

Rich nations didn't do enough in 2005: UN

United Nations: A year of disasters around the world sparked an unprecedented outpouring of aid, but richer nations still are not giving enough money and material to tackle lingering humanitarian crises, the UN humanitarian chief said.

Jan Egeland said, for example, that as many people die in Congo every eight months as in last year's Indian Ocean tsunami.

He also criticised political leaders for failing to take action to end the wars that create humanitarian crises or invest in disaster prevention to mitigate the impact of earthquakes, hurricanes and floods.

The work of UN and other relief workers in conflict-racked eastern Congo, in the Darfur region of western Sudan, and in northern Uganda has become "an alibi for lack of political and security action," the



TWO FACES OF TRAGEDY: A New Orleans man on entering his house after Katrina; a girl after the Kashmir quake

UN official said.

"We are a plaster on a wound which is not healed," he lamented, "because there's no political action to put an end to the wars, and there's too little also invested in preventing natural disasters."

In a wide-ranging interview on Friday, Egeland looked back on the response to the tsunami, devastating hurricanes and monsoons, drought and near famine in Africa, and the recent South Asian earthquake.

"This has been really a year of disasters, a year of suffering, but it's also been a year of compassion and solidarity like probably no other year," he said. "The tsunami was world record in concrete solid compassion. We've never been as generous—ever—as a world. We feared it would take away from other emergencies and we can now safely say it did not." AP

20 DEC 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

UN climate agreement hits roadblocks

150 Nations Agree On Talks To Fight Global Warming, US, Russia Raise Objections

Montreal: More than 150 nations agreed on Saturday to launch formal talks on mandatory post-2012 reductions in greenhouse gases - talks that will exclude an unwilling US.

For its part, the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush, which rejects the emissions cutbacks of the current Kyoto Protocol, accepted only a watered-down proposal to enter an exploratory global "dialogue" on future steps to combat climate change.

That proposal specifically rules out "negotiations leading to new commitment." The parallel tracks represented a mixed result for the pivotal two-week conference, doing little to close the climate gap between Washington on one side, and Europe, Japan and other supporters of the Kyoto Protocol on the other.

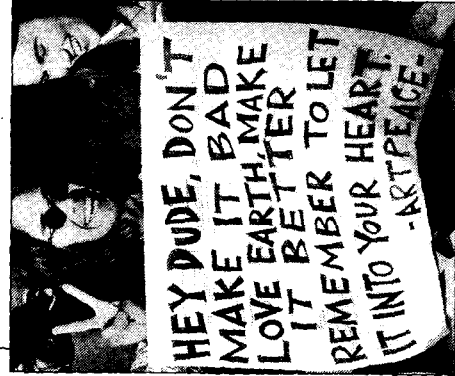
"These countries are willing to take the leadership," Swiss delegate Bruno Oberle said of the Kyoto nations. "But they are not able to solve

China and other poor industrializing nations not obligated under Kyoto.

But the Canadian conference president, Environment Minister Stephane Dion, said the decisions taken here amounted to "a map for the future, the Montreal Action Plan, the MAP." The Montreal meeting was the first of the annual climate conferences since the Kyoto Protocol took effect last February, mandating specific cutbacks in emissions for carbon dioxide and five other gases by 2012 in 35 industrialized countries.

Meanwhile, even Russia blocked agreement on Saturday by objecting to details of a proposal to extend the Kyoto Protocol on global warming beyond 2012. Moscow's refusal also blocked approval of a separate Canadian plan to launch new talks on a long-term fight against climate change to include Kyoto outsiders such as the US and developing nations such as India and China.

"The document as it stands now



Members of the International Youth delegation stage a bed-in to protest climate change at Montreal

the problem. We need the support of the United States—but also of the big emerging countries," a reference to

does not command consensus," Russian chief negotiator Alexander Bedritsky told the 189-nation meeting during a marathon session stretching into the early hours.

Russia proposed that any agreement should allow all nations, not just the wealthy industrial countries, to be able to offer voluntary commitments in reducing greenhouse gases.

Kyoto in its first phase does not include the developing world or big, and rapidly growing, polluters such as India and China and a major theme of the Montreal talks is how to bring them on board.

Other ministers praised Russia for bringing Kyoto to life—its 'Yes' enabled Kyoto to enter into force in February 2005 after years of delays - but urged Moscow to back off. "If it were not for Russia, the Kyoto Protocol would not be in force," British Environment Minister Margaret Beckett said. Agencies

11 DEC 2005

THE HINDU

Hunger kills 6 million children a year: UN

11-15
28/11
Rome: Hunger and malnutrition are killing nearly six million children a year, and more people are malnourished in sub-Saharan Africa this decade than in the 1990s, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.

Many of the children—the figure roughly equals the whole pre-school population of a large country such as Japan—die from diseases that are treatable, including diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria and measles, said the report by the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of malnourished people grew to 203.5 million people in 2000-2002 from 170.4 million 10 years earlier, the report states, noting that hunger and malnutrition are among the main causes of poverty, illiteracy, disease and deaths in developing countries.

The UN food agency warned that the goal of reducing the number of the world's hungry by half by the year 2015, set by the World Food Summit in 1996 and reinforced by the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, remains distant, but still attainable.

"If each of the developing regions continues to reduce hunger at the current pace, only South America and the Caribbean will reach the Millennium Development Goal target," Jacques Diouf, the agency's director-general, wrote in the report, the agency's annual update on world hunger.

The food agency said the Asia-Pacific region also has a good chance of reaching the targets "if it can accelerate progress slightly over the next few years." FAO estimated last year that about 850 million people worldwide were undernourished during the 2000-2002 period. However, this year's report does not provide an update on the number of hungry people.

New estimates will be released next year, the report said. "Most, if not all of the ... targets can be reached, but only if efforts are redoubled and refocused," Diouf said. "To bring the num-



Diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which kill more than six million people a year, hit the hungry and poor the hardest, according to the finding of the report

ber of hungry people down, priority must be given to rural areas and to agriculture as the mainstay of rural livelihoods."

The report states that providing children with adequate food is crucial for breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty, and ways to combat hunger include economic growth, investing in agriculture, political stability peace, better education for children and improving the situation of women. Wars also disrupt agricultural production and access to food.

Having proper infrastructure in rural regions—for instance good roads—also is key to fighting the scourge of hunger, the FAO said.

Diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which kill more than six million people a year, hit the hungry and poor the hardest, according to the report's findings. Millions of families are pushed deeper into poverty and hunger by the illness and death of breadwinners, the cost of health care, paying for funerals and support of orphans. Reuters

23 NOV 2005

IAEA REFERRAL | West willing to revive nuclear talks to discuss Russian proposal

EU, US defer UN action on Iran

LOUIS CHARBONNEAU
& MARK HEINRICH
VIENNA, NOVEMBER 22

EUROPEAN Union powers are willing to revive nuclear talks with Iran to discuss a Russian proposal aimed at defusing an impasse over what the West believes is an Iranian atomic bomb programme, diplomats said on Tuesday, following Monday's announcement that EU and US envoys would not push immediately to refer Iran to the UN Security Council.

Under Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposal, Iran would be allowed to continue converting uranium ore but would ship it to Russia for enrichment, a system which, in theory, would prevent Iran from producing weapons-grade uranium.

"We are considering a meeting in December in Vienna. The Iranians would have to say they want to meet and talk about the Russian proposal," a diplomat from the so-called EU3—France, Britain and Germany—said on condition of anonymity.

He said the EU3 were prepared to make a major concession in the interest of resuming dialogue with Iran—they would be willing to meet even if Tehran did not reinstate a suspension of uranium processing activities at its Isfahan plant.

The trio had made this a condition of restarting talks, but Tehran has so far ruled out

halting work at Isfahan.

"We will probably come back to this issue after the IAEA board meeting," the diplomat said, referring to Thursday's meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors.

No official comment was available from Tehran. But EU officials said Iran would probably react positively.

On Monday, EU and US officials said they would not push the IAEA's 35-nation board to refer Iran this week to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions, as the Western powers had previously threatened to do. The officials cited a desire to allow Iran more time to think about the Russian plan.

Last week, U.S. President George W. Bush said he backed Putin's initiative to end the standoff in the EU3's drive to persuade Iran to abandon the most sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The proposal would allow Iran to continue converting uranium ore into gas at Isfahan if the most critical stage of nuclear fuel production—uranium enrichment—was transferred to Russia as part of a joint venture. In exchange, Iran would get economic and political benefits. Iran has not formally rejected the Russian idea but has stressed repeatedly that it aims to enrich uranium domestically, calling this a sovereign right it would never renounce. —Reuters

Iraq's Talabani goes to Iran for history-making visit



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (right) and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani at a press briefing in Tehran. Reuters

ALIREZA RONAGHI
TEHRAN, NOVEMBER 22

JALAL TALABANI, the first Iraqi president to visit Iran for nearly four decades, received assurances on Monday that Tehran supported its neighbour's transition to democracy.

Shi'ite Muslim Iran has repeatedly been accused of meddling in post-war Iraq, with Western and Iraqi officials charging Iran with allowing weapons and insurgents to cross its borders.

But Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said such accusations were unfounded and voiced by those who did not want better ties between Baghdad and Tehran, who fought each other to a standstill in a 1980-1988 war.

"Such accusations will definitely not affect the expansion of relations between Iran and Iraq," he told reporters after a meeting with Talabani. "A popular, independent and developed Iraq will be the best friend of the Iranian nation."

Talabani, who will meet Iran's foreign minister and top security official on Tuesday, said his visit was aimed at strengthening political and commercial ties. "We are sure that we will enjoy the Iranian government's cooperation in our struggle against terrorism," said Talabani, accompanied by National Security Adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie.

Although Iranian and Iraqi officials were likely to hold cordial discussions on intelligence and security cooperation and efforts to stop insurgents and weapons from crossing their border, discussions will touch on sensitive security subjects, an adviser to Rubaie said on Monday. "This issue will be raised in talks. Dr Rubaie has been very candid in previous talks on the supply of weapons to militias," said the adviser who asked not to be named.

Iran's influence in former war-foe Iraq is one of the most volatile issues fuelling sectarian tensions between Sunni Arabs once dominant under Saddam Hussein and long-oppressed Shi'ites empowered after January elections. —Reuters

US, UN on collision course

Showdown To Decide If General Assembly Or Secretary-General Rules

2/14 By Warren Hoge 12/14

United Nations: A growing dispute over the future division of authority at the United Nations (UN) has prompted showdown talk among diplomats and a warning from American ambassador to the UN **John R Bolton** that the United States may look elsewhere to settle international problems.

What is at issue is how management reform proposals—which would broaden the power of the secretary general's office—are being pressed assertively by Bolton and aggravating tensions between the 191-member General Assembly and the office of the secretary-general. "It looks like it could be a real train wreck," said Edward Luck, a former president of the United Nations Association of the United States. "It's a basic clash over who's in charge: is it the General Assembly or is it the secretary-general?"

"This is serious stuff," said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's chief of staff Mark Malloch Brown. "I think in many ways it is setting



FACE-OFF

the outcome of whether the United Nations matters or not in 10 years' time." Bolton has identified the subject as the priority of US policy at the UN.

Distrust has deepened because many nations believe the secretary-general's office has been tacking too close to the US in its effort to repair relations with Washington that were damaged over the war in Iraq and the scandal-ridden oil-for-food programme. "One gets the impression that other countries are suspi-

cious that the secretary-general and his aides are really puppets being manipulated by Washington," Luck said.

Annan scheduled an emergency meeting for Monday with the coalition of developing nations known as the Group of 77, which now has 132 members and is protesting recommended changes that it believes would usurp the power of the General Assembly. "They want us to be like an advisory board that is sitting looking into the air and giving advice and then the secretary-general is going to decide whatever he is going to do," said Maged Abdelaziz, Egyptian ambassador to the UN.

Bolton has raised the stakes in the debate with off-premises statements saying that if thwarted, the US would snub the UN and pursue its interests in other international forums. In a speech last Monday at Wingate University in North Carolina, Bolton said, "Being practical, Americans say that either we need to fix the institution or we'll turn to some other mechanism to solve international problems." NYT News Service

22 NOV 2005

Talk of showdown at the U.N.

40-11 ✓
22/11

The U.S. Ambassador's reform proposals are aggravating tensions.

Warren Hoge

A GROWING dispute over the future division of authority at the United Nations has prompted showdown talk among diplomats and a warning from John R. Bolton, the American Ambassador, that the United States may look elsewhere to settle international problems.

What is at issue is how management reform proposals that would broaden the power of the Secretary-General's office are being pressed assertively by Mr. Bolton and aggravating tensions between the 191-member General Assembly, with its entrenched bureaucracy, and the office of the secretary-general.

The clash is being seen in crisis terms in the 38th-floor offices of Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "This is serious stuff," said Mark Malloch Brown, Annan's chief of staff. "I think in many ways it is setting the outcome of whether the United Nations matters or not in 10 years' time."

Distrust has deepened in the current debate over reform because many nations believe that the secretary-general's office has been tacking too close to the United States in its effort to repair relations with Washington that were damaged over the war in Iraq and the scandal-ridden oil-for-food programme.

Mr. Annan, returning to headquarters after a 10-day trip to the Middle East and Pakistan, has scheduled an emergency meeting for Monday with the coalition of developing nations known as the Group of 77, which now has 132 members and is protesting a series of recommended changes that it believes are usurping the power of the General Assembly.

"They want us to be like an advisory board that is sitting looking into the air and giving advice and then the secretary-general is going to decide whatever he is going to do," said Maged Abdelaziz, the Egyptian Ambassador.

He said member states questioned the motives of Mr. Bolton, who has a well-known history of disdain toward the United Nations. "When Bolton came, he presented 400 proposals," Mr. Abdelaziz said. "Let him present 1,700 proposals; we're capable of discussing them."

Among the proposed changes would be the creation of ethics and oversight offices answerable to the secretary-general and an insistence that the biennial budget to be approved next month anticipates the costs of new offices proposed as part of the reform package, like a Hu-

man Rights Council and a Peacebuilding Commission.

Stafford Neil, Ambassador of Jamaica and chairman of the Group of 77, complained in a letter to Jan Eliasson, president of the General Assembly, that the reform proposals were not being considered "in accordance with existing rules and procedures."

George J. Mitchell, the former Senate majority leader and co-chairman of the Task Force on the United Nations, which was created by Congress, said he had encountered objections to American sponsorship of the reforms and had tried to combat them.

