the centrifuges and other sophisticated items involved in the complex process of uranium enrichment.

Surely, they were not manufactured in Khan Research Laboratories and exported. If that were the case, the US government will have to explain how it accepts the Pakistani authorities claim that they were in the dark.

Mr Bush was not helping to fight proliferation when he deliberately shielded the industrial establishments of Germany, Switzerland, France, Netherlands and other countries who helped the Pakistani and Iraqi proliferations and those of Libya and Iran through Khan's intermediary services. The engines of proliferation are the European countries who are members of the non-proliferation treaty and other technology-denial regimes.

When did Washington come to take note of Khan's proliferation activities? In Pakistani scientific circles, it was no secret that his claim to fame as the father of the Pakistani bomb was not rooted in his scientific prowess but in crucial proliferation activities of getting plant, equipment, materials and engineering services from Europe into Pakistan. It should have been obvious that if Khan could handle successfully the proliferation from Europe to Pakistan he could with equal ease do it for Iran and Libya. However, in the eighties, the US and other western countries supported the WMD proliferation of both Saddam Hussein and Zia-ul-Haq. Therefore, it was a case of deliberately looking away from Khan's activities. It is a matter of record that Washington was permissive of the supply of ring magnets from China to Pakistan. The Clinton administration fudged on the Chinese supply of M-9 and M-11 missiles for over seven years.

In the coming days, the US Congress is bound to ask what the safeguards are against

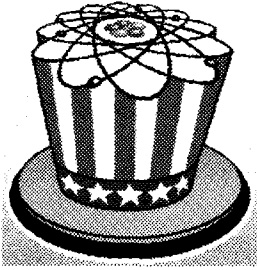
further proliferation from Pakistan where a government claims that it was not aware of what happened over the last two decades. Countries targeted by Al-Qaida and its associates have to be reassured that threats arising out of Khan's proliferation, including that to non-state actors, are being effectively countered. Mr Bush's speech at the National Defence University does not hold out any such assurance.

In spite of all these shortcomings, Mr Bush's proposals on the proliferation security initiative and criminalising proliferation are worth looking at. His statement on supporting the Russian programme of disposal of weapon-grade fissile materials is a reiteration of an ongoing scheme. His fourth step to assist civil nuclear programme of non-nuclear states through the assured supply of fuel is restatement of obligations under the NPT. But his exhortation to nuclear suppliers group (NSG) to refuse to sell enrichment and reprocessing equipment to any state that does not already possess full-scale functioning and reprocessing plants is intriguing. The only instance of this type is China establishing a plutonium reactor and providing assistance for a reprocessing plant

in Pakistan. Mr Bush is silent on China, which is not a member of the NSG. It is not clear whether the exhortation to the NSG not to supply to states without a full fuel cycle facility enrichment and reprocessing technology would mean that it could, in future, lift its embargoes on dealing with India since India has full fuel cycle capability. His fifth step is the

litmus test for New Delhi. He requires that only countries which sign additional protocol permitting IAEA full inspection rights should be allowed to import equipment for their civilian nuclear programme. India can sign the additional protocol on the same conditions as the five nuclear weapon powers. Will that be acceptable to the nuclear five? The last step of excluding nations suspected of violating the NPT obligations they voluntarily accepted from the IAEA board of governors is unexceptionable in principle.

The NPT has been wrecked by proliferation by Khan, China, North Korea and European nations and the permissiveness towards it by Washington during the 80s and 90s. It is in this context that India's national security advisor Brajesh Mishra said at the 40th Munich conference on security: "Extraordinary measures are being contemplated to guarantee security from these challenges. A multilateral consultative machinery with international credibility can provide legitimacy to such measures. But for it to be effective, it has to be evolved with wide and representative consultations. I would also add that clubbing partners against proliferation with countries of true proliferation concern is a self-defeating approach, which can only weaken the cause of genuine non-proliferation". Is Washington listening?



N-Pak's China connection 'exposed'

Press Trust of India

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Dinamani

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — The arms designs that Pakistani nuclear scientist Dr AQ Khan's network sold to Libya were provided to it by China, a media report said.

"The Chinese designs were later resold to Libya by the Pakistani-led trading network that is now the focus of an expanding international probe," the *Washington Post* said.

The packet of documents found in Libya, some of which were in Chinese, contained a detailed manual for assembling an implosion-type nuclear bomb that could fit atop a large ballistic missile. "It was just what you would have on the factory floor. It tells you what torque to use on the bolts and what glue to use on the parts," a weapons expert who had

Benazir backs Khan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — Dr AQ Khan is being made a scapegoat by Pakistan's military rulers to cover up their involvement in the nuclear proliferation, Mrs Benazir Bhutto has said. She drew attention to an advertisement in a Pakistani daily in July 2000, about 10 months after Gen. Pervez



Musharraf took over the reins of the country, in which the government invited applications for export of nuclear materials, including enriched uranium. — PTI

reviewed the blueprints said.

US intelligence officials had concluded years ago that China helped Pakistan build its first

nuclear weapon — assistance that appeared to have ended in the 1980s. But the seized papers suggest that China continued to assist Pakistani scientists over the next several years.

Khan papers in daughter's custody

Documents that are said to demonstrate that senior Pakistani army officers — including Gen. Pervez Musharraf — were aware of Dr Khan's activities have been smuggled out of the country by his daughter, Dina, the *Sunday Telegraph* claimed. Pakistani intelligence officials believe Dina would disclose their contents if legal action is taken against Dr Khan.

Businessman detained: A Pakistani businessman, Mr Aizaz Jaffery, has been detained for questioning about his suspected links to Dr Khan, officials said.

Nuclear club hopping

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush sketched what amounted to a new international regime on nuclear technology in his Wednesday speech. That the present system is in desperate need of reform is hardly in dispute. Even before the confessions of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, it was clear the clauses of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) had long ceased to have any relevance to global nuclear reality. The NPT refused to accept three nuclear powers — India, Pakistan and Israel. It was incapable of stopping countries with civilian nuclear programmes from diverting that technology to build weapons. And it is useless when it comes to stopping nuclear technology from falling into the hands of terrorists.

The first major pillar of Mr Bush's nuclear order is that nuclear legitimacy should be granted to any country that already possesses a full nuclear cycle. India can only welcome this expansion of the nuclear club — even if it includes Pakistan. New Delhi had long argued the NPT was discriminatory. But the treaty's greater crime was to be unrealistic. A nuclear fuel cycle club makes much more sense. Urging that the Nu-

clear Suppliers Group consider providing technology to the expanded club is also in line with India's long-standing demands. But there are still some concerns for India. A key one is Mr Bush's statement on the Additional Protocol of the NPT. He says, "I propose, by next year, only States [that] have signed the Additional Protocol be allowed to import equipment for their civilian nuclear programme." India has so far kept away from the protocol because it would open its civilian nuclear facilities to United Nations monitors. On the other hand, Bush is committed to rolling back US sanctions on India in the so-called 'quartet' issues — one of which is civilian nuclear technology.

