

# Apec leaders back new anti-terror plan



President George W Bush talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, as Australian Prime Minister John Howard (right) talks with China's President Hu Jintao. Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong and Russian President Vladimir Putin look on at La Moneda, Santiago, on Sunday. — PTI

The Philippine Daily  
Inquirer/ANN

SANTIAGO, Nov. 22. — Pacific Rim leaders ended their two-day summit late yesterday with a pledge to shore up anti-terrorism defences, reduce disparities among their economies, stamp out corruption and push ahead with the WTO's negotiations on lowering global trade barriers.

The 21-member Apec forum endorsed new security measures to fight terror while issuing strong support for WTO talks aimed at liberalising trade. In the Santiago Declaration Apec member states, whose economies account for nearly half of the

world's trade-promised to "continue our work with a renewed sense of urgency, in order to achieve a balanced, overall outcome that will meet the high levels of ambition set for these negotiations."

US President Mr George W Bush also endorsed Apec's efforts, saying: "We've got to reject the blocks and barriers that divide economies and people. And I believe, with the right policies, we can continue to grow." Business leaders wanted Apec to launch a formal study for a proposed free trade area of the Asia-Pacific that would dwarf all other trade zones. Apec leaders called the study a "relevant proposal" but stopped short of endorsing

it, apparently concerned about complicating the WTO negotiations.

The Apec leaders also approved counter-terrorism measures aimed at protecting food stocks, improving commercial flight safety and making sure shipping is safe from terrorist attacks. "We encouraged relevant Apec economies to take measures toward the ratification and implementation of, or the commitment to ratify, all basic universal anti-terrorist conventions, so as to demonstrate Apec's unmistakable resolve to collectively confront the threat of terrorism and its disastrous effects on the people and also the economies of the region," the declaration said

23 NOV 2004 THE STATESMAN

# Bush warns Iran, N Korea on nuke ambitions

Associated Press

SANTIAGO (Chile), Nov. 21. — Facing nuclear challenges on two fronts, US President George W. Bush warned that Iran's suspected weapons programme is "a very serious matter" and he stood united with leaders of Asia and Russia in demanding North Korea's return to stalled disarmament talks.

Iran and North Korea, part of what Mr Bush describes as the "axis of evil", dominated the President's attention yesterday along with trade and economic issues at the opening of a 21-nation summit of Asian-Pacific leaders.

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed on the need to maintain pressure on Iran and prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons, the USA has said.

The US is sceptical about Teheran's intentions in talks with Britain, France and Germany about eliminating or dismantling its nuclear weapons systems. Facing a Monday deadline to halt all work related to uranium enrichment, Iran reportedly is producing significant quantities of a gas that can be used to make nuclear arms.

"This is a very serious matter," Mr Bush said.

The US intends to ask the UN Security Council to consider economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran.

Although it boycotted talks in September, North Korea has told China in recent weeks that it is prepared to participate in the six-nation negotiations aimed at ending its nuclear weapons programme, an official said. USA hopes to restart the talks by this year end or early next year.

Mr Bush met the leaders of Japan, South Korea, China and Russia, his partners in the talks with North Korea, which is led by the mercurial dictator, Kim Jong Il.

Commenting on his discussions, Mr Bush said that "the will is strong, that the effort is united and the message is clear to Mr Kim Jong Il: Get rid of your nuclear weapons programmes." Addressing business leaders, he urged nations to purge government corruption, support free trade and strengthen anti-terrorism efforts.

Chinese President Hu Jintao said he and Mr Bush both hoped the North Korean crisis "can be solved peacefully through dialogue".

Believed to possess several nuclear weapons, North Korea is demanding security guarantees as a price for ending the

## Intelligence reform Bill hits a wall

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21. — A massive intelligence reform Bill designed to adjust the US intelligence community to the post-September 11 world has hit a snag after a key congressional ally of the Pentagon expressed concern about the measure.

House Speaker Mr Dennis Hastert pulled the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 off the floor minutes before a scheduled vote yesterday, citing objections voiced by Mr Duncan Hunter, the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"Duncan was concerned that the proposed reform could endanger our troops in the field, who use real-time intelligence to fight the war in Iraq and Afghanistan," Mr Hastert said. "We need to clarify it, we need to work on it, we will continue to do that." The sudden reversal followed an announcement by House-Senate negotiators of a sweeping deal on the legislation that calls for the creation of a national intelligence czar with sweeping budgetary powers. — AFP

impasse. Washington wants an immediate halt and UN inspection of North Korea's nuclear activities.

# Anti-Bush protests before APEC forum

**Santiago (Chile):** At least 25,000 protesters opposed to George W Bush, the war in Iraq and unfettered capitalism marched through the Chilean capital just before the American President arrived here for a weekend summit of 21 Pacific rim economies.

Bush and other leaders will discuss trade, security, fighting corruption, stronger economic ties—and network with one another—at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

In the clashes between the anti-riot police and demonstrators that dragged from Friday into early Saturday, two people received gunshot wounds, and a military police captain and shop worker were injured in separate incidences, after at least 250 demonstrators were arrested.

Earlier on Friday, thousands of Chileans had marched in the streets of downtown Santiago in a demonstration to express their disgust over the APEC summit, believing it



**Demonstrators set a US flag afire as they protest in Santiago on Friday**

championed a kind of capitalism that widened the gap between rich and poor. But most of their outrage was aimed at Bush and the US-led war in Iraq.

Marchers held up posters saying: 'Bush, you stink' and 'Terrorist who brought his two children along. "I do not want that for my family." Chilean anti-riot military-style police, in armored cars, had fired water-cannon and tear gas on Friday as a huge anti-globalization march erupted into stone-throwing by bands of masked protesters. Thousands had marched peacefully in a police-authorized demonstration through the city ahead of the summit but as the procession culminated with a concert in a central park, small knots of masked protesters destroyed telephone cabins, smashed lamps and lobbed stones at police. Organizers halted the concert.

Only moments earlier, there had been a carnival-like atmosphere with families, children and young people rallying under tight police supervision. In an extraordinary clampdown, officials declared a citywide holiday, prompting a long-weekend exodus from Santiago. Agencies

Some chanted: "Bush, listen: Chile is not for sale!" and "Bush, fascist, thief, murderer!"

"We have to do something to humanise this economic model that is now spreading in the world," said Francisco Araya, an office worker