Mr. Malloch Brown said politics was trumping serious consideration of needed management changes. "The secretary-general really wants to be a real reformer; it's in our interest to make this place run better," he said. "But it's impossible to have that discussion at the moment because instead of talking about what is appropriate reform, everyone is talking about what is the agenda behind the reform."

Mr. Bolton has raised the stakes in the debate with off-premises statements saying that if thwarted, the United States would snub the United Nations and pursue its interests in other international forums. In a Jesse Helms Lecture Series speech last Monday at Wingate University in Wingate, N.C., Bolton said, "Being practical, Americans say that either we need to fix the institution or we'll turn to some other mechanism to solve international problems."

An article from *The Sunday Telegraph* in Britain in circulation among diplomats reports that Mr. Bolton told guests at a private dinner in New York: "In the bubble on First Avenue, Volcker is just ignored. I talk about it, but it's a solitary conversation." The reference was to the investigation led by Paul A. Volcker that highlighted corruption and mismanagement in the oil-for-food programme.

The newspaper also said that when asked by its reporter what he enjoyed most at the United Nations, Mr. Bolton replied, "It's a target-rich environment."

William H. Luers, the current president of the U.N. Association of the United States, offered a dark assessment of the current clash. "I think that there is a morning-after effect that's resulted in polarization between the U.S. on the one hand and the Group of 77 on the other," he said. "This is a time for diplomacy, and we don't have the diplomatic capacity to do it." —**New York Times News Service**

US asks UN to help preserve Volcker data

S. Rajagopalan

Washington, November 17

AS A question mark hangs over the future of the thousands of documents collected by the Paul Volcker committee on the Iraq oil-for-food scam, the United States has urged the United Nations to intervene and preserve the entire data for follow-up action by different countries.

Uncertainties about preservation of the documents and access to them have come to the fore because no decisions have yet been taken on dealing with the two issues after the expiry of the committee's extended tenure on December 31.

Several countries, including India, are beginning to knock on the doors of the Volcker panel for documents dealing with individuals and entities who have been named as beneficiaries in the scam.

Indian representative Virendra Dayal, slated to arrive in New York on Thursday, will be meeting Volcker in a bid to get details about transactions allegedly involving Indian individuals and companies.

Amid mounting concerns about the preservation of data beyond December 31, a statement from the Volcker panel said arrangements would be made with the UN "for the appropriate and orderly availability and disposition of committee materials". But there was no definitive pronouncement from the UN itself. UN's deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said the UN's legal department, the Volcker committee and Iraqi authorities were continuing discussions on the future of documentation.

The committee's original decision was to revert the documents to their original sources. The bulk of it had come from the Iraqi government. Documents had also been secured from entities and sources in other countries.

Annan in Iraq, does a quick recce

Baghdad
12 NOVEMBER

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived in Baghdad on Saturday for his first visit to Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, a U.N. spokeswoman said. The United Nations has been operating at greatly reduced levels in the country since international staffers were withdrawn in October 2003 after two bombings at its Baghdad offices.

Annan's Iraq envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was among 22 people killed in a truck bombing at the former U.N. headquarters in August 2003. Iraqi officials have been pressing the United Nations for months to significantly increase its involvement in humanitarian, political and reconstruction activities.

Annan was due to meet Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari and several

other senior political leaders, including former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, and U.N. staff working in Iraq. The secretary-general was in Amman on Friday, where he discussed Wednesday's deadly bombings in three hotels in the Jordanian capital, which al Qaeda in Iraq said was carried out by four Iraqis.

The visit coincided with a car bomb explosion outside a public market in the predominantly Shiite neighborhood of New Baghdad, killing four and injuring 19. In New Baghdad, two men, a woman and her eight-year-old daughter were killed in the blast, which also set off a large fire in the market, police Col. Hassan Chaloub said.

Annan's previously unannounced visit follows separate trips by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the past few days. It also comes three days after a panel ruled Annan had erred in



VISITING HOURS: Bodyguards escort Kofi Annan in Baghdad — AFP


firing mid-level U.N. aide Joseph Stephanides, the sole U.N. official to be dismissed for alleged misconduct in the scandal-tainted oil-for-food plan for Iraq. U.N. staff numbers in Iraq have been slowly increasing. The current staff ceiling in Baghdad is about 260, including some 150 troops from Fiji, deployed to guard U.N. staff and facilities.

Other U.N. staffers work on Iraqi programmes from offices in New York and neighboring Jordan. The U.N. mission in Iraq also opened two offices outside Baghdad late last year. It has about six staff each at offices in the southern city of Basra and Arbil in the north.

Government spokesman Leith Kubba said Annan met with Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, but provided no additional details. On Friday, al-Jaafari demanded that Syria do more to keep foreign fighters from crossing into western Iraq. — AP

The Indian **EXPRESS**

Wednesday, November 09, 2005

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Front Page

Ready to help Delhi with Volcker details: UN

LALIT K JHA

UNITED NATIONS, November 8 The UN has said it's willing to cooperate with national authorities, including the Indian government, if they wanted to undertake further investigations into the Volcker Committee report.

Farhan Haq, spokesman, office of UN Secretary General, told *The Indian Express* that if necessary, the UN and the Volcker panel were willing to "take action" against any corporations or individuals under their jurisdiction.

A spokesman of the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, said the Ambassador, Nirupam Sen, is in constant touch with offices of Secretary General and Volcker Committee on the issue. Sen has sought an appointment with Paul Volcker, who is chairman of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the Oil for Food Program.

However, Haq said that the UN and Volcker Committee were unlikely to share any information to any "private association" or a "political party" about the findings of the independent inquiry into the Oil for Food programme.

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Congress can sue me, says Volcker

*See also
corruption*

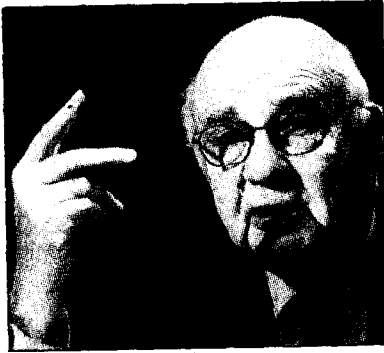
UN: 01-15-11

New York: Welcoming the Congress' decision to send him a legal notice over naming external affairs minister Natwar Singh as a beneficiary of Iraq's oil-for-food programme, Paul Volcker, the head of the inquiry committee looking into the UN's tainted programme, on Friday said what was said in his report was based on information found in Iraqi records.

"They (Congress) are welcome to send a legal notice. The UN has certain privileges and immunities. We also have the analysis, but in some cases we certainly listed the information indicated from Iraqi records," said the author of the report, adding, "We didn't say what is right or wrong. We only said what was there in the Iraqi records, whether there was denial or acceptance... if there was something in between or no answers."

The Congress on Thursday decided to issue a comprehensive legal notice to the UN and the Volcker committee demanding full disclosure of the material on the basis of which the probe panel had reached the "unverified conclusion" that the party was a beneficiary in the scam.

Dismissing Natwar's claim that he was not asked for his comments on the report, Volcker claimed that all those mentioned in it had been notified and given a chance to clarify on the contents about them. "I came to know yesterday that Natwar Singh is the foreign minister," he said at a function on UN reforms. Claiming that everyone named in the report was given a



It's All On Record: Volcker

chance to clarify, he said. "We have indicated carefully that everybody was notified that they are going to be listed and we also indicated what their response was, if any. If the response was that of denial we listed it and if the response was yes—as in a few cases—we listed it. Many got no response, many were in between—like if we did it we didn't realise we were doing it. It was a rather common response." The report has mentioned Natwar as a "non contractual" beneficiary in the scam. The document alleges that \$1.8 billion in bribes and surcharges were paid to the Saddam regime.

Volcker, who said 2,500 companies and individuals had been listed in the report, has consistently denied that there is a culture of corruption in the UN, saying he found only limited corruption. He has also declined to blame secretary-general Kofi Annan, arguing that it was a "systemic problem". Agencies

Cong core group meets to devise strategy

New Delhi: Hectic consultations continued at the highest level in the government on Friday in a bid to find a way out of the raging political row triggered by the UN probe report on Iraqi oil payoffs amidst speculation that an informal probe may be launched to get to the truth of the matter.

With the BJP gunning for Natwar Singh and demanding a criminal case against him, a core group of the Congress comprising Sonia Gandhi, PM Manmohan Singh, Natwar and defence minister Pranab Mukherjee met at the PM's residence on Friday.

Against the background of the PM's offer to get to the root of the matter and establish the truth, the group reportedly discussed the nature of the probe that could be instituted. Sources said the legal implications of a probe and its modalities were considered.

Meanwhile, Natwar on Friday received support from the CPI, which said there was no reason for him to resign. Agencies

0 9 NOV 2005

Iran allows inspection of N-sites



A woman passes by a painting of the Ayatollah Khomeini to mark the 26th anniversary of the seizure of the US Embassy by students, in Tehran on Wednesday. Iran will allow the UN to inspect its nuclear facilities.

HE-13 314
22 UN

ASSOCIATED Press
Vienna, November 2

IRAN HAS granted UN nuclear inspectors new access to a high-security military site as part of its efforts to avoid referral to the Security Council, diplomats said on Wednesday.

Experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had been allowed to revisit Parchin to try to establish whether Tehran had a secret nuclear weapons programme, the diplomats said. Parchin has been linked by the US and other nations to alleged experiments linked to nuclear arms.

The IAEA had for months been trying to follow up on a visit in January for further checks on buildings and areas within the sprawling military complex and look for traces of radioactivity.

That visit, which was closely controlled by authorities, revealed no such traces.

But one of the diplomats, requested anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the media about the investigation, said that over the past few days IAEA inspectors had "gained access to buildings" previously out of bounds to them.

The diplomat, who is close to the agency, said environmental swipes had been taken from objects in the buildings and would be analysed at IAEA laboratories.

If those swipes reveal minute amounts of radioactivity, they would strengthen suspicions of nuclear-related work at Parchin.

Because Parchin is run by the country's armed forces, such a discovery would weaken Iran's arguments that its nuclear programs are strictly non-military. That, in turn, would strengthen demands that Tehran be referred to the UN Security Council for breaching the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as early as November 24, when the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors has scheduled its next meeting. The swipe results are expected before then.

In leaks to media last year, US intelligence officials said a specially secured site on the Parchin complex, about 20 miles southeast of Tehran, was probably used in research on N-arms, specifically in making high-explosive components for use in weapons.

Now, Australian PM sounds terror alert

AGENCIES
Canberra, November 2

AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES have received specific intelligence that terrorists are planning an attack on the country, Prime Minister John Howard said on Wednesday, calling on lawmakers to increase the powers of Australia's intelligence agencies.

Howard refused to give details of the threat, saying he did not want to jeopardise counter-terror operations, but he introduced a minor amendment to counter-terrorism laws in the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

"The reason for this amendment is that the government has received specific intelligence and police information this week which gives cause for serious concern about a potential terrorist threat," Howard said at a nationally televised news conference in Canberra. "We have seen material; it is a cause of concern; we have been given advice that if this amendment is enacted as soon as possible, the capacity of the authorities to respond will be strengthened," he added. There has never been a major terror attack here but the country's citizens and diplomatic outposts have been hit repeatedly.

Al-Qaida man fled jail, confirms US

SECURITY HAS been tightened at the US military prison in Afghanistan following the escape of a suspected al-Qaida leader, a US official said on Wednesday, as Indonesian terror officials accused Washington of failing to inform them of the breakout. Omar al-Farouq, born in Kuwait to Iraqi parents, was considered one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants in Southeast Asia until Indonesian authorities captured him.

AP, Kabul

U.N. calls for food aid to Africa

HD-15
16/11

GENEVA: The U.N. food agency has launched a rare appeal to oil-rich nations to fill a \$157-million gap in food supplies that is threatening nearly 10 million persons in southern Africa countries.

"No funds have yet been pledged by the oil-rich states to our current regional appeal, even though oil prices have been reaching record highs for most of this year," said World Food Programme regional director for southern Africa Mike Sackett.

Mr. Sackett said the WFP had started lobbying for more funding from Gulf states through a new office in Dubai. "They have given assistance in the past to southern Africa, we would very much like to see them become major donors," he added.

Some 9.7 million persons in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are in urgent need of food aid to tide them over until the next harvests in April 2006, the WFP said.

Unless the funding shortfall is covered, many people will not receive help in time, Mr. Sackett said. The region, once regarded as the breadbasket of the continent, is enduring its fourth consecutive year of food shortages and failed crops, partly due to drought.

Top donors so far include the U.S. (\$115 million), European Union countries (\$64 million), the neighbouring Malawi (\$13 million) and Japan (\$11.8 million). — AFP

03 NOV 2005

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U.N. Adopts Modest Goals on Reforms and Poverty

By WARREN HOGE

Published: September 14, 2005

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CP

13/9/2005

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 13 - The General Assembly unanimously approved a scaled-down statement of goals on Tuesday that Secretary General Kofi Annan said would still give world leaders gathering Wednesday a basis for recommendations to reform the organization and combat poverty.

Loud cheers from the delegates, however, could not disguise widespread disappointment at the weakening of the 35-page document.

When Mr. Annan first proposed the statement, it represented an ambitious blueprint for trying to balance the concerns of great powers over security, human rights and management efficiency with the developing world's needs for increased assistance and measures to cut poverty. In the end, virtually every section underwent severe cutbacks.

"Obviously, we didn't get everything we

wanted," Mr. Annan said. "With 191 member states, it's not easy to get an agreement. But we can build on it." He noted that it represented progress in setting up a human rights council to replace the discredited Human Rights Commission and a new peace-building commission. He also singled out language on how to fight terrorism and establish means for international intervention when countries failed to protect their citizens from genocide.

He complained pointedly, however, about the elimination in the final version of language covering nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, labeling the exclusion a "disgrace" at a time when the world feared a spread of unconventional weapons.

John R. Bolton, the American ambassador, said the United States was satisfied with the outcome, which he said matched the limited hopes he had had for the document.

"It would be wrong to claim more than is realistic and accurate about what these reforms are," he said. "They represent steps forward, but this is not the alpha and omega, and we never thought it would be."

The General Assembly vote ended three weeks of tense talks at which regional rivalries and national ambitions succeeded in scuttling attempts by a majority of nations to act in the broader United Nations interest. The continuing debate exposed in high profile the kind of indecisiveness that the document was supposed to address.