Mr Bush's policy strokes were too broad for it to be certain this seeming contradiction will trouble India-US relations. It is unclear, for example, whether signing the protocol will be required of the new nuclear club. The details of big canvas strategic speeches are often worked out later. In addition, as indicated by National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra's recent Munich speech, India is no longer as averse to joining a non-proliferation treaty regime so long as it is nondiscriminatory.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, AMERICA HAS ACCUSED PAKISTANI SCIENTISTS OF SUPPLYING CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY

USA wakes up to Khan network, franchise



Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — Blaming the "Khan network" for proliferating nuclear centrifuge technology to North Korea, Iran and Libya, Mr George W Bush has said that nations around the world worked with the USA to end the "criminal enterprise" headed by the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb.

The extent and sophistication of (global) proliferation networks can be seen in the case of "a man named Abdul Qadeer Khan", the US President said at the National Defence University here yesterday.

Governments around the world "worked closely with us to unravel the Khan network, and to put an end to his criminal enterprise. Khan has confessed to his crimes, and his top associates are out of business," Mr Bush said unveiling his new campaign to fight spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Khan operated mostly out of Pakistan. He served as director of the network, its leading scientific mind as well as its primary sales-

man. Over past decade, he made frequent trips to consult with clients and to sell his expertise.

The scientist and his associates sold the blueprints for centrifuges to enrich uranium, as well as a nuclear design "stolen" from the Pakistani government. The net-

more advanced and efficient models, Bush said.

This is the first time the USA has accused the network of supplying centrifuge technology. Earlier, it had not mentioned the specifics of the proliferated technology. The network also provided

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'Governments around the world worked closely with us to unravel the Khan network, and to put an end to his criminal enterprise. Khan has confessed to his crimes, and his top associates are out of business'

work sold uranium hexafluoride, the gas that the centrifuge process can transform into enriched uranium for nuclear bombs, he said.

The network provided Iran, Libya and North Korea with designs for Pakistan's older centrifuges, as well as designs for

ed these countries with complete centrifuges, Mr Bush said.

Dr Khan, is known throughout the world as the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

"What was not publicly known, until recently, is that he also led

an extensive international network for the proliferation of nuclear technology and know-how," Mr Bush said.

For decades, he added, Dr Khan remained on the Pakistani government payroll, earning a modest salary. Yet, he and his associates financed lavish lifestyles through the sale of nuclear technologies and equipment to outlaw regimes. Describing how the network was busted, Bush played the black market operatives and dealers in weapons of mass destruction, "motivated by greed and fanaticism or both."

No more, promises Musharraf
President Pervez Musharraf has said the government had closed all the channels of leaks of technology in the country's nuclear establishment, PTI adds from Islamabad.

Addressing the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee yesterday, Gen. Musharraf also said Pakistan would continue to cooperate with the international community to eliminate the nuclear black market.

The USA's muted reaction and Musharraf's leniency to AQ Khan's confession sends the wrong message to potential proliferators, writes MICHAEL KREPON

AQ KHAN got off lightly, sending disturbing messages about US and Pakistani attitudes toward proliferation. After setting himself up as the Wal-Mart for nuclear weapon shoppers in Libya, Iran, North Korea and others who have yet to be identified, Khan, the self-proclaimed father of the Pakistani nuclear bomb, has admitted guilt as charged by Pakistani General-turned-President Pervez Musharraf. In quick succession, a penitent Khan met with the khaki-clad President and went on Pakistani television to take all the blame and to absolve the Army. Musharraf then suggested leniency to his Cabinet, which readily agreed. The President wasted no time issuing a pardon in light of Khan's heroic service to the nation and, for good measure, allowed Khan to keep the fortune in money and real estate he amassed from his illicit nuclear commerce.

Meanwhile, Musharraf continues to hound former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to pay back her fortune of ill-gotten gains derived from corrupt government contracting.

There are two morals for the proliferators of nuclear and missile technology – if that is the right word for this strange story. The first is don't get caught. Khan's real estate holdings were no secret in Pakistan, nor was his penchant for foreign travel. Foreign intelligence services long-suspected Khan's dealings, as well as the difficulties his lab at Kahuta was having in producing nuclear warheads and missiles.

Pakistani officials responded to questions about nuclear transactions with blanket denials. This defence began to unravel when US intelligence agencies pieced together the existence of a uranium enrichment programme in North Korea. Suddenly, the question of what Pyongyang got in return for bailing out the Khan Research Labs by transferring No Dong missiles could be answered with certainty: The Pakistani cargo plane that picked up the missiles, which were then re-labelled as the indigenously-built Ghauri, was engaged in barter transactions that involved the provision of centrifuge technology.

Soon thereafter, Iran's uranium enrichment programme, which was publicly revealed by an opposition group to the ruling ayatollahs, became the centre of international attention. It was implausible enough for Tehran to claim it needed nuclear power for electricity, but there's no way that enriched uranium can be used to light street lamps. With clear evidence of an intent to acquire the entire fuel cycle necessary for bomb making, Iran's ayatollahs decided to take the heat off, to freeze the programme temporarily, and to allow inspectors from International Atomic Energy Agency to gain extensive access to plants under construction. Iranian officials also confirmed what the inspectors could

Nuclear netherworld



Abdul Qadeer Khan reads a statement to the nation on Pakistan State Television on 4 February. — AFP

plainly infer – that the centrifuges came from Pakistani sources.

Next it was Libya's turn. After a shipment of centrifuge parts was intercepted in the fall of 2003 headed for Libya, Muammar Gaddafi decided to come clean. In return for a lifting of sanctions and the prospect of foreign direct investment, he invited US and British officials to close down and cart out his bomb-making project. More equipment from Khan's netherworld of nuclear commerce was uncovered. The most extraordinary find, as reported by *New York Times*, were actual blueprints of a nuclear warhead of Chinese parentage that was given to Pakistan by Beijing to help the Khan Research Labs out of an earlier jam.

At this point, Pakistan's flat denials of illicit nuclear commerce were shredded beyond repair. Under heavy US pressure to roll up Khan's network and to acknowledge misdeeds, Musharraf set in motion the investigation

and public humiliation of Pakistan's national hero. Which leads to moral number two for future proliferators: Be an indispensable ally to the USA in the global war on terror.

If Khan resided in another country, or if Pakistan were led by the religious leaders who are eager to unseat Musharraf, the Bush administration's response would have been far different. But Washington knew that a public trial of Khan would have put a club in the hands of Musharraf's many enemies while risking the disclosure of official government and high-level Army support for some of his transactions Khan confessed to missteps driven by Islamic solidarity – an explanation that conveniently overlooks the money he pocketed and his dealings with North Korea. Two other rationales for Pakistan's nuclear commerce – paying back governments that helped to finance the programme and seeking foreign assistance to overcome problems with

domestic production lines – were also behind Khan's travels. These transactions surely required the authorisation and full consent of army chiefs, prime ministers and a president or two. The quick choreography of Khan's confession and pardon, as well as Washington's muted response, point to a mutual desire not to delve publicly into history.

In return for this pact not to question Khan's fiction that he, alone, was to blame, the Bush administration appears satisfied to roll up his supply network while Pakistani officials conduct a more thorough housecleaning at his lab. Musharraf will again promise that these transactions will not happen again. He gave secretary of state Colin Powell a pledge of 400 per cent on this score after US intelligence tracked the delivery of centrifuge parts to North Korea in the fall of 2002. Khan's shipment to Libya was intercepted one year later. If future transactions occur for reasons of state – that is, to repay foreign governments that have called in their notes or to overcome production bottlenecks – the Bush administration will have a tough decision to make. Musharraf and his advisers will cross this bridge if they have to, but they have good reason to presume that Bush would be forgiving, as long as Pakistan makes progress in cleaning up messes, and as long as its support remains essential in nabbing Osama bin Laden and the remnants of his Al-Qaida network.