"There were governments that were not willing to make the concessions necessary," Mr. Annan said. "There were spoilers also

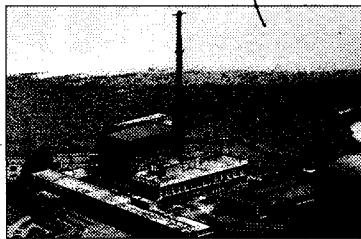
US to go slow on nuke deal

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, October 27

THE INDO-US N-deal appears to have hit rough turf on Capitol Hill for the time being with senior lawmakers pulling up the administration for presuming that a congressional nod is "virtually guaranteed". And non-proliferation experts, on their part, want India to be subjected to new conditions.

Indicating that they were in no hurry to reach a decision, the lawmakers have asked secretary of state Condoleezza Rice for a substantive discussion on the larger implications of the legal changes needed to give effect to the deal.

Henry Hyde, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, said on Wednesday it would be "grossly irresponsible for this committee and for Congress, as a whole, to act with unnecessary haste regarding a subject which can bear no false steps".



- Senior US lawmakers pulled up the administration for presuming that a congressional nod is 'virtually guaranteed'
- Non-proliferation experts, too, want India to be subjected to new conditions
- The lawmakers asked Condoleezza Rice for a discussion on the larger implications of the legal changes needed to give effect to the deal

Hyde's comments came following under-secretary of state Nicholas Burns's recent statements, exuding

confidence that Congress would approve the deal by the time President Bush visited India in early-2006. "I don't understand how these statements could be made with Congress having yet to be fully consulted", Hyde said.

He also faulted the administration for not taking the Congress into confidence on the nitty-gritty of the deal and the necessary legal changes. As he put it, the situation is "both strange and unusual in that the Indian authorities know more about this important proposal than we in Congress".

At a hearing, chaired by Hyde, four of five non-proliferation specialists urged Congress to go slow on the "risky" deal and mooted India's acceptance of new obligations for its clearance. One condition they are pushing for is that India should give up production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. It was a mixed message coming out of the lawmakers, themselves.

Civilian N-tech tops agenda

PRESS Trust of India
Moscow, October 27

AHEAD OF his summit meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said the relations between Russia and India were "unprecedentedly high" and both countries have a continuous political dialogue.

Receiving external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh at his residence outside Moscow, Putin said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's forthcoming visit to Russia would be the biggest event of the

year in bilateral relations.

Putin welcomed India's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India is one of the four observer nations at the SCO.

He expressed the hope that Natwar Singh's talks in Moscow would prepare the ground for the Indo-Russia summit later this year.

Conveying the greetings from President APJ Abdul Kalam and the Prime Minister, Natwar told Putin that he had a very wide-range of talks with Russian deputy foreign minister Alexander Zhu-

kov on development of economic ties and bilateral trade.

"We have unanimity on all issues which we discussed with Zhukov", Singh said.

One of the major issues to be discussed would be amendment of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) guidelines to enable India get civilian nuclear technology.

During Prime Minister Singh's Russia visit in May, Putin had assured Moscow's willingness to cooperate with India in building more nuclear power units at Kudankulam if the NSG guidelines were amended.

28 OCT 2005

Wilma barrels across Florida, Cuba

1 dead in US ■ Oil prices drop in Europe ■ Storm cuts off Havana coastal

ASSOCIATED Press
Naples (Florida), October 24

HURRICANE WILMA crashed ashore early Monday as a strong Category 3 storm, battering southern Florida with tornados, 125 mph winds that shook even the sturdiest buildings and pounding waves that flooded parts of this area and Key West. At least one death and a few injuries were blamed on the storm and up to 2.5 million homes and businesses lost power. In Cuba, the ocean spread up to four blocks inland in Havana, inundating streets and buildings with water up to three feet deep. Six people were injured after five tornadoes touched down in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province. The capital's coastal highway was flooded.

By 11 a.m., the storm's top sustained winds had dropped to 105 mph, making it a Category 2 storm. But forecasters said winds could be a category stronger in high-rise buildings like those that line Florida's coasts. It was moving northeast at about 25 mph. By later in the day, Florida's eighth hurricane in 15 months was expected speed away from the state into the ocean.

A man in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Coral Springs died when a tree fell on him, Broward County spokesman Carl Fowler said. He had no other details.

Trees were down all over the place, fences were demolished, many roofs also fared poorly and signs, trees and power lines littered the streets.

Governor Jeb Bush said 4,000 utility workers were ready to repair the power outages once the winds died down. Electricity was lost in the Keys, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and even into central Florida. Nearly 33,100 Floridians hunkered down in dozens of shelters across the state's southern half.

County officials said more than 90 per cent of year-round Keys residents failed to heed evacuation warnings and were riding Wilma out at home. Now with 35 per cent of the city being flooded and experiencing sustained winds of 60mph - with gusts of 76 mph - fleeing was impossible.

"As the storm passes, our number one priority is saving lives and restoring security," Bush said in Tallahassee. "The Florida National Guard is on the move, more than 3,000 soldiers and airmen are mobilized and another 3,000 are on alert."

President George W Bush signed a disaster declaration for hurricane-damaged areas and promised swift action to help the victims. "We have prepositioned food, medicine, communications equipment, urban search-and-rescue teams," he said. "We will work closely with local and state authorities to respond to this hurricane."

Forecasters said the low-lying Florida Keys could experience a storm surge of 9 feet, with an 18-foot surge possible along parts of the state's southwest corner. Rainfall of 4 to 6 inches was expected, with up to 10 inches in some areas.

The Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral was shut down and employees were told to stay home on Monday. NASA said it

Florida HURRICANE TRAIL

>2004

Name: Charley
Landfall: Aug 13, Cayo Costa
Fatalities: 35
Name: Frances
Landfall: Sept 5, Sewall's Point
Fatalities: 40
Name: Ivan
Landfall: Sept 16, Gulf Shores, Ala
Fatalities: 29
Name: Jeanne
Landfall: Sept 26, Hutchinson Island
Fatalities: 19

>2005

Name: Dennis
Landfall: July 10, between Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach
Fatalities: 12
Name: Katrina
Landfall: Aug. 25, between Hallandale Beach and North Miami Beach
Fatalities: 14
Name: Rita
Eye passed south of Keys Sept. 20
Fatalities: No deaths reported in Florida.
Name: Wilma
Landfall: Oct. 24, Cape Romano

had also closed the payload bay doors of the shuttles Discovery, Endeavour and Atlantis and placed the New Horizons spacecraft, which will blast off in a mission to Pluto next year, in a protective canister.

Havana

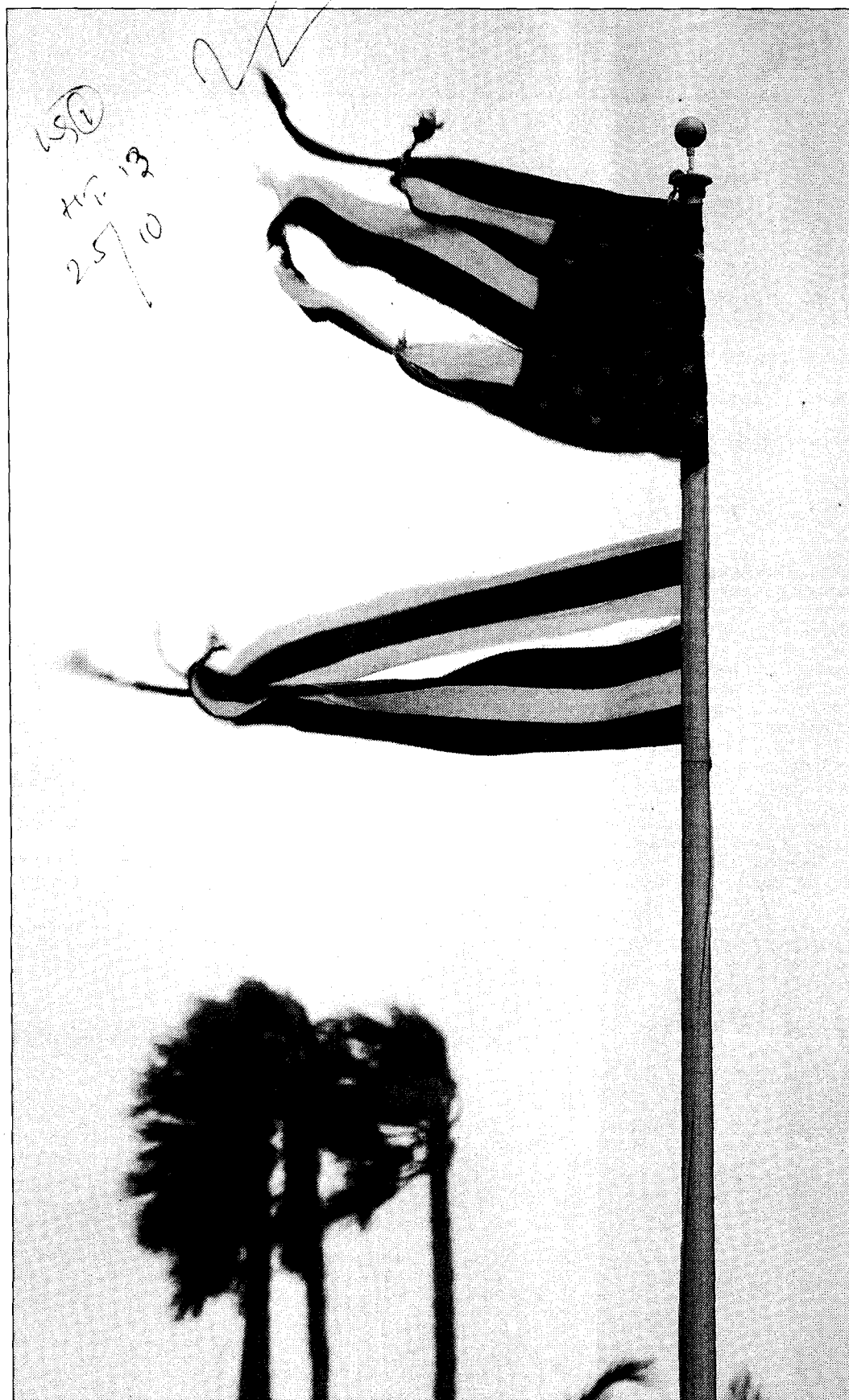
Rescuers in inflatable rafts and amphibious vehicles pulled nearly 250 people from flooded homes in Havana on Monday after huge waves churned by Hurricane Wilma flooded the capital's coastal highway and adjacent neighbourhoods of old, crumbling buildings.

The government shut off electricity throughout the capital and across the island's west - a standard safety precaution - as high winds howled across the island. President Fidel Castro appeared on television to calm Cubans.

The Malecón road along the seafont was submerged, and storm waters were reported to have reached nearby neighbourhoods. Cuban authorities said water had reached as far as half a mile into southern coastal communities.

Wilma is reported to have caused eight deaths in Mexico, with 13 having died in Jamaica and Haiti. Four bodies were found off the Mexican island of Cozumel.

In Europe, crude oil slipped below \$60 as traders expected Wilma to avoid already battered Gulf of Mexico oil production installations.



REUTERS
An American flag ripped by gusty winds accompanying Hurricane Wilma in Key West on Monday. (Below left) A huge wave lashes Havana's Malecon seafont and (right) a Key West resident stands atop his flooded truck.

A jaded Key West stays put at home

ASSOCIATED Press
Key West, October 24

"WE'RE NOT New Orleans," says Elaine Chinnis haughtily, as she walks her dogs along Key West's Duval Street, refusing to evacuate just a few hours before Wilma was expected to wash ashore. Despite the memory of Hurricane Katrina, at least 90 per cent of residents along the Florida Keys refused to evacuate as Hurricane Wilma swirled toward the state.

The people here are not only hurricane weary - they've dealt with four this year alone - they believe they're also hurricane savvy. They insist they're not being cavalier, just not afraid of a hurricane that wasn't expected to make a direct hit on Key West.

"It seems like we know more than the weather people. They seem to over-exaggerate everything," Chinnis said.

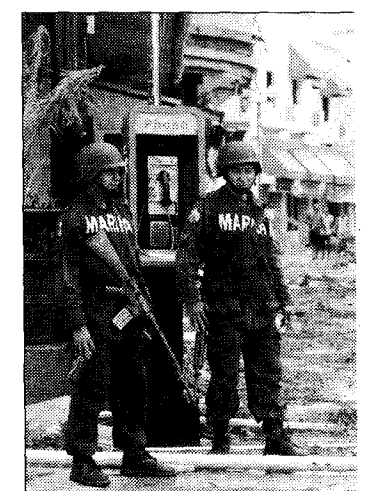
Residents complain of a cry-wolf effect. People here have been ordered out before, and returned to find minimal damage - which is probably why so few left this time. Officials hate the attitude. A storm surge of up to 17 feet - enough to cause devastating flooding - was possible, according to forecasters. And hospitals were closed, meaning emergency situations could be even more dire.

"I cannot emphasise enough to the folks that live in the Florida Keys: A hurricane is coming," an exasperated Governor Jeb Bush said on Sunday before it became too late to flee. "Perhaps people are saying, 'I'm going to hunker down.' They shouldn't do that. They should evacuate."

Officials say they're the ones who will be criticised if the storm comes ashore bigger than expected, or takes a last-minute turn and goes where it wasn't expected, as Hurricane Charley did last year in southwest Florida.

City commissioner Dan Kolhage said he was worried but Wilma just didn't seem to be strong enough to scare people out. "A lot of it has to do with the size, the category," Kolhage said. "The break point seems to be Category 3." Late Sunday, that's exactly what Wilma became.

Crackdown on looters in Cancun



AFP
Navy officers guard a hotel in Cancun on Monday.

CANCUN'S SUGAR-WHITE beaches revealed resorts in ruins, lashed by Wilma and ripped threadbare by people desperate after a two-day beating by the hurricane.

On Monday, police sought to clamp down on looters by shooting in the air to scare them away and quickly evacuated more than 30 tourists from a downtown area overrun by people raiding stores. Military officials and police stood guard outside many businesses and set up checkpoints to seize looted goods. Dozens were arrested.

Still, some people, hungry and unable to find anything open, began taking things they needed. One group pushed carts against the boarded up windows of a grocery store in an attempt to break in.

"The window was broken, so we just went in and got what we wanted," he said. "It's chaos," said fire official Gregorio Vergara. "They are taking things all over the city."