What is the net effect of the Khan affair on global efforts to stop and reverse proliferation? The good news is that Khan is no longer a player, that venality and Islamic solidarity are no longer acceptable drivers for proliferation in Musharraf's Pakistan, and that a very successful network of covert transactions is being put out of business. The number of states seeking nuclear weapons and missiles to carry them has been reduced significantly. Saddam is gone, and Libya has decided to go straight. This leaves Iran, which has agreed to a temporary freeze on fissile material production, and North Korea, which might be amenable to a deal – if and when the Bush administration is prepared to offer one.

The bad news is Khan has proved that extraordinarily damaging blueprints and parts can be surreptitiously exchanged for cash, and that this information can fit into CD-ROMs as well as military cargo planes. Covert supply networks can be reconstituted, but the market is likely to shift from sophisticated nuclear weapons to crude forms of nuclear terrorism. Global controls and safeguards on dangerous nuclear material are more essential than ever – and this work has barely begun.

(This article appeared in YaleGlobal Online, a publication of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, and is reprinted with permission.)

Sleuths in race to shut CIA nuke 'supermarket'

ANTON LA GUARDIA, AHMED
RASHID AND ALEC RUSSELL

Vienna/Lahore/Washington, Feb. 6: Intelligence agencies and nuclear inspectors are racing to close a vast international nuclear "supermarket" that has secretly supplied Iran, Libya, North Korea and perhaps several other countries for more than a decade.

The extent of the Pakistan-based network became clear last night as a leading UN official said there was still an urgent need to "dry up the source".

The "supermarket", run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of the Pakistani bomb, was "the most dangerous phenomenon in proliferation for many years," said Mohammed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog. "This is an area where we cannot act alone. We need the co-operation of intelligence agencies and governments. I expect everybody to chip in."

Despite Khan's confession that he was at the centre of the operation, few believe that the uncovering of the network will stop the lucrative black market in nuclear designs, technology and components. Western intelligence agencies face alarming uncertainties. Are similar networks in operation? Which countries have already bought

Pakistani nuclear technology?

American sources said there were "suspicions" Syria or Saudi Arabia were clients of Khan's network. They said Iran appeared to have bought more technology than it declared.

Middlemen bought parts

Pak probe call

Islamabad, Feb. 6 (Reuters): Pakistan's opposition parties today demanded a parliamentary inquiry into a nuclear proliferation scandal in which the country's top scientist has confessed he sold atomic secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

The Pakistan Muslim League of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan People's Party of another former Prime Minister in exile Benazir Bhutto, both called for a parliamentary debate into the affair.

from half a dozen countries: Japan, Malaysia, South Africa, Germany and at least two other European countries. The components were ostensibly meant for industrial purposes but were then assembled to make gas centrifuges to enrich uranium for atomic bomb-making. Experts compared the process to selling designs for a kit car

and providing help in buying the parts around the world.

George Tenet, the director of the CIA, said the credit for uncovering the network belonged to his organisation and MI6, using old-fashioned espionage techniques.

"First we discovered the extent of the hidden network," he said. "We tagged the proliferators. We detected the network stretching across four continents offering its wares to countries such as North Korea and Iran. Working with our British colleagues, we pieced together the picture of the network, revealing its subsidiaries, client lists, front companies, agents and manufacturing plants on three continents."

Despite the growing scale of the revelations, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf pardoned Khan yesterday after his public confession to "unauthorised proliferation activities".

Islamabad declared the scandal over, sticking to its claim that Khan had acted on his own, rather than with Pakistani military co-operation, as is widely suspected.

Musharraf said he would not hand any documents about the scandal to UN inspectors. "This is a sovereign country," he said. "No documents will be given. No independent investigation will take place here."

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Father of Pak nuclear bomb pleads for pardon

MIKE COLLETT-WHITE
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 4

PAKISTAN'S top nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan accepted full responsibility on Wednesday for a weapons proliferation scandal that extends from Libya to North Korea, and asked President Pervez Musharraf for clemency. Khan has been blamed for leaking arms secrets and equipment to Iran, Libya and North Korea, and Musharraf is said to be considering whether to prosecute him. Sources said Khan had called the meeting with Musharraf in a last-ditch bid to avoid prosecution.

"Dr A.Q. Khan submitted before the President that he accepts full responsibility for the



(Clockwise from left) Dr A.Q. Khan with Pakistani singer Iqbal Bano after receiving the highest civilian award of "Nishan-e-Imtiaz", in an undated photo. With President Pervez Musharraf during their meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday. Reuters



4 scientists charged with illegal transfers

ISLAMABAD: After months of investigations into the allegations of proliferation, the Pakistani government has charged four of its nuclear scientists and security officials for alleged transfer of nuclear technology under Security Law of 1952. Officials have been put under arrest for three months, private television channels reported. It is not clear if Dr. A.Q. Khan has also been charged. — P71

found with Libya. A senior military official said on Sunday that Khan had made a detailed statement confessing to supplying designs, hardware and materials used to make enriched uranium for atomic bombs to Iran, Libya and North Korea. Khan is reported to have said he was acting on the indirect instructions of two former Army chiefs, Generals Aslam Beg and Jehangir Karamat, a claim a military spokesman said had been "assessed and found wrong".

In his first public remarks since the probe was launched, Khan told state-run Pakistan Television he had requested the meeting and had met the President. "The President was understanding," he said. "He appreciated the frankness with which I gave him the details." — Reuters

uranium abroad without the knowledge of top military officials. An open trial could lead to embarrassing evidence implicating the Army and making a national martyr of Khan.

petition to the President and requested for clemency," it added. Western diplomats and many Pakistanis believe Khan could not have sold nuclear secrets and sent technology for enriching

proliferation activities, which were conducted by him during the period in which he headed KRL," the government said in a statement.

"Dr Khan has submitted his

Pakistan launched an investigation in November after the UN's IAEA provided evidence pointing to Pakistan's involvement in Iran's nuclear programme. Similar links have been

Khan says sorry, Musharraf gets US clean chit

HTC and Agencies
Islamabad/Washington,
February 4

ABDUL QADEER Khan on Wednesday asked Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to "forgive" him for selling its secrets abroad. In Washington, the United States announced it had full faith in Musharraf's assurances on stemming proliferation and gave the general a clean chit.

Khan's apology was announced on Pakistan's state-run television and came after several days of meetings with government officials.

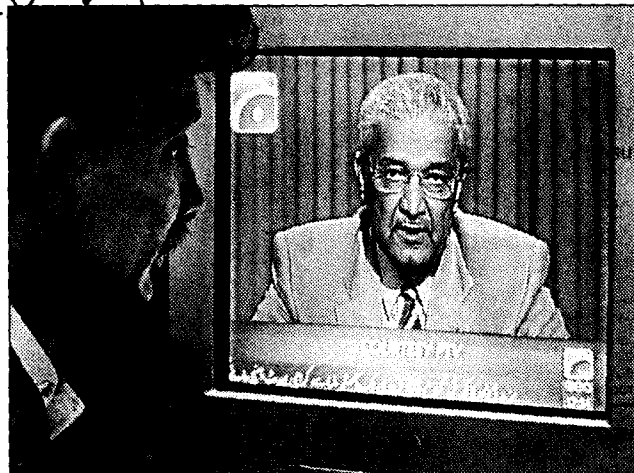
Footage of his appointment with the President showed a stony-faced Musharraf wearing a camouflage jacket and speaking to a contrite-looking Khan. "I explained the background on what was happening and what had happened, and he appreciated the frankness with which I gave him the details," Khan later told PTV in a brief interview.