AP, Cancun

WILMA factfile

- Wilma made landfall as a Category 3 storm at 6:30 a.m. near Cape Romano on the southwest Gulf Coast
- More than 22,600 people in shelters across Florida
- Florida Keys airports and hospitals closed; bridges locked down.
- Schools in Monroe, Broward, Miami-Dade,

Broward, Palm Beach, Collier, Okeechobee, Polk and Glades counties closed.

- Some 3,100 National Guard soldiers on duty.
- State emergency officials said 200 tractor-trailers of ice and 225 of water ready to be deployed. Truckloads of tarps and ready-to-eat meals were being assembled.
- Search and rescue teams on standby for deployment from Tampa Bay, Orlando, Jacksonville and Daytona Beach. Two Federal Emergency Management Agency incident support teams on duty.

■ Port of Key West closed. Naval Air Station Key West closed; families in government housing ordered to evacuate.

■ Walt Disney World theme parks closed; Everglades National Park closed.

■ Tolls suspended on Florida's Turnpike in both directions from Miami to Wildwood.

Enough talking, leaders now want UN to act

Poor Attack The Rich. Vows Not Enough To Fight Terror

299

United Nations: Leaders from developing nations took the rostrum one after another on the second day of the annual UN General Assembly debate to criticise rich countries for not doing enough to ease the plight of the world's poorest people.

Speakers from Africa, Asia and Latin America said they were encouraged by a document adopted at a three-day summit renewing commitments to alleviate poverty, but would withhold final judgment until rich nations make good on their vows.

"We hope that the commitments we have undertaken will not remain mere empty words," said Zambia's President Levy Mwanawasa. While the focus of the summit that ended on Friday was largely efforts to overhaul the UN management and human rights machinery, the original thrust of the event was to take stock of progress made towards achieving a series of goals set in 2000 to cut poverty



Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa

by half, ensure universal primary education and stem the AIDS pandemic, all by 2015. Leaders of poor nations made clear that they were not impressed with the progress made so far.

7112

A week ago, a UN report said that about 40% of the world's people still struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day.

Meanwhile, having agreed to condemn terrorism, leaders at the UN General Assembly urged quick action to adopt a comprehensive global treaty that would put words into action. Delegates stressed the need for a broader convention that would serve as a framework for governments to work together to curtail international terrorism. "The fight against terrorism must be continued in the most decisive manner," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the General Assembly.

The declaration on terror put world leaders on record for the first time condemning "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, ..." but it failed to include a definition of terrorism that rules out attacks on civilians, as UN chief Kofi Annan had wanted. AP

Iran asserts N-rights in fiery UN speech

Ahmadinejad Blasts US For Hypocrisy, Downplays Remarks By Manmohan

United Nations: Declaring that it has an "inalienable" right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Iran firmly rejected the demand from the United States and European Union to stop enriching uranium and offered to engage public and private sectors of other nations in its programme. Addressing the UN General Assembly on Saturday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad asserted that its nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, was legal and did not violate the terms of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Iranian leader asked the assembly to set up a committee to compile a report and draw up practical strategies for complete nuclear disarmament. He sharply attacked the US, describing it as an aggressor and accusing it of vio-



lating nuclear treaties by continuing to refine its nuclear weapons, using depleted uranium weapons in Iraq, practising nuclear apartheid and trying to bully others.

At a press conference after his address to the 191-member assembly, he was asked to comment on Prime Minister Manmo-

han Singh's remark in New York on Friday that another nuclear power in the neighbourhood was not desirable and that Iran should fulfil its international obligations. Ahmadinejad said Iran has repeatedly made it clear its programme is for peaceful purposes and it is working under the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Addressing the assembly hours earlier, US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice blasted Iran, describing it as a "leading sponsor of terrorism" and asked it to "abandon forever" its plans for nuclear weapons capability.

In his much-awaited address, Ahmadinejad also demanded that the UN appoint a committee to investigate who gave nuclear weapons technology to Israel. Agencies

A glass at least half full

#0-11 1999

I deliberately set the bar high, since in international negotiations you never get everything you ask. I also presented the reforms as a package since advances were more likely to be achieved together than piecemeal. That is precisely what happened.

UN

Kofi A. Annan

The "outcome document" adopted on September 16, at the end of the United Nations world summit, has been described as "disappointing" or "watered down." This is true in part — and I said as much in my own speech to the summit on September 14. But taken as a whole, the document is still a remarkable expression of world unity on a wide range of issues.

And that came as welcome news, after weeks of tense negotiations. As late as the morning of September 13, when world leaders were already arriving in New York, there were still 140 disagreements involving 27 unresolved issues. A final burst of take-it-or-leave-it diplomacy allowed the document to be finalised, but so late in the day that reporters and commentators had no time to analyse the full text before passing judgment.

It is no criticism of them to say that many of their judgments are now being revised, or at least nuanced. Indeed, I would not wish to criticise them, since most were very kind to me. They blamed the alleged failure on nation states — who, supposedly, failed to embrace the bold reform proposals I had made. It is only fair that I set the record straight.

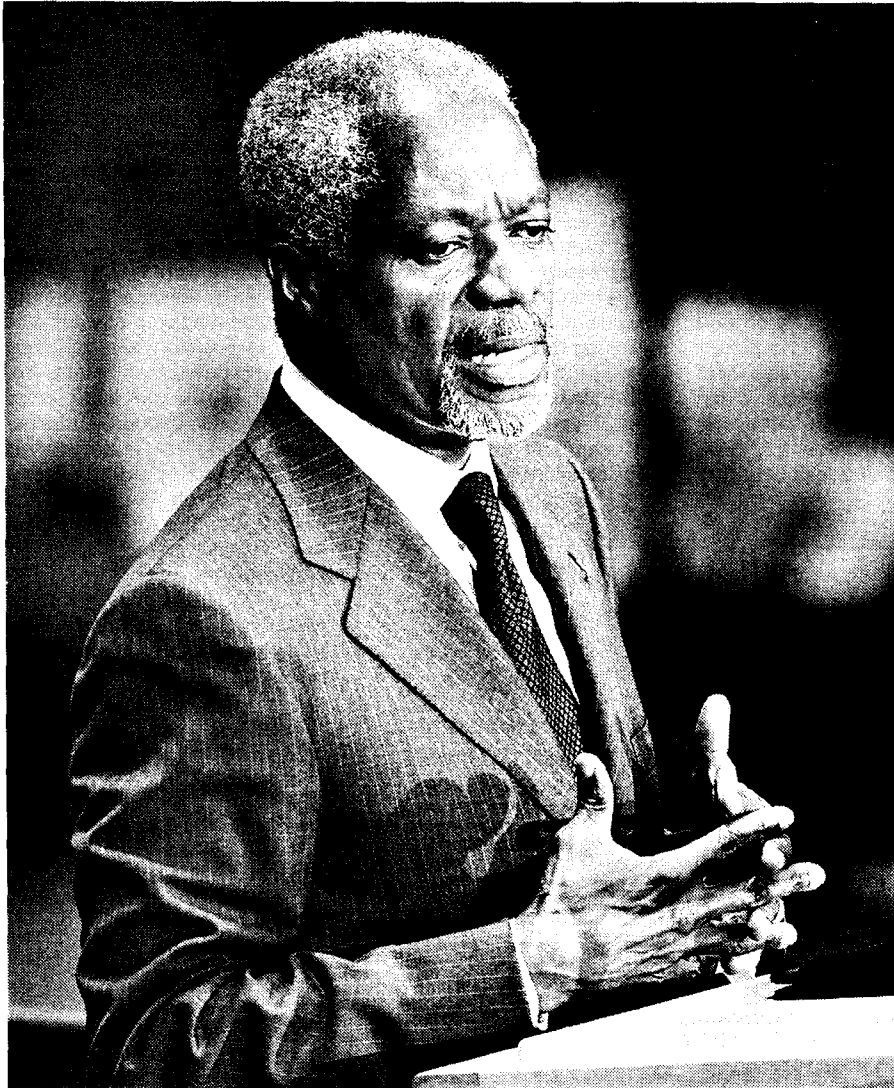
Setting the bar high

In March, when I proposed an agenda for the summit, I deliberately set the bar high, since in international negotiations you never get everything you ask. I also presented the reforms as a package — meaning not that I expected them to be adopted without change but that advances were more likely to be achieved together than piecemeal, since states were more likely to overcome their reservations on some issues if they saw serious attention given to others which for them were a higher priority.

In the end, that is precisely what happened.

The outcome document contains strong, unambiguous commitments, from both donor and developing countries, on precise steps needed to reach, by 2015, the development goals agreed on at the Millennium Summit five years ago — an achievement sealed, as it were, by President Bush's personal endorsement of the goals in his speech on September 14.

It contains decisions to strengthen the U.N.'s capacity for peace-keeping, peace-making, and peace-building, including a detailed blueprint for a new peace-building commission, to ensure a more coherent and sustained international effort to build lasting peace in war-torn countries. It includes



Kofi Annan ... critiquing the "outcome document." — PHOTO: AFP

decisions to strengthen the office, and double the budget, of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights; to create a worldwide early warning system for natural disasters; to mobilise new resources for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria; and to improve the U.N.'s Central Emergency Revolving Fund, so that disaster relief arrives more promptly and reliably in future.

It lacks the clear definition of terrorism that I had urged. But it contains, for the first time in U.N. history, an unqualified condemnation, by all member states, of terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever

purposes," as well as a strong push to complete a comprehensive convention on terrorism within 12 months, and agreement to forge a global counterterrorist strategy that will weaken terrorists while strengthening our international community.

Human rights focus

Perhaps most precious to me is the clear acceptance by all U.N. members that there is a collective responsibility to protect civilian populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity — with a commitment to do so through the Security Council wherever local authorities are manifestly failing. I first advocated

this in 1998, as the inescapable lesson of our failures in Bosnia and Rwanda. I am glad to see it generally accepted at last — and hope it will be acted on when put to the test. My proposal for a new U.N. Human Rights Council is also accepted, though without the details that I hoped would make this body a clear improvement on the existing Commission. These are left for the U.N. General Assembly to finalise during the coming year. Nations that believe strongly in human rights must work hard to ensure that the new body marks a real change.

Member states have accepted most of the detailed proposals I made for management reform. In the near future, we should have more independent and rigorous oversight and auditing of our work; a cull of obsolete tasks and a one-time buy-out of staff, so that we can focus our energies on today's priorities and employ the right people to deal with them; and a thorough overhaul of the rules governing our use of budgetary and human resources. But they held back from a clear commitment to give the Secretary-General the strong executive authority that I and my successors will need to carry out the ever-broadening range of operations that the U.N. is tasked with.

I had also suggested a reform of the U.N. Security Council, making it more broadly representative of today's realities. Here too there is agreement on the principle, but the devil is in the detail. The document commits nations to continue striving for a decision, and calls for a review of progress at the end of 2005.

Biggest failure

By far the biggest gap in the document is its failure to address the proliferation of nuclear weapons — surely the most alarming threat we face in the immediate future, given the danger of such weapons being acquired by terrorists. Some states wanted to give absolute priority to non-proliferation, while others insisted that efforts to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty must include further steps towards disarmament. Thus the failure of the NPT review conference in May 2005 was repeated.

Surely this issue is too serious to be held hostage to such an Alphonse-and-Gaston act. I appeal to leaders on both sides to show greater statesmanship, and make an urgent effort to find common ground. Otherwise, this summit may come to be remembered only for its failure to halt the unravelling of the non-proliferation regime — and its other real successes would then indeed be overwhelmed.

(Kofi A. Annan is Secretary-General of the United Nations.)

UN paper bypasses Indian wishes

Devirupa Mitra in New Delhi

Sept. 14. — For India, the UN outcome document is significant, not just for what it contains, but for what it does not include. Especially since the 35-page document is silent on two issues of vital importance to India — Security Council reforms and non-proliferation.

After three weeks of wrangling, the 35-page document to be adopted by 191 countries at the 60th high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly has been finally decided, but critics point out that it is rather a “watered-down” agenda for reforms of the world body.

It has been a disappointing end to months of hectic diplomacy for the group of four — India, Japan, Germany and Brazil — effectively demonstrating the bulldozing power of the USA, whose interests have shaped the outcome document. While there is acknowledgement that the UNSC should be expanded, there is no answer to the question: “How?”

Indian diplomats feel that there is a small hope that the forthcoming meeting of the African Union lead-

ers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly would lead to support of a compromise AU-G4 framework resolution.

The hectic lobbying is in tatters as the momentum which had been

think security council reforms would be possible in the next two years,” Prof. Murthy said.

He termed the outcome document as “unilateralism institutionalised”.

The “gains” for India are in two aspects — disarmament and non-proliferation and definition of terrorism. The outcome document also does not attempt to define terrorism, but makes a blanket condemnation of it. This is a compromise between the American and the Arab countries, as the latter wanted to exclude “national liberation movements” from the definition for terrorism, thereby giving a nod to the Palestinian struggle against Israel. India had been concerned that such a definition could have excluded Kashmir, therefore, the outcome document’s position on terrorism has come as a relief.

Meanwhile, the non-proliferation and disarmament category draws a big blank, with the UN secretary general, Mr Kofi Annan, terming it a “big disgrace”. But as India is not part of the NPT regime, “in that sense, it is certainly what India wants,” said senior fellow of Washington-based Council for Foreign relations, Dr Radha Kumar.



The document is silent on Security Council reforms and non-proliferation — two issues of vital importance to India

building up over the last few months has come to naught.

Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Professor CSR Murthy feels that India’s ambition for a permanent seat at the UNSC has been dealt a serious blow. “I think that the world has got tired of the issue. I don’t

Leaders unite against terror

United Nations, Sept. 14 (Reuters): World leaders united today to demand a global ban on incitement to terrorism but they fell short of ambitions for a fundamental reform of the UN at a summit on its 60th anniversary.

The 15-member Security Council, a symbol of the inability to adapt the world organisation to the 21st century, held a rare top-level session to adopt a resolution on terrorism proposed by Britain following the July 7 London bombings.

"We have a solemn obligation to stop terrorism at its early stages," President George W. Bush told the session.

"We must do all we can to disrupt each stage of planning and support for terrorist acts."

But secretary-general Kofi Annan told the gathering of kings, presidents and prime ministers that despite some progress, negotiators had failed to achieve the profound overhaul of UN policies and institutions he sought.

It was inexcusable that nations had failed to agree on a common approach to the spread of weapons of mass destruction, one of the greatest security threats of the 21st

THE ISSUES

•DEVELOPMENT

The UN General Assembly document calls on countries "to make concrete efforts to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent" of their gross national product for foreign aid

•HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Agrees to replace the discredited UN Human Rights Commission with a new Human Rights Council

•PEACE-BUILDING COMMISSION

Establishes a new body aimed at helping nations emerging from conflict

•RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Calls on nations to consider intervention in cases of genocide and ethnic cleansing

•TERRORISM

Condemns terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations"

century, he told the 153 leaders in an opening address.

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin served a reminder of the topicality of the issue, warning Iran that it faced referral to the UN Security Council unless it met its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Tehran insists it has the right to enrich uranium for what it says is a civilian nu-

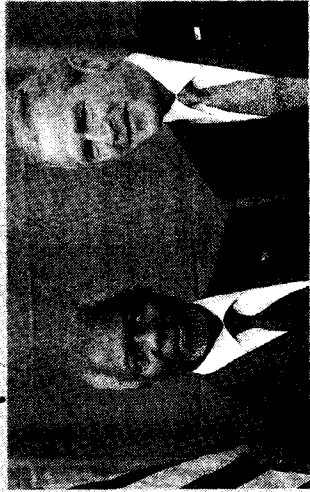
clear programme, but western nations suspect it of a clandestine drive to develop an atom bomb.

Annan said it was a breakthrough that the international community had agreed for the first time it had a responsibility to intervene to protect civilians against genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

"But let us be frank with each other, and the peoples of

the UN. We have not yet achieved the sweeping and fundamental reform that I and many others believe is required," Annan told a sprawling gathering overshadowed by a scandal over abuses of the UN oil-for-food programme in Iraq.

Bush referred obliquely to the scandal, saying the UN must be "free of corruption, and accountable to the people



UN secretary-general Kofi Annan (left) and President George Bush at the United Nations. (Reuters)

•UN MANAGEMENT REFORM

Pledges to institute oversight, outside audits and investigations

•NON-PROLIFERATION/DISARMAMENT

All references dropped

Jerusalem, Sept. 14 (Reuters): Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of a UN summit today, Israeli television said.

Channel Two said the two leaders, whose countries have no formal ties, exchanged pleasantries in a corridor of the UN building. The Israeli and Pakistani foreign ministers held talks earlier this month, signalling a possible thaw in relations.

it serves" and practice the high moral standards it preached.

The US leader focused on his priorities of spreading democracy and eliminating barriers to free trade, as well as using military force, to defeat terrorism and transform the troubled West Asia.

Addressing a world body whose members are still deeply divided over the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, he insisted Iraqis were on the road to building a model democracy.

W.S.A. 15/9

Sharon meets Musharraf

G-4 vows new bid for U.N. Council

Group to rope in Africa

1979
U.N.
110-15

UNITED NATIONS: Japan, India, Brazil and Germany vowed on Thursday to make a new attempt for permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council, and Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi appealed for support from world leaders.

Foreign Ministers and top officials of the G-4 agreed to pursue their efforts at a meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. world summit in New York.

Opposition to move

Their first bid ran into opposition from the United States and China and failed to get crucial support from Africa for the necessary two-thirds of member countries' votes in the General Assembly to change the world body's charter.

"We should re-examine our strategy ... by looking back at what was good and what was wrong," Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura was quoted as saying by a Japanese official.

Emerging from the meeting, Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh said: "The G-4 exists. The G-4 will continue to work

for United Nations reform." He said their proposal could be re-introduced at the 60th session of the General Assembly with some changes.

The G-4 had submitted a plan to boost the Council's membership from its current 15 to 25, with six new permanent seats and four new non-permanent seats.

The Japanese official said there would be a "thorough" review of the plan to make it more appealing.

He added that it could be a G-4 plan or a joint submission of the group with African nations. The official predicted a move by the end of the year.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who did not take part in the G-4 meeting due to talks with Iranians, said the document "leaves the door open" for further progress.

In a speech to the U.N. world summit, the Japanese Prime Minister pleaded the case for change on the Security Council.

Germany has made a similar case as Europe's biggest economy. India and Brazil are emerging powerhouses in Asia and Latin America. — AFP

17 THE WALL

Poverty, reform on agenda

Japan to make a pitch for seat on U.N. Security Council



REACHING OUT: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his wife Nane (next to him) with mothers and children at a hospital in Niger, where starving children are treated, recently. — PHOTO: AFP

UNITED NATIONS: World leaders prepared on Thursday for a second day of meetings to discuss strategies to combat poverty, terrorism and disease, after Secretary-General Kofi Annan conceded that newly adopted reforms fell far short of hopes.

Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers and leaders from 170 countries gathered under tight security for the world's largest summit that coincides with the organisation's 60th anniversary.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, one of Thursday speakers, is expected to make a pitch for the increasingly remote goal of gaining a

seat for his country at the U.N. Security Council.

Japan was one of the losing nations in World War II but now has the world's second largest economy, and believes it deserves a permanent place on the Council with the other leading powers.

Japan, Brazil, Germany and India had submitted a plan to boost the Council membership to 25, with six new permanent seats and four non-permanent seats.

But the plan died this week, having faced opposition from permanent Council members China and the United States and

having failed to garner enough support from African nations.

Frank assessment

Mr. Annan opened the three-day summit with a frank assessment of a diluted document on U.N. reform that the General Assembly adopted after months of wrangling on Tuesday.

"We have not yet achieved the sweeping and fundamental reform that I and many others believe is required," Mr. Annan said. The text boosted the U.N. commitment to eradicating poverty and genocide and promoting human rights, but was vague on details.

It failed to establish an agreed definition of terrorism and left out a chapter on disarmament altogether.

Mr. Annan pleaded for renewed confidence in the world body and its capacity to mobilise collective action, making a thinly veiled contrast with the unilateral approach often adopted by the United States.

President George W. Bush delivered a conciliatory speech on Wednesday, in which he said he was ready to scrap all trade barriers as well as politically crucial agricultural subsidies as long as the rest of the world did so as well. — AFP

WORLD LEADERS GATHER IN NEW YORK FOR BIGGEST SUMMIT

UN chief urges unity

Associated Press

UNHQ, Sept. 14. — A UN summit marking the 60th anniversary of the UN opened today with an appeal from Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan to world leaders to restore confidence in the world body and act together to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Addressing over 150 Presidents, Prime Ministers and monarchs, Mr Annan said the document they will be adopting at the end of the summit on Friday was "a good start" but not "the sweeping and fundamental reform" he proposed and he called for urgent action on the tough, unresolved issues.

"Because one thing has emerged clearly from this process on, which we embarked two years ago: whatever our differences, in our interdependent world, we stand or fall together," Mr Annan said.

"Whether our challenge is peacemaking, nation-building, democratisation or responding to natural or man-made disasters, we have seen that even the strongest amongst us cannot succeed alone," he said in an apparent reference to the US difficulties in coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf coast.

Speaking in a packed General Assembly chamber, Mr Annan said he was



Queen Sofia of Spain (left), Mrs Laura Bush and Mrs Nane Annan, Mr Kofi Annan's wife, attend the opening of the 2005 World Summit at the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday. — AFP

prepared to work with world leaders to implement the measures in the package and on reforming the culture and practices in the UN Secretariat that he heads. "We must restore confidence in the organization's integrity, impartiality, and ability to deliver," he said.

Resolutions passed

The UN Security Council unanimously passed two resolutions on the first day of the summit — one to

'We must restore confidence in the organisation's integrity, impartiality, and ability to deliver'
— Mr Kofi Annan

prevent the incitement of terrorism and the other to prevent conflict, especially in Africa.

Leaders of the 15 nations sat around the council's horseshoe-shaped table for the vote at the extremely

rare high-level session. The Presidents of Russia, China, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan are also attending along with the Prime Ministers of Britain, France and Israel.

On the sidelines of the summit, a Russian-sponsored treaty making it a crime to possess radioactive material or weapons with the intention of committing a terrorist act opened for signatures. Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin was the first to sign, followed soon after by his US counter-

part.

Swedish Prime Minister Mr Goran Persson, who is the summit co-chair opened the high-level meeting with an appeal for collective action to prevent conflict and genocide and to protect human rights.

He warned that millions of lives will be lost if significant steps aren't taken now to fight global poverty "and we will pass on a more unfair and more unsafe world to the next generation".

Associated Press

UNHQ, Sept. 14. — Before skeptical and silent world leaders, Mr George W Bush today urged compassion for the needy and pressed the global community to "put the terrorists on notice" by cracking down on any activities that could incite deadly attacks.

The US President, addressing more than 160 Presidents, Prime Ministers and kings gathered for

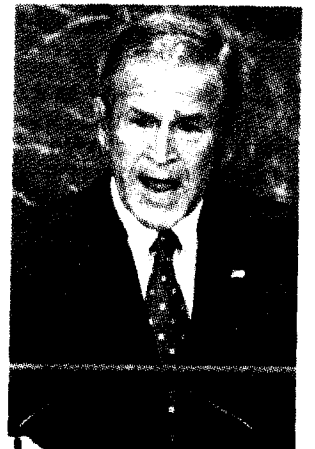
three days of UN General Assembly meetings, was seeking to sell his blueprints for spreading democracy in Iraq and elsewhere, overhauling the UN and expanding trade.

"The terrorists must know that wherever they go they cannot escape justice," Mr Bush said, the

leaders sitting silently throughout his remarks. He also pressed for Security Council approval of a resolution calling upon all nations to take steps to end the incitement of terrorist acts and asked nations to agree to prosecute and extradite anyone seeking radioactive materials or nuclear devices.

"We must send a clear message to the rulers of outlaw regimes that sponsor terror and pursue weapons of mass murder:

threaten the peace and stability of the world," he said. "Confronting our enemies is essential, and so civilised nations will continue to take the fight to the terrorists." He urged the elimination of agricultural tariffs that he said distort trade and stunt development.



Mr George W Bush

UN at 60: In need of reinvigoration

EVELYN LEOPOLD

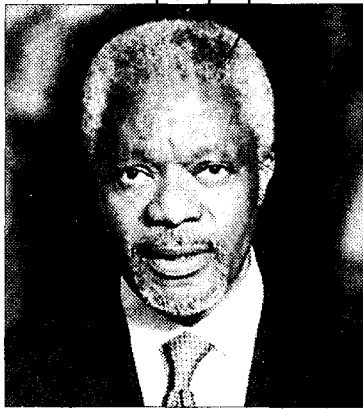
UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 14

THE United Nations marks its 60th anniversary beset by corruption scandals and sharp divisions among its members on how to tackle international crises.

World leaders gathered on Wednesday to explore ways to revitalise the United Nations, but their blueprint falls short of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's vision of freedom from want, persecution and war. In March, Annan, in an 85-page paper entitled *In Larger Freedom*, addressed challenges for the 21st century that required collective action: alleviating extreme poverty, reversing the AIDS pandemic, global security, terrorism and human rights.

But after bitter negotiations over the last few weeks, nearly every bold initiative suffered cutbacks in the final 38-page document approved by the General Assembly on Tuesday for endorsement at the summit.

"Obviously, we didn't get everything we wanted and with 191 member states it's not easy to get an agreement," Annan said. "All of us would have wanted more, but we



can work with what we have been given, and I think it is an important step forward."

Still, the somewhat emasculated document saved the summit from failure. UN officials highlighted initiatives, including the establishment of a new human rights body, a peacebuilding commission and, perhaps most significantly, an obligation to intervene when civilians face genocide and war crimes.

But negotiators failed to agree on how to tackle nuclear proliferation or on a definition of terrorism sought by Western nations, and they fell short of commitments to greater aid and tearing down trade barriers

Major powers back laws against incitement to terrorism

► **UNITED NATIONS:** Leaders of the major powers gathered in a rare meeting of the 15-nation Security Council to issue a resolution on laws prohibiting the incitement of terrorist acts. US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin are among those due to participate

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the resolution would give governments a pretext to suppress peaceful expression. The proposed resolution offers no definition of what constitutes "incitement to commit" terrorist acts and urges governments not only to outlaw such actions but also to "prevent such conduct". —Reuters

that developing nations wanted.

The US has objected to provisions on disarmament and wanted more emphasis on the dangers of weapons passing to rogue states and terrorists. "The big item missing is nonproliferation and disarmament," Annan said. "This is a disgrace." —Reuters

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের ৬০তম বার্ষিকীতে সাধারণ সভা শুরু

সভাসে মদত দিচ্ছে পাকিস্তান, বৃশাকে নালিশ মনমোহনের

নিউ ইয়র্ক, ১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর: পারভেজ মুশারফের সঙ্গে দেখা হওয়ার কয়েক ঘণ্টা আগেই মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট জর্জ বুশের দরবারে ইসলামাবাদের বিরুদ্ধে এক দফা নালিশ সেরে রাখলেন প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ। সীমন্তের ও পার থেকে পাকিস্তান যে এখনও ভারতে সন্ত্রাসবাদী কার্যকলাপ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে চলেছে, বৃশাকে কাল রাত্তি সে কথা সাফ জানিয়েছেন মনমোহন। বুশের কাছে কাশ্মীর প্রসঙ্গ তোলার সুযোগ ছাড়াই পাক প্রেসিডেন্টও। জম্মু-কাশ্মীরে সেনা হ্রাস করার জন্য বুশের সাহায্য চেয়েছেন তিনি।

বস্তুত গত কয়েক মাস ধরেই মুশারফ কাশ্মীর থেকে সেনা সরানোর দাবি তুলছেন। মধ্যমপন্থী হুরিয়ত নেতাদের পাক সফরের সময়ে তাদের মাধ্যমে সেই বাতাই পাঠান তিনি। আর দিল্লিও স্পষ্ট করে দিয়েছে, সন্ত্রাস বন্ধ না হলে সেনা সরানোর কথা ভাবা হবে না। মুশারফের সঙ্গে বৈঠকে সে ব্যাপারে চাপ দিতে মনমোহনও তৈরি। নিজেদের মধ্যে বৈঠকের আগে কাল বুশের কাছে সেই মনোভাবই স্পষ্ট করে দেন দুই নেতা।

বুশের সঙ্গে আধক্টার বৈঠকে মনমোহন বুঝিয়ে দেন, শান্তি প্রক্রিয়া চলা সত্ত্বেও পাকিস্তানের সন্ত্রাসবাদে মদত দেওয়া নিয়ে দিল্লির কড়া আপত্তি রয়েছে। বৃশ অবশ্য এ বিষয়ে কোনও মন্তব্য করেনি বলে জানা গিয়েছে। তবে দু'দিন আগেই সামগ্রিক ভাবে সন্ত্রাসবাদ নিয়ে মার্কিন বিদেশসচিবের ধমক খেয়েছেন মুশারফ। এই অবস্থায় বুশের