He said Musharraf, who has summoned a meeting of Pakistan's nuclear control board to decide on the scientist's fate, had been "extremely kind and understanding".

Intelligence sources said that having sought "clemency and forgiveness" Khan would not now be prosecuted. He was sacked as scientific adviser to Prime Minister Jamali over the weekend after he confessed in a written statement to selling nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

As part of the understanding the Pakistani authorities reached not to prosecute him, he agreed to cooperate with investigators and give them all the information they needed, intelligence officials said.

Close on the heels of the



REUTERS

A man listens to AQ Khan's confession broadcast live on Pakistan state TV on Wednesday.

confessions, Pakistan arrested four scientists and security officials, including Khan's personal secretary on charges of illegal nuclear proliferation. The government has decided to charge Dr Farooq Ahmad, close friend of Khan, and Dr Nazir, a top official of Khan Research Laboratories, along with Khan's personal secretary Maj. Islamul Haq and Sajawal, a retired brigadier and security official of KRL, local TV reports said.

"Families received notices from the government yesterday, saying that the nuclear scientists and security officials have been put under arrest for three months," a lawyer for the scientists was quoted as saying on TV. There was, however, no official confirmation to this effect.

The United States, meanwhile, while giving a virtual clean chit to Musharraf in the fast unfolding nuclear proliferation saga, said it valued his assurances. "Musharraf has assured us that Pakistan was

not involved in any kind."

"Musharraf has assured us that Pakistan was not involved in any kind of proliferation — I'm talking about the government of Pakistan. We value those assurances," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said in response to a barrage of questions at his daily briefing on the subject.

He went on to say that Pakistan's investigation of the proliferation issue was "a sign of how strongly it takes that commitment".

He also referred to Islamabad's close cooperation on several fronts and said: "We are continuing to work closely with Pakistan to win the war on terrorism, and we appreciate the efforts they are taking to address these proliferation issues."

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, in a separate comment, emphasized that the current media reports are about "proliferation by an individual" and not by the Pakistani government.

Denial twist to Khan confession

IMTIAZ GUL

Islamabad, Feb 3: Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of the Islamic bomb now under a probe in Pakistan for leaking nuclear secrets, is said to have denied the government's claim that he had made a confession.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, head of the six-party Opposition alliance, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), talked to Khan by phone and said: "The revered nuclear scientist denied he had confessed to the government of having indulged in proliferation".

"After the government's claim about Khan's confession, I tried to reach the scientist and finally managed to contact him through his mobile phone," Ahmad told the private Geo television channel. He said that Khan denied he gave any such statement to the government.

He further quoted Khan as saying that he has been confined to his residence and no one is allowed to see him.

The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) had sealed Khan's fate after a lengthy meeting chaired by President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday.

An official statement, which was issued after the meeting, said: "In the background of the investigations into alleged acts of nuclear proliferation by a few individuals and to facilitate those in investigations in a free and objective manner, Khan, special adviser to the Prime Minister on strategic affairs, has ceased to hold the office."

Hours after his removal, the authorities also intensified security around Khan's residence.

As most Pakistanis await



A file picture of Abdul Qadeer Khan with an army officer. (Reuters)

Musharraf's national address on Thursday, the fate of the father of the country's nuclear bomb hangs in balance, particularly after he allegedly admitted his involvement in nuclear proliferation to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Military authorities, currently interrogating Khan and six of his colleagues, also seem to be at a loss on how to proceed against a man who is idolised by millions of Pakistanis as a "national hero".

"No doubt he is a hero, but we were faced with the choice of saving the national hero or saving the country from international sanctions," senior army officials said while briefing mediapersons on the interrogation being of Khan and six of his

Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL) aides.

"Our focus was nuclear proliferation and not the money involved in it," officials explained when asked as to how much money Khan may have made by the sale of nuclear secrets to Iran and Libya.

But since Monday, Khan has been cut off from the rest of the country. Several journalists tried in vain to get Khan's reactions to the government's claims.

The interrogation — officially called debriefings — had begun in late November after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran disclosed the sources that were aiding Tehran's nuclear programme. One of them was Pakistan.

Officials also claimed Khan had confessed to his contacts with the "nuclear underworld" based in the Gulf emirate of Dubai and some European countries.

He used his authority as head of KRL for unauthorised business contacts with Libya, North Korea and Iran in violation of national and international laws," officials said.

Khan pursued the proliferation business between 1989-2000 because of the immunity he enjoyed as the head of the country's prime nuclear programme, the officials said.

General Shaukat Sultan, the Pakistan army chief spokesman, told the German press agency DPA late yesterday that the scientist's "personal security had been enhanced but denied he had been put under house arrest.

DAVID ROHDE

Islamabad, Feb. 3: Opposition parties, political and military experts and relatives of detained officials yesterday questioned Pakistan's assertion that the founder of the country's nuclear programme had shared technology with Iran, Libya and North Korea for more than a decade without the knowledge of his superiors.

"This is a cock-and-bull story," said Muhammad Shafiq, 39, the son of Brigadier Sajawal Khan, a retired Pakistani army officer accused of taking part in the scheme. "If you want to believe it, believe it. The truth is nowhere near this story."

In a background briefing to 20 Pakistani journalists on Sunday night, a senior Pakistani official said that the scientist, Abdul Qadeer Khan, had confessed to covertly sharing nuclear secrets with Iran, Libya and North Korea from 1989 to 2000. American officials said parts of the government's account matched events tracked by American intelligence and that nuclear aid from Pakistan had flowed to North Korea in 2002 and to Libya last autumn.

The senior Pakistani official said Sunday that former army and intelligence chiefs had

Pakistanis puzzled by official ignorance

been questioned. Senior army officials were guilty of "omissions," he said, but did not take part in Khan's scheme.

Khan and his close relatives could not be reached for comment yesterday. A man who answered the telephone at Khan's home, now surrounded by security officials, said the scientist was not present. Shafiq, son of the detained brigadier said to have aided Khan, said he did not expect Khan's family to comment until the government announced whether it would prosecute.

Political and military experts predicted that President Pervez Musharraf, would not risk prosecuting Khan, until recently a national hero. A trial could set off a public outcry, and Khan could identify army officials who approved of his activities, the experts said.

A senior government official who spoke on condition of anonymity yesterday confirmed that Khan had signed a detailed confession several days ago, but he said no decision had been made on whether to charge the scientist.

He said General Musharraf would make a "policy statement" to the nation early next week after the end of a series of Pakistani national holidays.

The senior official declined to give further details about what the government had said was a sprawling smuggling network that involved German and Dutch middlemen, chartered planes and covert meetings between Khan and Iranian and Libyan scientists.

If the government account is true, Khan and the middlemen carried out one of the most complex schemes ever to evade international efforts to control nuclear weapons.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Zahid Malik, Khan's official biographer, said he had not spoken to the scientist for 10 days. Government officials ordered him on Sunday night to stop publicly commenting on the case, he said.