সঙ্গে দেখা করতে এসে মুশারফ কাশ্মীর প্রসঙ্গই তুলে ধরেন, স্পষ্ট করে দেন দুই দেশের দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্কে এখনও প্রধান সমস্যা কাশ্মীরই।

ভারত-পাক শান্তি প্রক্রিয়া সম্পর্কে মনমোহনের কাছে খোঁজবের নিশ্চিনেন বৃশ। তখনই স্পষ্ট ভাষায় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জানান, “শান্তি প্রক্রিয়ার প্রকৃত উন্নতি চাইলে পাকিস্তানের উচিত অবিলম্বে সন্ত্রাসে মদত দেওয়া বন্ধ করা।” যদিও আগেই প্রধানমন্ত্রী স্পষ্ট করে দিয়েছিলেন মুশারফকে তিনি বিশ্বাস করেন। দুই দেশের মধ্যে শান্তি ফিরিয়ে আনতে মুশারফের সদিচ্ছার উপরেও তিনি আস্থা রাখেন।

জম্মু কাশ্মীরের কয়েকটি বিশেষ এলাকা থেকে ভারতীয় সেনা না সরলে শান্তি প্রক্রিয়ায় বাধা সৃষ্টি হতে পারে। পরে আমেরিকায় পাকিস্তানি রাষ্ট্রদূত জাহাঙ্গির কারামত বলেন, মুশারফ কাশ্মীরের বারামুল্লা ও কুপওয়াবা অঞ্চল থেকে সেনা সরানোর কথা বলেছেন। উল্লেখ্য, সিয়ান্নে থেকে সেনা সরানো এবং বন্দি বিনিময় নিয়ে গত কয়েক মাস ধরে পাকিস্তানের জাতীয় নিরাপত্তা উপদেষ্টা তারিক আজিজের সঙ্গে আলোচনা চালাচ্ছেন ভারতের বিশেষ দূত সতীন্দ্র লাম্বা। মুশারফ বলেন, দুই দেশের মধ্যে প্রধান সমস্যা কাশ্মীর নিয়ে ভারত সাজা না দিলে অন্য সমস্ত আনুযায়িক ব্যবস্থাই অর্থহীন হয়ে পড়বে।

সন্ত্রাসের সংজ্ঞা নিয়ে জোড়াতালি প্রস্তাব

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ, ১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর: বিস্তর চাপানউতোরের পরে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সংস্কার নিয়ে ঝসজা প্রস্তাব সরসম্মত অনুমোদন পেল। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের ষাটতম বর্ষপূর্তির ঐতিহাসিক মুহূর্তে উন্নয়ন, মানবাধিকার, সন্ত্রাসবাদ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক নিরাপত্তা প্রসঙ্গে এই ঝসজা কাল সাধারণ সভায় গৃহীত হয়। কোনওক্রমে জোড়াতালি দিয়ে।

সন্ত্রাসবাদের সংজ্ঞা নিয়ে কিছু দিন ধরেই বিতর্ক চলছিল। বিশ্বব্যাপী সন্ত্রাস দমন অভিযানে আমেরিকার পাশে রয়েছে পাকিস্তান-সহ যে সব দেশ, তাদের মধ্যেও মতানৈক্য ছিল। শেষ পর্যন্ত কাউকেই না চাটিয়ে একটা ঝসজা দাঁড় করানো হয়। এতে ‘সব ধরনের সন্ত্রাসকে’ নিন্দা করা হয়েছে ঠিকই। তবে পাকিস্তান এবং কয়েকটি আরব দেশের দাবি মেনে সাধারণ মানুষের প্রতি আক্রমণকে এক কথায় ‘অনৈতিক’ বলে দেওয়া হয়নি। তেমনই জাতীয় মুক্তি সংগ্রামের খাতিরে (যেমন প্যালাস্তাইন) সন্ত্রাসকে আল্লাদ করে সমর্থনও করা হয়নি। মূল বয়ানো অন্যত্র অবশ্য বৈদেশিক শক্তির বিরুদ্ধে ‘মানুষের আত্মনিয়ন্ত্রণের’ অধিকার স্বীকার করে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

নিরাপত্তা পরিবাদের ১৫টি সদস্য দেশ অবশ্য সন্ত্রাসবাদের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ের নতুন ডাক দিতে চলেছে। তারই আভাস দিয়ে আজ সাধারণ।

সভায় মার্কিন প্রেসিডেন্ট বুশ বলেন, জঙ্গি কাজকর্মে মদত দান বন্ধ করতে সব দেশকে প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা নিতে হবে। পরমাণু প্রযুক্তি পাচারে জড়িত ব্যক্তির বিরুদ্ধে আইনি পদক্ষেপ এবং প্রতাপনের ব্যাপারেও তাদের উদ্যোগী হতে হবে। সে ক্ষেত্রে পরমাণু প্রযুক্তি পাচারে অভিযুক্ত পাক পরমাণু বিজ্ঞানী আব্দুল কাবির খানের ব্যাপারে পাকিস্তানের ভূমিকা আবার নতুন করে প্রশ্নের মুখে পড়তে পারে।

সন্ত্রাস প্রশ্নে আপাতত আপস হলেও আন্তর্দেীয় বাণিজ্য সংক্রান্ত বিধিনিষেধ শিথিল করার ব্যাপারে সহমত হওয়া যায়নি। উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলি স্বভাবতই এতে ক্ষুব্ধ। মানবাধিকার বিষয়ে একটি নতুন আন্তর্জাতিক কাউন্সিল গঠন, দারিদ্র দূরীকরণের দীর্ঘমেয়াদি প্রকল্পে সমর্থন, কালক্রমে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের পঠনগত সংস্কার এবং যুদ্ধবিরুদ্ধ দেশগুলির সাহায্যার্থে একটি শান্তি-কমিশন গঠনের ব্যাপারে একমত হইয়েছে। তবে মতভেদের কথা সাধারণ বৈধে মানবাধিকার কাউন্সিলের বিষয়টিও ভাসা ভাসা উল্লেখ করেই ছাড়া হয়েছে। মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান তো স্পষ্টই বলেছেন, নিরস্ত্রীকরণ এবং পরমাণু অস্ত্রপ্রসার রোধ সম্পর্কে যে কোনও প্রস্তাব রাখা হই না, সেটা যাথেষ্ট হতাশাজনক।

— রয়টার্স

মার্কিন নীরবতায় চাপ বাড়ল ভারতের উপর

সীমা সিরোহি • ওয়াশিংটন

১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর: বুশ-মনমোহন বেঠকের প্রাক্কালে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে স্থায়ী আসন পেতে গেলে কী কী যোগ্যতা থাকা দরকার সে বিষয়ে নিজস্ব তালিকা পেশ করল আমেরিকা। পাশাপাশি জানিয়ে দেওয়া হল, প্রার্থী দেশগুলির মধ্যে একমাত্র জাপানই সব কটি চাহিদা পূরণ করেছে। লক্ষ্যণীয় ভাবে সম্পূর্ণ অনুচ্চারিত থাকল ভারতের নাম।

মার্কিন কূটনীতির দিক থেকে এই উচ্চারণ (জাপান) এবং নীরবতা (ভারত) দুইই যথেষ্ট তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের প্রার্থী পদে জাপানের প্রতি তাদের সমর্থনের কথা আমেরিকা বরাবরই বলে আসছে। পাশাপাশি জি-৪ গোষ্ঠীর প্রস্তাব নিয়ে তাদের আপত্তি সত্ত্বেও পরিষদে উন্নয়নশীল দেশের অংশগ্রহণ যে তারা চায়, সে কথাও বলা হয়েছিল। ফলে সে দিক থেকে জি-৪-এর বাইরে আলাদা ভাবে ভারতের প্রতি আমেরিকার সমর্থন রয়েছে বলেই ইঙ্গিত মিলেছিল। কিন্তু এই মুহূর্তে ইরানের সঙ্গে ভারতের সম্পর্কে কেন্দ্র করে ভারত-মার্কিন সম্পর্কে নতুন করে মেঘ ঘনাচ্ছে।

ইরানে কটরপন্থী সরকার ক্ষমতায় আসার পরে ভারতের বিদেশমন্ত্রীই প্রথম তেহরানে গিয়েছেন। ভারত-ইরান গ্যাস পাইপলাইন নিয়ে আমেরিকার আপত্তি জানা থাকা সত্ত্বেও। ভারতীয় কূটনীতিকরা এখন স্বীকার করছেন, বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিংহের এই সফরকে তাঁরা ঠিক মতো প্যাকেজ করতে পারেননি। তাঁরা যদি বলতেন, পশ্চিমী দেশগুলির সঙ্গে ইরানের সম্পর্কের সেতুবন্ধনের লক্ষ্যেই

নটবর তেহরানে গিয়েছেন, তা হলেই আজ ছবিটা অন্য রকম হতে পারত। তার উপরে নটবর তেহরানে গিয়ে বলেছেন, ভারতে বিদেশনীতি তার নিজস্ব এবং স্বতন্ত্র। অর্থাৎ, আমেরিকার সঙ্গে ইরানের সম্পর্ক ভাল নয় বলে ভারতের সঙ্গে ইরানের সুসম্পর্ক হতে পারবে না, এমন কোনও কথা নেই।

আমেরিকাও তাই আজ পরোক্ষে বুঝিয়ে দিল, ভারতের কখনও মার্কিন-বন্ধু, কখনও বা জোট-নিরপেক্ষ নীতির টানাপোড়েন বুঝে চলতে রাজি নয় ওয়াশিংটন। ভারতকে হয় পুরোপুরি মার্কিন প্রশাসনের সঙ্গে আসতে হবে অথবা পরমাণু সহায়তার আশা ছাড়তে হবে। দু-নৌকোয় পা রাখা চলবে না।

এই পরিস্থিতিতেই আজ মার্কিন বিদেশ দফতরের তরফে বলা হয়েছে: নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে সংস্কারের মোদা কার্যকারিতার দিকটি সবচেয়ে বেশি করে মাথায় রাখা হচ্ছে। গণতন্ত্র ও মানবাধিকারের প্রতি দায়বদ্ধতা, অর্থনৈতিক আয়তন, জনসংখ্যা, সামরিক ক্ষমতা, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ আর্থিক অনুদানের পরিমাণ এবং সন্ত্রাস-দমন তথা পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রসার রোধে ভূমিকা, মূলত এই শর্তগুলির উপরেই জোর দিচ্ছে আমেরিকা।

জাপানকে যোগ্য দেশ বলে উল্লেখ করাটা আলাদা করে কোনও নতুন ঘটনা হয়তো নয়। তবে আমেরিকার পরে জাপানই রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ সবচেয়ে বেশি অর্থসাহায্য দিয়ে থাকে। সম্প্রতি জাপান সাহায্যের পরিমাণ কমানোর ছমকি দিয়েছিল। এই মুহূর্তে জি-৪-এর প্রস্তাব যখন ধামাচাপাই পড়ে গিয়েছে, তখন আর এক বার জাপানের প্রতি তাদের পক্ষপাতের কথা বলে আমেরিকা জাপানকে খানিকটা খুশি রাখতে চাইল বলেই আন্তর্জাতিক মহলের ধারণা।

US criteria for UNSC slot

State department announcement shot in the arm for Delhi

PRESS Trust of India
Washington, September 13

RAISING HOPES for India, the US has unveiled a set of criteria for countries aspiring for a seat in an expanded UN Security Council. These include economic size, population, track record on non-proliferation and counter-terrorism.

The State Department on Tuesday came out with its vision of UNSC reforms, saying "potential members must be supremely well qualified, based on factors such as commitment to democracy and human rights, economic size, population, military capacity, financial contributions to the UN, and record on counter-terrorism and non-proliferation". While the overall "geographic balance" of the Council is a consideration, effectiveness remains the benchmark for any reform, the State Department said.

"The United States is prepared to help lead the effort to strengthen and reform the UN. What fol-

lowers are key issues such as terrorism and human rights from the proposed document even at the expense of making it toothless. As the core group of 32 ambassadors, including India's Nirupam Sen, held discussions — expected to continue through the night ahead of the three-day summit — diplomats said the final outcome would be a much scaled-down version of what Secretary-General Kofi Annan had envisioned to restructure the world body on its 60th anniversary.

The language on terrorism, human rights council and peace building has already been reduced to generalities without any specific proposal and diplomats said objections were being raised even on the watered-down language.

Annan, who has staked his prestige on the success of the summit, redoubled his diplomatic efforts to reach some agreement and American Ambassador John Bolton promised to continue working till the time is up.

Plea for anti-terror treaty

ASSERTING THAT all forms of terrorism should be condemned, the US also urged the UN General Assembly to adopt a "comprehensive" treaty against international terrorism.

"The US strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and urges the General Assembly to adopt a Comprehensive Con-

vention against International Terrorism," the State Department said in a statement. It firmly rejected the argument of apologists for some forms of terrorism in the name of "freedom struggle". A clear, strong convention on terrorism, it said, will bolster common efforts to preserve peace and security.