Those who questioned the government's account said today they were sceptical that Khan had acted without the approval of the country's powerful military leadership. Some suggested that Khan had agreed to confess to a version of events that put the army in a good light in exchange for a promise that the military-dominated government would not prosecute him.

On Sunday, the government also altered its descriptions of what motivated those who they said might have exported nuclear technology. Ten days ago, General Musharraf said "some individuals" had sold nuclear technology for personal gain.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Top Pak nuclear scientist sacked

IMTIAZ GUL

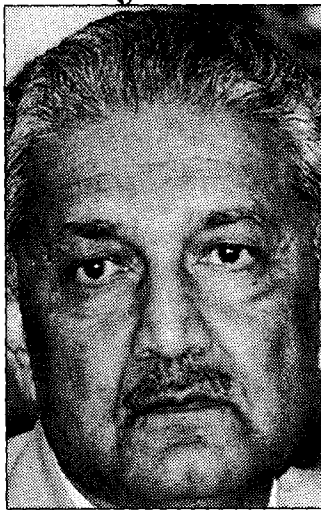
Islamabad, Jan. 31: Abdul Qadeer Khan, known as the "father of the country's nuclear bomb" was today removed from his post as adviser to the government on nuclear affairs, a government official said.

"In the background of the investigations into alleged acts of nuclear proliferation by a few individuals and to facilitate those in investigations in a free and objective manner, Dr Khan, special adviser to the Prime Minister on strategic programme has ceased to hold the office," said the announcement issued after a lengthy meeting of the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) headed by President Pervez Musharraf.

Musharraf had convened the meeting — attended by Prime Minister Mir Zafrullah Jamali, services' chiefs and key federal ministers — to put at rest an issue that seemed to have galvanised the people of Pakistan since November last year.

Khan had founded the Kahuta Research Laboratories (KRL) in 1976 and headed the clandestine uranium enrichment facility located 25 km east of Islamabad until 2001 when Musharraf appointed him as his adviser on nuclear affairs.

Born in 1936 at Bhopal, Khan has been in the eye of the storm since the US began vigorously pursuing its nuclear non-proliferation agenda, particularly after Pakistan conducted six nuclear tests in May 1998 in response to five by India in the



Abdul Qadeer Khan

same month.

Khan spent several years in western Europe, including Germany and Holland, studying nuclear physics and metallurgical sciences before returning to Pakistan to lead an ambitious nuclear programme in the mid Seventies.

The project took off soon after India exploded its first nuclear device in 1974. Pakistan's close contacts with militant Arab states such as Libya gave rise to suspicions that Khan was working on an Islamic nuclear bomb. He was formally charged by the Dutch government of having misappropriated classified information when he was a student at Delft University.

The court eventually absolved him of the charges in 1989 after some of his former profes-

sors in Holland, Germany and Britain testified in his favour, declaring that the information gathered by Khan was general reference material and not classified.

The soft-spoken metallurgist and some scientists of the KRL again came under sharp focus after the Tehran government disclosed to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sources of supplies for its nuclear programme, which also included some Pakistan names.

The authorities in Pakistan began debriefings in November when they first picked up Mohammad Farooq, Khan's right-hand man, who had served as the procurement director at KRL.

This led to the arrests of two dozen scientists and officials who were then interrogated which the officials called debriefings. Most of the detainees had been released but Khan's five trusted aides are still being debriefed.

The NCA reiterated Pakistan's strong resolve and commitment in adherence to international agreements of non-proliferation. "It was emphasised that Pakistan's nuclear capability was solely for purpose of deterrence of aggression against Pakistan," said the official statement.

The meeting observed that Pakistan took its international obligations with the utmost seriousness and in this regard the government "condemns and distances itself in categorical terms from individual acts of indiscretion in the past".

Pak intelligence nails N-scientists: report

29/1/04

Sr 2

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. — Top Pakistani nuclear scientists Mr AQ Khan and Mohammed Farooq acted directly and through black market to supply sensitive technology to Iran and Libya, senior Pakistani intelligence officials were today quoted as saying.

Pakistani investigators have concluded that Mr Khan, father of the country's atomic bomb, and Mr Farooq acted directly and through a network of middlemen from South Africa, Germany, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka and elsewhere operating a black market, to supply nuclear weapons technology to Iran and Libya, the *Washington Post* quoted three senior Pakistani intelligence officials, who wished to remain anonymous, as saying.

Ex-army chief defends sell-off

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 28. — Pakistan's programme to develop a nuclear bomb relied on black market suppliers, and Pakistani scientists who may have shared their contacts with Iran and Libya committed "no crime," a former army chief told The Associated Press today.

Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, Pakistan's army chief of staff from 1988-91, said the current investigation into top figures at a Pakistani nuclear weapons facility was treating them like criminals, and they should be respected for having provided the country's nuclear deterrent against rival India. "These scientists who are being questioned today, the only crime you can say they committed was to tell the Iranian friends or the Libyan friends 'Go to such and such a place and the item is on sale. Buy it from them,'" Beg said.

Asked what should happen to scientists who were found to have shared "underworld" contacts, Beg said: "Nothing. They have committed no crime." — AP

The help provided by the two to officials said.

Libya and Iran included blueprints In return for the Pakistani for equipment used to enrich scientists' assistance, in the late uranium, Pakistani intelligence 1980s and early 1990s, Iran

channeled millions of dollars to foreign bank accounts allegedly controlled by the two men, one of whom, Khan, amassed large real estate holdings in Pakistan and Dubai, the officials said.

The officials said the findings arose from an investigation being conducted by Pakistan's ISI. The probe, which is nearing completion, said the officials, began after the International Atomic Energy Agency presented Pakistani officials late last year with evidence that Pakistani technology appeared to have played a role in the clandestine nuclear weapons programmes of both Iran and Libya.

As a result of the probe, said the officials, Khan has been confined to his house in an elite neighbourhood in Islamabad and Farooq has been in detention since late November.

Pervez hints at nuke transfer to Iran

Davos
3
21/1
Davos (Switzerland), Jan. 23 (Reuters): Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said today it appeared Pakistani scientists had sold nuclear secrets abroad, but reiterated Islamabad's position that there had been no official involvement.

Pakistan says it began questioning its nuclear scientists, including the father of its atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, after the UN nuclear agency began investigating possible links between the Pakistani and Iranian nuclear programmes.

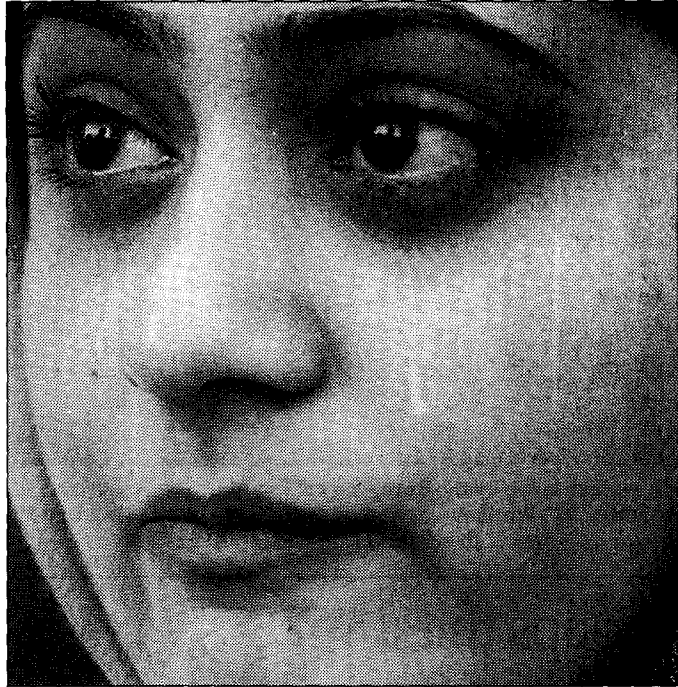
Musharraf told CNN while attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that the investigation, launched in November, would be finished in "a few weeks". Asked the likely outcome, he replied: "Well, I would not like to predict, but it appears that some individuals, as I said, were involved for personal financial gain."

Musharraf went further than past statements from his government that individual scientists "may" have transferred nuclear technology to neighbouring Iran. He said similar allegations had been made against European individuals and countries, "So it is not Pakistan alone". And he stressed: "There is no such evidence that any government personality or military personality was involved in this at all."

Asked about reports that Pakistani scientists had also transferred technology to Libya and North Korea, he replied:

"I am not denying anything because we are investigating; we have sent teams to Libya, we have sent teams to Iran and we are in contact with the IAEA (the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency). We are collecting all the data..."

He vowed "stern action" against violators: "There is nothing that we want to hide, we want to be very up and clear about it that we will move against any-



Ifza Haq, daughter of detained aide to nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, Islam ul-Haq, cries outside the Rawalpindi High Court. The Lahore High Court has asked the government to inform it of the whereabouts of the detained scientists and officials in two weeks. (AFP)

body who proliferated," he said.

Pakistan would move against any violator "because they are enemies of the state", he said.

The US suspects Iran of seeking to build a nuclear bomb under cover of an atomic energy programme Tehran insists is purely peaceful. Nuclear programmes in Iran, North Korea and Libya have all intensified western concern that one or more of the countries could join the "nuclear club", although Libya announced late last year it would cooperate with the US and Britain in dismantling its weapons programmes.

IAEA chief Mohamed El Baradei was asked in Davos yesterday about reports that nuclear know-how and technology may have reached Iran or Libya from Pakistan and replied: "I think

what we know is that there have been individuals involved. I do not want to jump to conclusions and say a government is involved."

Two Dutch ministers said on Monday there were "indications" North Korea and Libya may have acquired potentially arms-related nuclear technology developed by British-Dutch-German consortium Urenco that Pakistan and Iran are known to possess. Western diplomats have said Pakistani individuals may have helped both Tripoli and Pyongyang obtain the technology, in addition to Tehran. Abdul Qadeer Khan worked for Urenco in the 1970s. After his return to Pakistan in the 1980s was sentenced in absentia by an Amsterdam court to four years' jail for espionage.

Probe trail leads to Iran, Libya

9/3 2011
Islamabad, Jan. 22 (AFP): Pakistani investigators travelled to Iran and Libya late last year to investigate allegations that Pakistani scientists sold nuclear secrets to the so-called "rogue states," a minister said today.

The trip preceded the current probe into 12 top nuclear scientists, engineers and administrators, including the revered "father" of Pakistan's nuclear bomb Abdul Qadeer Khan.

The inquiry trip was prompted by a letter in November from the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), information minister Sheikh Rashid said.

"After the IAEA inquiries they wanted to get some information about some people," Rashid said of the Pakistani team. He said he did not know who was in the team or how large it was.

"They wanted to check how much involved (the scientists and engineers) were and

whether they were involved or not." Asked what they were alleged to be involved in, he said: "Something like information leakage".

Sheer lies: Beg

Dismissing as "sheer lies" allegations that he tried to persuade the Nawaz Sharif government to sell nuclear technology to Iran, Pakistan's former army chief General Aslam Beg has criticised President Pervez Musharraf for ordering the interrogation of the country's nuclear scientists.

"I am not an idiot to carry such a message," he was quoted as saying by the *Dawn* today.

Pressured Pak detains N-scientist

HTC and Agencies
London/Islamabad, Jan 18

PAKISTAN ON Saturday detained a Khan Research Laboratories official for questioning as the West was flooded with reports that the clandestine nuclear weapons programmes of Iran, Libya and North Korea were fuelled by the Kahuta lab in north Pakistan.

Though Pakistan has denied such a deal, it has been investigating the allegations. The detention of Islam-ul Haq, principal staff officer for the father of Pakistan's nuclear programme, Abdul Qadeer Khan, is seen as part of the probe. Also, Haq's detention comes amid mounting pressure on Pakistan to clamp down on Khan.

A special report in a London newspaper said intelligence reports revealed that Islamabad had struck a deal through the Kahuta laboratory that swapped Pakistani nuclear centrifuge technology for North Korean long-range missile.

As the report reiterated that Khan stole secret blueprints for two types of uranium enrichment centrifuges while working at Urenco, an Anglo-Dutch-German nuclear engineering consortium. With the help of the Chinese, he then went on to secretly develop atomic bomb.

In the course of such damaging development, came the news from Haq's wife, Nilofar Islam, that her husband was dining with Khan at his home on Saturday when two uniformed men told him that he was wanted for questioning. Khan gave her the news after the officers left with Haq.

"We have had no contact with him," Nilofar said. "We don't know where he is and what he is being asked." Pakistan has also rounded up some other nuclear scientists in recent weeks.

Inside story: How Pak fuels the nuke race

The Guardian
London, January 18

THE AUSTRIAN village of Seibersdorf is so anonymous that cab drivers from nearby Vienna have difficulty finding it. But it is home to a laboratory complex whose scientists have the power to start a war or keep the peace.

Hunched over electron microscopes and mass spectrometers, they are the world's nuclear detectives, analysing minute fragments of radioactive matter illicitly by UN inspectors in places such as Iran and Libya. Testing particles as small as one-hundredth of the width of a human hair, they can spot the secret yet indelible signs of a nuclear programme.

It was in Seibersdorf last summer that a scientist analysing dust taken from a cotton swipe in Iran discovered evidence of highly-enriched uranium - the key component of an atomic bomb. It was the first hint of a programme that had remained hidden for 18 years.

Like DNA from a crime scene, analysis of these particles also provides vital clues to the source of any nuclear material. Each radioactive isotope has its own signature.

Scientists at Seibersdorf work for the UN's nuclear watchdog - the International Atomic Energy Authority. They are just one part of a nuclear police force that is at the forefront of a war against a growing black market in nuclear material and atomic knowhow. The battle involves rogue scientists sell-

ing their knowledge, nations desperate to turn nuclear and middlemen turning a quick buck by trading material.

Dramatic evidence from Iran and now Libya reveals a clandestine and sophisticated network stretching from North Korea, Malaysia and China to Russia, Germany and Dubai. Yet one country more than any other stands accused of easing this proliferation. In the network of illegal radioactive trade, all roads point to Pakistan. More precisely they lead to the Khan Research Laboratories in Kahuta.

Uranium-235 is the holy grail in bomb-making. One way of acquiring it is to obtain uranium ore from the ground - which has minute amounts of U235 - then "enrich" it using thousands of centrifuges. This involves putting uranium into a tube and spinning it at twice the speed of sound to expel any impurities. By doing this, the amount of U235 becomes more concentrated.