PTI, Washington

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Meanwhile, negotiators grappled with a revised draft of a reform package to save the UN Summit beginning here on Wednesday from collapse, dropping controver-

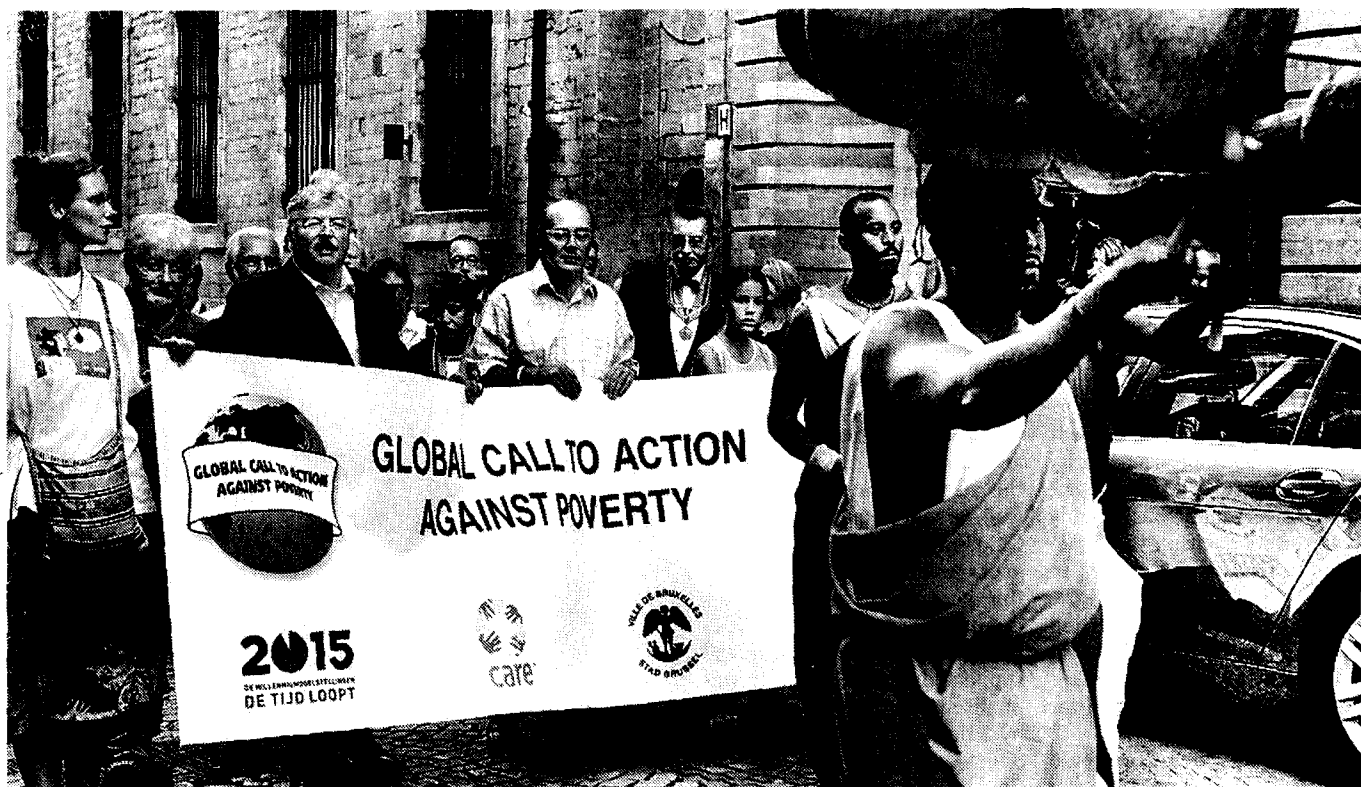
effit from resources and that UN personnel are held to the highest standard of ethical conduct and accountability.

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United Nations reform document addresses seven key issues

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United States unhappy as negotiators reach compromise



CALLING ATTENTION: Belgian protesters join the fight against poverty as they march, accompanied by a drumming band from Burundi, around the city of Brussels, ahead of the United Nations World Summit in New York. — PHOTO: AP

Warren Hoge

UNITED NATIONS: Faced with the imminent arrival of more than 170 Presidents and Prime Ministers, negotiators agreed on Monday to resolve differences blocking acceptance of the centerpiece document for this week's summit meeting on combating poverty and reforming the United Nations.

The breakthrough, ending three weeks of tense day and night talks, occurred late on Monday when ambassadors adopted compromise language across a range of issues.

The changes undercut the ambitions and scope of the 45-page

document but brought an end to an impasse that had threatened the United Nations with fresh embarrassment just a week after findings of mismanagement and corruption in the oil-for-food programme were reported by Paul A. Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chairman who headed the investigation.

Final version

The final version was expected to emerge on Tuesday, the eve of the three-day gathering of world leaders.

"What we can say now is that we will have a document that will reflect what is politically possible right now among 191

members," said Gunter Pleuger, the German ambassador.

The U.S. delegation also tried to put a good face on the outcome, though it expressed disappointment in not obtaining pledges for thorough management reform.

Noting that the proposals fell far short of "the kind of cultural revolution that we need in United Nations management and governance," John R. Bolton, the U.S. ambassador, said, "Reform is not a one-night stand. Reform is forever. That's why we're going to continue to work on it."

The draft document addresses seven main issues: a new human

rights council to replace the discredited Human Rights Commission; steps to promote development and reduce poverty; a new peace-building commission; a management overhaul; nuclear non-proliferation; terrorism and a measure to allow international intervention when countries fail to protect their populations from genocide.

In many cases, the solution was to substitute broad statements of principle for specific goals, leaving the details to the upcoming year-long General Assembly session. —New York Times News Service

মানব উন্নয়নের শর্ত

অর্থনৈতিক ভাবে অনুন্নত এবং উন্নয়নশীল রাষ্ট্রগুলির সার্বিক উন্নয়নের জন্য যে সহস্রাব্দের উন্নয়নী লক্ষ্য (মিলেনিয়াম ডেভেলপমেন্ট গোল) বিশ্বব্যাপী চালু আছে, তাহার প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য ২০১৫ সালের ভিতর সমগ্র বিশ্বে দরিদ্রের সংখ্যা অর্ধেক করিয়া ফেলা। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ এই সময়সীমার মধ্যে মানবোন্নয়নের বিভিন্ন সূচক যেমন, শিশুমৃত্যুর হার, সাক্ষরতা, পানীয় জলের সংস্থান ইত্যাদির মান উন্নত করিবার জন্যও ব্যবস্থাগ্রহণের কথা বলিয়াছে। সম্প্রতি প্রকাশিত রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি (ইউ এন ডি পি)-র ২০০৫ সালের মানব-উন্নয়ন রিপোর্ট অনুসারে মানব-উন্নয়নের বিভিন্ন সূচক অনুযায়ী বিশ্বের ১৭৭ টি দেশের ভিতর ভারতের স্থান ১২৭তম। ভারতে শিশুমৃত্যুর হার অনেক উন্নয়নশীল রাষ্ট্রের তুলনায় অধিক, এমনকী বাংলাদেশের অবস্থাও ভারত অপেক্ষা ভাল। ভারতে লিঙ্গবৈষম্যও প্রবল। শিশুমৃত্যুর হার বালক অপেক্ষা বালিকাদের ক্ষেত্রে পঞ্চাশ শতাংশ বেশি, প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে বালিকাদের ভর্তি হইবার হারও উল্লেখযোগ্য ভাবে কম। অন্যান্য সূচকের ক্ষেত্রেও অবস্থা একই রকম, সহস্রাব্দের উন্নয়নী লক্ষ্যকে বাস্তবায়িত করিবার জন্য নিতান্তই অপ্রতুল। অথচ এ সবই ঘটতেছে এমন একটি সময়ে, যখন ভারত একটি জোরদার অর্থনৈতিক বৃদ্ধির সাক্ষী। এই ঘটনাটি বোধ হয় ‘অর্থনৈতিক বৃদ্ধি হইলেই প্রকৃত উন্নয়ন হইবে, তাহা নহে’— অর্থনীতির এই আশুবাণ্যটির সত্যতা আরও এক বার প্রমাণ করিল।

পরিস্থিতিটি স্ফায়র নহে। অথচ, দারিদ্র দূরীকরণের প্রচলিত মাপকাঠিতে অর্থাৎ দারিদ্র অনুপাত হ্রাসের বিচারে ভারত উন্নতি করিয়াছে। অর্থাৎ, দারিদ্র দূর হইলেই যে মানুষের বাঁচিয়া থাকিবার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় বাকি বিষয়গুলির সংস্থান হইবে, তাহার কোনও নিশ্চয়তা নাই। বস্তুত, মাথাপিছু জাতীয় আয় ভারতের তুলনায় কম, এমন বেশ কয়েকটি উন্নয়নশীল রাষ্ট্রে মানব-উন্নয়নের এই সূচকগুলি ভারত অপেক্ষা অনেক ভাল। উদাহরণ, ভিয়েতনাম। এই প্রসঙ্গে কতিপয় প্রশ্ন উঠিয়া আসে। প্রথমত, দারিদ্র দূরীকরণের আলোচনায় দরিদ্র মানুষের অনুপাত কমানোর কথাই চিন্তা করা হয়, তাঁহাদের জীবনধারণের অন্যান্য সূচক সম্বন্ধে সচরাচর কেহ ভাবেন না। ইহার ফল ভারতে স্পষ্ট— গত পনেরো বৎসরে দেশের দশ শতাংশ দারিদ্রসীমার উপরে উঠিয়া আসিয়াছেন সত্য, কিন্তু সুস্থ ভাবে বাঁচিবার উপকরণ তাঁহাদের নিকট পৌঁছায় নাই। দ্বিতীয়ত, মাথাপিছু আয়ের হিসাবে সম্পদবন্টনের অসাম্য প্রতিফলিত হয় না। ভারতীয় অর্থনীতির বর্তমান ছবিটি এই বন্টনের অসাম্যের দিকেই নির্দেশ করে। দেশের অর্থনীতি সমৃদ্ধ হইয়াছে, কিন্তু সমৃদ্ধির ফল সকলের নিকট সমান ভাবে পৌঁছায় নাই। আর একটি বিষয় প্রাসঙ্গিক। অনাহার, অপুষ্টি, অশিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য পরিষেবার অভাব ইত্যাদি ভারতে, বিশেষত গ্রামাঞ্চলে অত্যন্ত প্রবল। ভারতে মনুষ্যের হার হয় না, কিন্তু অনাহারে মৃত্যু অথবা মৃত্যুর সমান জীবনধারণের ঘটনা বিরল নয়। বোধ হয়, হঠাৎ ঘটিয়া যাওয়া কোনও বিপর্যয় সামলাইতে শিখিলেও ভারতীয় নেতাদের প্রাত্যহিক যন্ত্রণামোচনের উপায়টির পাঠ লওয়া বাকি রহিয়াছে। উন্নয়নের সূচকগুলির এমন লঙ্ঘাজনক অবস্থা ইহারই প্রতিফলন।

কিন্তু এই পরিসংখ্যান হইতে কেহ যদি সিদ্ধান্তে পৌঁছান যে রাষ্ট্রের সার্বিক মঙ্গলের জন্য অর্থনৈতিক বৃদ্ধির অপ্রয়োজনীয়, তাহা চরম ভুল হইবে। ভারতীয় অর্থনীতির বার্ষিক বৃদ্ধির হার প্রবাদপ্রতিম সাড়ে পাঁচ শতাংশ ছাড়াইয়া সাত শতাংশের দিকে চলিয়াছে। এই অবস্থায় ভারতীয় অর্থনীতিতে বিনিয়োগের প্রাবল্য প্রয়োজন। তাহার জন্য অর্থনৈতিক সংস্কার করিতে হইবে, বিদেশি মূলধনের বিনিয়োগপদ্ধতিকে মসৃণতর করিতে হইবে। মানব উন্নয়ন প্রয়োজন, তাহার জন্য দরিদ্র মানুষকে বাজারে বাজারে অংশগ্রহণ করিবার জন্য সক্ষম করিয়া তুলিতে হইবে। সরকারের কর্তব্য, অর্থনৈতিক বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্ত অর্থের প্রয়োজনীয় অংশ সামাজিক ক্ষেত্রে ব্যয় করা, যাহার ফলে শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পানীয় জল ইত্যাদি দেশের দরিদ্রতম মানুষের নিকট দ্রুত পৌঁছাইবে। অর্থাৎ, অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধির ফলটিকে আরও অধিক সংখ্যক দেশবাসীর নিকট পৌঁছাইয়া দিতে হইবে। ভারত দিকভ্রষ্ট না হইয়া উদার অর্থনীতির পথে চলিলে এবং সম্পদের ন্যায্য বন্টন হইলে আগামী কিছু বৎসরে এই দেশের উন্নয়নের চিত্রটি পাল্টাইবে, আশা করা যায়। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের রিপোর্টটিও বৃদ্ধির বিরুদ্ধে কথা বলে নাই, বলিয়াছে সেই বৃদ্ধির সুফলের অধিকতর সমবন্টনের পক্ষে।

Can the U.N. summit on poverty deliver?

The coming U.N. summit risks delivering worse prospects for action on global poverty than before the G8, wiping out the commitments made at Gleneagles.

Sarah Hiddleston

ON SEPTEMBER 14, more than 170 of the world's leaders will meet at the United Nations in New York to address a far-reaching agenda, the outcome of which will have a significant impact on the lives of millions of the world's poor. Alongside discussions on peace, security, human rights, and U.N. reform, the summit will assess progress and recommend action on a series of eight promises made in 2000 to halve poverty, tackle sickness, and combat environmental degradation by 2015.

These commitments, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), reflected international consensus that poverty in an increasingly prosperous world economy was unacceptable. These provided measurable targets, albeit imperfect, to track progress. For the first time, rich countries and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF were to be held accountable not just for their processes but in terms of outcomes.

Reports from international aid agencies and the Human Development report just released by the UNDP indicate that progress is "slow," if not "dismal." Life expectancy has overall increased by two years, 130 million have been removed from abject poverty, and 30 million extra children put in school. However, the first target to achieve equal access to primary education for girls and boys has been missed in over 70 countries. As an indicator for the achievements of other goals, the prospects are not promising.

Worsening poverty

Many of the MDGs will not be met in U.N. member-states by 2015. None of them will be met in Africa. Poverty has stagnated or worsened in every region outside Asia. In Africa, there are over 100 million more people living in poverty than there were in 1990. Even within success stories, such as India, a decline in income poverty has not been matched by human development. The figures were poor for child mortality and malnutrition as well as gender parity. The number of people suffering from hunger has increased since 1997; over 150 million children in developing nations are underweight.

The target to eradicate extreme hunger is projected to be missed in Africa, and South and West Asia. On current trends, Africa, and South and East Asia will fail to achieve universal primary education by 2015. By the target date, 75 million children in over 80 countries are projected to remain out of school. On current trends, the child mortality target will be missed in every region except East Asia and Latin America. In Africa, life expectancy has fallen by 15 years since 1990, largely due to HIV and AIDS.

According to the UNDP report, if these goals are to be realised the U.N. cannot go about "business as usual." "This year marks a crossroads" if we are to see the next 10 years as "the decade of development."