While this process may not sound too complicated, it requires a feat of supreme engineering involving complex components. In particular, the rotors of the centrifuge spin so fast they need to be made of extremely strong material and be perfectly balanced.

In the mid-Seventies, these engineering problems were faced by a Pakistani metallurgist, Abdul Gadeer Khan. An ardent nationalist, he had just seen India test its first nuclear bomb. At the time he was working in Holland for an Anglo-Dutch-German engineering consortium called Urenco. Through his work there, Khan became aware of blueprints for

a strengthened alloy of steel.

Khan went on to steal the blueprints. With the blessing of his government, he established the Khan Research Laboratories near Islamabad and, with the help of the Chinese, went on to secretly develop the country's atomic bomb.

When, in 1998, Pakistan tested its first bomb, Khan became a hero as the "father of the Pakistani nuclear programme". He once said: "All Western countries are not only the enemies of Pakistan but in fact of Islam."

His fundamentalist sympathies mean that it is perhaps no surprise that he is also known as the "godfather of the Islamic Bomb". Evidence has now emerged from Iran and Libya that Khan's programme in Pakistan may be the source of the greatest level of nuclear weapons proliferation since the Cold War.

The Guardian has learnt that UN inspectors who have recently visited a number of facilities in Libya discovered large amounts of aluminium centrifuge parts that had "all the hallmarks of the Urenco designs" stolen by Khan.

A Vienna-based diplomat familiar with the Libyan inspections said: "The big surprise was that components found were almost off-the-shelf turnkey equipment. It was as if somebody had been shopping at Ikea and just needed to put the bits together." The diplomat said this was unlike Iraq's nuclear programme, which required large teams of scientists to deal with research issues and solve problems. He said: "The worry is that if a country like Libya - with lit-



Master of the game

- ▶ DR ABDUL QADEER KHAN (above), father of the 'Islamic Bomb', stole uranium enrichment blueprints from his former employer Urenco
- ▶ These BLUEPRINTS were copied to make Pakistan's nuclear bomb at the Kahuta secret facility with some help from the Chinese
- ▶ With the OVERT OR COVERT connivance of Pakistan's military regimes of the past, the plans for the bomb found their way to LIBYA, IRAN AND N KOREA

two types of uranium enrichment centrifuges: one based on rotors made of aluminium and another based on a

tle industrial infrastructure and a small population - could lay its hands on this equipment, then a large country might be able to set up a weapons programme at a very fast pace indeed."

Libyan authorities have been helping the IAEA to piece together the "cartel" of middlemen feeding this clandestine network. They have been helped by the US seizure of a German-registered ship in the Suez last October destined for Libya with parts, believed to be Malaysian-made but based on Pakistani designs, for aluminium centrifuges.

The UN inspectors uncovered evidence that many of the same middlemen were responsible for arming Libya and Iran. Last November, Iran finally admitted to a vast, secret procurement network that acquired thousands of sensitive parts and tools from numerous countries over an 18-year period.

It is believed that rogue scientists from Pakistan, motivated by million-dollar payouts, were helped by German middlemen and Sri Lankan businessmen based in Dubai. The middlemen are believed to have secured items for Iran from European, Asian and US firms.

Until the end of last year the Pakistani government furiously denied that any of its nuclear technology had been "exported". It now accepts that "certain individuals might have violated Pakistani laws for personal gain". Last month Pakistan announced it was questioning four of its scientists, including Abdul Khan, but Western officials fear little will come of this inquiry.

HD-19
**North Korea offers to halt tests,
production of fissile material**

11
By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, JAN. 6. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) today announced a "bold concession" to the United States in the battle of diplomatic attrition between the two ahead of a possible second round of multilateral talks on ways to 'de-nuclearise' the Korean peninsula. As monitored in Seoul, Pyongyang's official news agency said: "The DPRK is set to refrain from testing and production of nuclear weapons and even (to) stop operating (the) nuclear power industry (which is) used for peaceful purposes". These offers, according to North Korea, could constitute the "first-phase measures of (a) package solution".

The U.S. earlier demanded that the DPRK renounce its suspected nuclear-weapons 'programme' and other weapons of mass destruction in a fashion that would mark a complete, irreversible and verifiable 'de-nuclearisation' of Pyongyang's weap-

ons-capable facilities. The DPRK said that "this cannot but be one more bold concession" to the U.S. The offer punctuates the diplomatic activity following the move by a non-official American delegation to visit Pyongyang this week and also, if possible, the Yongbyon nuclear facilities. The characterisation of the offer as "bold concession" is being viewed in the Asia Pacific diplomatic circles as a transparent reminder of Pyongyang's earlier stand.

This was that Pyongyang would be willing to give up its nuclear-weapons 'capabilities' if the U.S. were to offer a credible pledge to respect its viability as a secure state. Pyongyang's strategic bottom line is that the U.S. and the DPRK should address each other's concerns in a reciprocal fashion. This idea is now being described in the offer as a "package solution".

The major diplomatic nuance is that the DPRK has now spoken about its willingness to take the "first-phase measures". But the principle of simultaneous steps has not

been given up. However, the DPRK has spoken, for the first time, about giving up its nuclear-energy production even for peaceful purposes.

While many Western strategic experts insist that the U.S. should cajole or coerce North Korea to remove its "hand from the nuclear cookie jar", the DPRK today reminded the U.S. that no deals could be done if it persisted in asking Pyongyang to 'de-nuclearise' its capabilities first and without any reciprocal gestures.

The DPRK's state agency said: "Such a persistent stand by the U.S. will destroy the foundation of the dialogue (under the six-party talks) and cast a dark shadow on the prospect for (resuming) talks". The multilateral parleys, which China is seeking to re-convene, include the U.S. and the DPRK, besides Japan, South Korea and Russia. Washington's official stand "shows the U.S. is only keen on disarming the DPRK after forcing it to scrap its nuclear programme", the statement said.

Libya drops a bombshell

To deal with nuclear proliferation, the world needs to go beyond ad hoc responses

EVIDENCE has been mounting of the mushrooming of nuclear proliferation to North Korea, Iran, Iraq earlier, and now Libya since the eighties, with some intelligence reports indicating its continuation even now. Then there were the suspicions of Saudi Arabia's acquisition of long-range nuclear-capable ballistic missiles from China in 1987, and the recent hobnobbing of the Saudi leadership with nuclear establishment in Pakistan. The nuclear proliferation road to each and all these countries seems to originate in Islamabad/ Kahuta. Muammar Gaddafi's son, who negotiated Libya's renunciation of its clandestine nuclear weapons programme, has left the world in no doubt that Libya acquired its bomb technology and material from Pakistan.

Given its role in promoting jihadi terrorism and nuclear proliferation, it may be easy to conclude that nothing better could be expected from Pakistan. But the rationale for Pakistan to indulge in such proliferation goes beyond mere financial benefit or religion-driven motivations, although they certainly played a role. Two questions would need to be addressed for the fu-

ture. First, what should, or can be, done about Pakistan? There are sufficient indications that the US and the international community would not be willing or able to apply any pressure for it to change its grand strategy in any meaningful way. Second, how should the world address the larger question of non-proliferation dangers?

The non-proliferation philosophy has been constructed so far on the principle of denial and ad hoc measures. These have their utility in delaying proliferation, but as the current mushrooming shows, they have proved inadequate in stopping the phenomenon. The denial regimes would work even less as the developing countries move up the technology development ladder. This is why the International Atomic Energy Agency head says that the existing system has ruptured. What is urgently needed is to work out a durable regime that goes beyond the current denial philosophy to a durable balance between non-proliferation and disarmament. This is particularly important if the peaceful uses of nuclear technology are to be harnessed for development in developing countries.

'Pakistan is hub of clandestine N-trade'

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad

New York: The Pakistani leaders who denied for years that scientists at the country's secret A. Q. Khan Research Laboratories were peddling advanced nuclear technology must have been averting their eyes from a most conspicuous piece of evidence: the laboratory's own sales brochure, quietly circulated to aspiring nuclear weapons states and a network of nuclear middlemen around the world.

The cover bears an official-looking seal that says "Government of Pakistan" and a photograph of the father of the Pakistani bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan. It promotes components that were spinoffs from Pakistan's three-decade-long project to build a nuclear stockpile of enriched uranium, set in a drawing that bears a striking resemblance to a mushroom cloud.

In other nations, such sales would be strictly controlled. But Pakistan has always played by its own rules.

As investigators unravel the mysteries of the North Korean, Iranian and now the Libyan nuclear projects, Pakistan and those it empowered with knowledge and technology they are now selling on their own has emerged as the intellectual and trading hub of a loose network of hidden nuclear proliferators.

That network is global, stretching from Germany to Dubai and from China to South Asia, and involves many middlemen and suppliers. But what is striking about a string of recent disclosures, experts say, is how many roads appear ultimately to lead back to the Khan Research Laboratories in Kahuta, where Pakistan's own bomb was developed.

In 2002, the US was surprised to discover how North Korea had turned to the Khan laboratory for an alternative way to manufacture nuclear fuel, after the reactors and reprocessing facilities it had relied on for years were "frozen" under a now shattered agreement with the Clinton administration. Last year, international inspectors and Western intelligence agencies were surprised again, this time by the central role Pakistan played in

the initial technology that enabled Iran to pursue a secret uranium enrichment program for 18 years.

The sources of Libya's enrichment programme are still under investigation, but those who have had an early glance say they see "interconnections" with both Pakistan and Iran's programmes and Libyan financial support for the Pakistani programme that stretches back three decades.

Until two weeks ago, Pakistani officials had long denied that any nuclear technology was transferred from their laboratories. But now that story has begun to change, after the Pakistani authorities, under pressure, began interrogating scientists from the laboratory about their assistance to other nuclear aspirants. Two

weeks ago, Dr. Khan himself was called in for what appears to have been a respectful, and still inconclusive, questioning.

Responding to requests relayed through associates, Dr. Khan has recently denied that he aided atomic hopefuls.

But American and European officials note that in the 1980's he repeatedly denied that Pakistan was at work on an atomic bomb, which it finally tested in 1998.

While American intelligence officials have gathered details on the activities of the creator of the Pakistani bomb and his compatriots for decades, four successive American presidents have dealt with the issue extremely delicately, turning modest sanctions against Pakistan on and off, for fear of destabilising the country when it was needed to counter the Soviets in the 1980's, much as it is needed to battle terrorism today.

When President Bush talks about the horrors that could unfold if a nuclear weapon fell into the hands of terrorists, it is Pakistan's combustible mix of expertise, components, fuel and fully assembled weapons that springs to the minds of American and European intelligence experts. In public, the White House says it has received "assurances" from Pakistan that if there ever were nuclear exports they are finished. NYT News Service

In 2002, the US was surprised to discover how North Korea had turned to the Khan laboratory for an alternative way to manufacture nuclear fuel, after the reactors and reprocessing facilities had been frozen

Gaddafi Jr confirms nuke deal with Pak

Vijay Dutt
London, January 4

IT COULD be a major source of embarrassment for Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf at a time when he is hosting the Saarc summit and trying to thaw relations with India.

In a candid revelation Col. Muammar Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam has confirmed that Libya bought plans to make a nuclear bomb from Pakistani scientists for "millions of pounds". Western experts inspecting weapons sites were taken aback on finding that nuclear scientists working for Libya had what one official described as a "full bomb dossier" from Pakistan.

Reacting to Saif's disclosure, Mahnaz Isphani, member of the Libyan Council on Foreign Relations, commented that a US aid package for Pakistan that is due to be discussed by the US Congress could now

come into question. "Congressmen will ask: are we rewarding a (nuclear) proliferator?"

Western officials quoted in the *Sunday Times* said the Pakistani scientists involved could have received even as much as \$100 million over several years starting 1990s.

Though they admit that Pakistani scientists could have been working on their own without the connivance of Islamabad, officials feel their role in Libya's N-programme would "prove extremely embarrassing" for Musharraf. "It will strengthen demands from US hawks for a firmer line."

The report said now US and British pressure on Musharraf - "already accused of failing to prevent illicit sale of fission material to Iran" - would only increase. It is now public knowledge that North Korea gave Pakistan technology for the *Ghauri* missile in exchange for nuclear knowhow.



A file photograph of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi

The report also accuses the West of blundering by failing to stop Beijing from giving Pakistan designs for uranium bombs in the 1980s.

Though the West now depends on Pakistan's cooperation in its fight against Al-Qaida, it is also aware of the anti-Americanism of the Pakistan Army brass and fears the generals may try to capture the "nuke button".

Donald Anderson, chair-

man of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, hoped "Musharraf's fingerprints" were not on the Libyan deal.

Kenneth Adleman, member of the Pentagon's defence policy board said: "It's clear Pakistan has been promiscuous over nuclear issues. This was the case under Gen. Zia, Benazir Bhutto and now Musharraf".

Saif, 32, confirmed in his interview that Libya had bought nuclear components from a variety of black market dealers. "We dealt with an underground network of middlemen."

Arab sources quoted by the *Times* claim some of the components for the Libyan nuclear programme were bought in Dubai and shipped to Libya, bringing the emirate into the picture for the first time. This has also raised the possibility of Dawood Ibrahim's network being involved. Confirmation of this would embarrass Islamabad further.

Pak hub of illicit nuke trade

PAKISTAN HAS emerged as the intellectual and trading hub of a loose network of hidden nuclear proliferators, a media report said.

Pakistani leaders who denied for years that scientists at the secret AQ Khan Research Laboratories were peddling nuclear technology must have been averting their eyes from a most conspicuous piece of evidence: the laboratory's own sales brochure, circulated to aspiring nuclear weapons states and a network of middlemen around the world.

The brochure, the *New York Times* says, bears an official-looking seal that says "Government of Pakistan" and a photo of the "father of the Pak Bomb", Dr Abdul Qader Khan. It promotes components that were spinoffs from Pakistan's three-decade-long project to build a stockpile of enriched uranium.



Dr AQ Khan Where it all began

disclosures, experts say, is how many roads appear to lead back to Dr Khan's laboratories in Kahuta, where the 'Pak Bomb' was built.

In 2002 the US discovered how North Korea sought the laboratory's help to make nuclear fuel. Last year, nuke inspectors were surprised by Pakistan's role in the technology that enabled Iran to pursue a secret uranium programme.

PTI, New York

NYT says the network is global, stretching from Germany to Dubai and China to South Asia, and involves many middlemen. What is striking about a string of recent