With the MDGs already behind target, recent drafts of the outcome document currently do not acknowledge change in direction necessary to get the world back on track. According to the international charity ActionAid, pre-summit negotiations have diluted some clear, time-bound commitments on increasing aid, improving the quality of aid, cancelling unsustainable debt, tackling HIV and AIDS, and expanding access to health and education. Examples include: the removal of timetables to reach the target for rich countries to give 0.7 per cent of their GDP in aid by 2015; the loss of a plan for debt reduction for countries out-



WHEN WILL HIS LOT IMPROVE? A child stands beside a road divider in a Kolkata street on Saturday. On current trends, South and East Asia, and Africa will fail to achieve universal primary education by 2015, one of the Millennium Development Goals. — PHOTO: AFP

side the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative (HIPC), based on an appraisal of their MDG financing requirements; the loss of full funding for universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010 set out in the G8 communiqué and Africa Action Plan in Gleneagles; the loss of provisions for free basic education and full funding of the education Fast Track Initiative made at the G8.

These damaging revisions have come about chiefly through the aggressive lobbying of the U.S. administration backed in some areas by some other rich nations such as Australia and Japan. More worryingly, the U.S. has sought to overturn the international agreements on poverty reductions made in 2002 at Monterrey and delete the 35 references to the MDGs altogether. Though compromise wording has now been accepted, there remain 250 changes in the document that need to be negotiated. The U.S. has adopted a similar approach to other multilateral processes and agreements, by seeking to strip out references on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol, the International Criminal Court, and the U.N. Convention Against Corruption.

With northern countries undercutting development goals, it is increasingly important that champions from developing countries emerge advocating their retention within the document. In particular, the emerging world economies such as India could make or break the case for inclusion of already stated international commitments. And, largely, it is within their interest to ensure inclusion.

The HIV/AIDS commitments, for example, which were agreed at the G8 and included getting "as close as possible to universal access to care and treatment for all who need it by 2010," currently lack a champion outside the U.K. Should it choose to back the treatment target, India would be presented with an opportunity to fulfil its domestic need for effective prevention (the provision of treatment supports prevention by reducing the amount of HIV in the body, making it harder to pass the virus on) and also lead provision of treatment on an international scale. A world that intends to deliver universal treatment needs a producer. India is one of the few countries with the scientific and manufacturing capacity to

produce affordable cheap generic drugs for distribution to a world market. A win-win situation presents itself to Indian negotiators: a world that commits itself to universal treatment will be healthier, more productive, and more equitable. It will also be one in which Indian economic and political interests are well served by the necessary scale up of generic production.

The U.N. summit risks delivering worse prospects for action on global poverty than before the G8, wiping out the commitments made at Gleneagles and shattering the hopes of the millions of people who have campaigned across the world as part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). Without consolidating the gains already made on aid and debt cancellation, further commitments to end donor and World Bank and IMF conditionalities, significant progress on trade justice and ending conflict, stocktaking on reasons for lack of progress, and an action plan to resuscitate the MDGs, the current generation of politicians will risk taking a step backward in the face of opportunity, turning their backs on the poorest.

Shadow of collapse looms on UN meet

K.P. NAYAR

New York, Sept. 12. Twenty-four hours before Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrives here for the biggest gathering of leaders that the world has ever seen, India has been thrust into a critical role which can make or break the summit, which had raised high hopes for mankind until a few weeks ago.

As leaders began arriving here today, the summit, which

is due to open on Wednesday, appeared headed for a collapse because of disagreements on a blueprint to confront global challenges in the 60th year of the UN.

In an effort to salvage the summit, Gabonese foreign minister Jean Ping, the outgoing president of the General Assembly, yesterday mandated a group of 10 countries to engage in marathon negotiations on producing a summit document, which has so far eluded

the 191 members of the UN. India is one of those 10 countries and is represented by its permanent representative to the UN, Nirupam Sen.

Disagreements over the summit document centre around a proposed human rights council to replace the controversial UN Human Rights Commission, creation of a peace-building commission to assist countries emerging from conflict, accountability of governments in protecting civilians

from genocide, disarmament and non-proliferation issues, terrorism and the role of democracy.

Diplomats at the UN have been labouring over the document since the beginning of this year and produced a 45-page draft last month.

But President George W. Bush's handpicked ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, took up his job some weeks ago and immediately tabled about 750 amendments to the draft.

It upset many countries, including India, because Bolton, among other things, sought to remove from the document any reference that rich nations should raise foreign aid to 0.7 per cent of their GNP.

He also wanted to eliminate all references to the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, adopted five years ago that would cut dire poverty and child mortality and reverse the AIDS epidemic by 2015. Other differences surfaced

over landmark proposals, including some on UN reform, and the General Assembly president appointed a group of 32 countries, including India, to narrow down the differences.

For a fortnight, this group of 32 ambassadors have been having talks, but to no avail. Yesterday, in a desperate effort to bring about a compromise before more than 170 world leaders gather at the UN, Ping cut down the negotiating group to 10 ambassadors.

They include the five permanent members of the Security Council, India, Egypt and Pakistan. Hopes of salvaging the summit brightened after the US withdrew its insistence on eliminating all references to the Millennium Development Goals.

Bolton also compromised on the language used in describing the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which has been rejected by the Bush administration.

Continental drift

A 'Third World' USA & India

The dramatic feature of the UNDP report 2005 is not the data — fairly predictable overall — on the quality of life in Asia, but on the stinging indictment of social inequalities in the US. In a sense, it has been a double whammy for the Bush administration in course of a week. The report compounds the fiasco in New Orleans. Unwittingly or otherwise, it confirms the unabashedly racist policy that has enabled the US President to convert a natural calamity to a national disgrace. The social divide is not an emotional rhetoric after all; the report makes it clear that the great American Dream is an ongoing nightmare with parts of the country as poor as the Third World. The data is equally chilling on separate indices of welfare. The infant mortality rate has risen over the past five years, with the casualties higher among black children. The percentage is now the same as in Malaysia. A week before history's largest gathering of world leaders, George W. stands in sackcloth and ashes. The administration has even been accused of an "overdeveloped military strategy and an underdeveloped strategy for human security".

The guns have been targeted on customary lines in the context of Asia's Millennium Development Goals. And in terms of diagnosis, the report scans well-trodden ground — corruption, lack of basic infrastructure and misutilisation of assets. For India, the data is sufficiently alarming as it neutralises the country's success story in globalisation. The economic boom doesn't get reflected in human development, which has registered a disastrous slump. At 47 per cent, child mortality is the highest in India. Even Bangladesh fares better. Still more disgraceful must be the fact that India ranks 127th among 177 countries. Such indices of welfare as longevity, literacy and gender equality are matters of basic governance. They are not components of a common minimum programme, subject to political sensitivities. All in all, the scenario is beyond hope, beyond despair. As much is clear from the report's grim foreboding that the country will have to wait for another century to catch up with the developed world.

Ann^{vv} takes the fall

And the UN^{ma} waits for the great leap forward^{ss.b UNO}

This is a critical moment in history. It must be a terrible misfortune for the United Nations that its Secretary-General is on the mat on the eve of its 60th anniversary celebrations. Kofi Annan stands as a defeated man just when he was expected to push through a slew of reforms. Widely regarded as one of the most "fundamentally decent" men to have headed the UN, he has come under a cloud in Paul Volcker's final report on the oil-for-food programme in Iraq. The decent trait in his personality came through eloquently enough within hours after the report was read out to him. "I wish we were never given that programme," he told the BBC, repenting a blot in an otherwise distinguished record as a career diplomat. He has not been directly blamed for helping his son Kojo, the chief beneficiary of the payola pie. Nonetheless, Volcker as former chairman of the US Federal Reserve has come up with a damning report on the functioning of the UN, accusing the world body of a "litany of inefficiencies". The tenor of the report confirms the cynical belief that the UN has few friends in Capitol Hill. Inevitably perhaps, the report gives the USA, the UN's biggest paymaster, opportunity to clamour for drastic changes. John Bolton, George Bush's hatchetman with not a particularly sterling CV, has been prompt and predictable in his response. "There were bribes, there were kickbacks. We need to reform the UN in a manner that will prevent another oil-for-food scandal". The fact remains that America is yet to approve of the structural changes that have already been recommended. It is quite evident that the reforms will be carried out on the terms of the principal paymaster. Going by the misgivings expressed, it seems unlikely that Annan will preside over the UN's great leap forward this week. New York will witness another gathering of the glitterati, with such passing shows as the Manmohan-Musharraf one-on-one being thrown in for good measure.

Annan has not emerged unscathed and he has been honest enough to admit that he wasn't "diligent in investigating" his son's involvement with Cotecna, the Swiss firm which received a lucrative contract under the \$64 billion scheme. He has ruled out his resignation, saying he doesn't intend to "fall on his sword" only days before the gathering of world leaders. This isn't the propitious moment for the Secretary-General to quit; a rudderless United Nations on its 60th anniversary will neither benefit the world body nor the comity of nations.

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Summit on UN's future heads for chaos

THE BRITISH government is mounting a huge diplomatic effort this weekend to prevent the biggest-ever summit of world leaders, designed to tackle poverty and overhaul the United Nations, ending in chaos.

Jack Straw, the foreign secretary, has made a personal plea to his American counterpart, Condoleezza Rice, for the US to withdraw opposition to plans for wholesale reform of the UN. He has asked Rice to rein in John Bolton, the US ambassador to the world body.

Bolton has thrown the reform negotiations into disarray by demanding a catalogue of late changes to a 40-page draft document which is due to go before the summit in New York on Wednesday.

The original document went through refinements in the spring and summer and appeared headed to general acceptance. In late August, though, Bolton made public more than 400 amendments and deletions and insisted that the matter be taken away from lower ranking representatives and given to ambassadors.

Other nations saw that as an opportunity to bring their wishes to the table, and the ensuing talks have sometimes sharpened the divisions. A senior United Nations official identified the principal spoilers as Cuba, Egypt, India, Jamaica, Pakistan and the United States.

Straw spoke to Rice in a three-way conference call last Tuesday organised by Kofi Annan, the UN secretary gen-

eral, to try to break the deadlock.

Annan has been weakened by the criticisms voiced this week by an inquiry into the UN's running of the Iraq oil-for-

food programme and needs a successful summit to avoid calls for his resignation.

The British government, in a rare divergence from the US, is fully behind Annan's reforms and fears the summit will fail to build on the agreements on aid reached at the G8 summit at Gleneagles. Aid agencies and other international groups monitoring the talks expressed fears that ambitious goals on aid, protection of civilians and curbs on the arms trade will be lost.

The summit, to which 175 world leaders have accepted invitations and which has been in the planning for more than a year, is billed as making the UN fit for the 21st century.

Guardian News Service

UN REFORMS



HS-13 MAG

Meet proposals

- Meeting the millennium development goals that would halve poverty by 2015 and make sure everyone has access to primary education
- Setting up a peace-building commission to help with post-conflict reconstruction
- Creating a human rights council
- Introducing a responsibility to protect citizens from genocide, much tougher than existing international obligations
- Imposing curbs on the arms trade
- Reforming the UN bureaucracy, particularly after the oil-for-food scandal

Findings painful: Annan

Secretary-General accepts responsibility for oil scam

Ewen MacAskill

LONDON: Kofi Annan, U.N. Secretary-General, has described the findings of the investigation into the Iraq oil-for-food scandal as "painful" and "embarrassing" and underlined an urgent need for reform of the world organisation.

Mr. Annan accepted personal responsibility but made it clear he was not going to resign. He was formally presented with the 820-page report of Paul Volcker, head of the inquiry, during a meeting of the Security Council.

Mr. Volcker told the Council: "Our assignment has been to look for mis- or maladministration in the oil-for-food programme and for evidence of corruption within the U.N. organisation and by contractors. Unhappily we found both."

The U.S. administration, which is hostile to Mr. Annan and the U.N. in general, joined in the criticism. John Bolton, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and a long-time critic of the organisation, said: "This report unambiguously rejects the notion that business as usual at the U.N. is acceptable."

Mr. Bolton added: "We need to reform the U.N. in a manner that will prevent another oil-for-food scandal. The credibility of the U.N. depends on it."

• Report finds faults in programme

• Saddam allowed to skim off \$10 billion

• Panel criticises Kojo Annan on several counts

As well as criticising Mr. Annan, the inquiry blamed the permanent members of the Security Council, for taking a lax approach to the programme.

The oil-for-food scheme was set up in 1996 to allow Saddam Hussein to sell oil in return for food for an Iraqi population suffering from the ravages of U.N. sanctions. The report acknowledges that about 90 per cent of the 26 million population was dependent on the food and medicines that the programme provided.

But the investigators, in the course of their inquiries, uncovered instances of corruption and mismanagement. Mr. Hussein was allowed to skim off \$10.2 billion, and various companies as well as U.N. officials are alleged to have taken a share.

But the investigators said they found no evidence that Mr. Annan had used his influence to help a company, for which his son Kojo was then working, to

secure one of the oil-for-food contracts.

An E-mail discovered in June from one of the company's executives suggested that the executive had spoken to the Secretary-General in Paris in 1998. But the investigators dismissed the claim, saying this amounted to no more than a shouted hello across a hotel corridor, and that the executive had subsequently exaggerated the incident.

As for Kojo himself, the investigators criticised him on several points.

Expectation

The report also described a plot in which Mr. Hussein tried to influence Mr. Annan's predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The investigators claim that Baghdad paid millions of dollars to a South Korean businessman and Iraqi-born American businessman with the apparent expectation that they would pass money to Mr. Boutros-Ghali and another U.N. aide.

Though the investigators criticised Mr. Boutros-Ghali for allowing the oil-for-food programme to be established in such a way that Mr. Hussein was able to exploit it, there is no suggestion he was involved in any wrongdoing. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

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UNSC AND AFRICA

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69 SANJOY HAZARIKA reports from Zambia on the fight for Africa's soul – and vote

Across the vast African continent, as nations confront critical issues of food security, conflicts, hunger and disease, heads of government and heads of state as well as their foreign ministers and ambassadors have been struggling with another difficult question: what is Africa's role in the

UN and specifically in a Security Council which could be revamped to provide greater representation to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It actually boils down to who should represent Africa. "Potentially, it is a divisive issue," said a senior African diplomat who has served extensively in different countries. "For the first time, we are seeing certain countries pushing their own national interests."

Africa's role and the way that the African Union, platform for all 53 African nations — which are over a quarter of all UN members — votes or supports members decides who gets into the world's most exclusive power club: the P-5 or five permanent members of the UN Security Council comprising the USA, Britain, France, China and Russia.

They can make or unmake international policy for good or otherwise and have, in each of their armouries, an all powerful *brahmastra*, a weapon that can negate or over-rule the General Assembly and all the committees of the UN and their drafts. It's a four letter word and it's the veto.

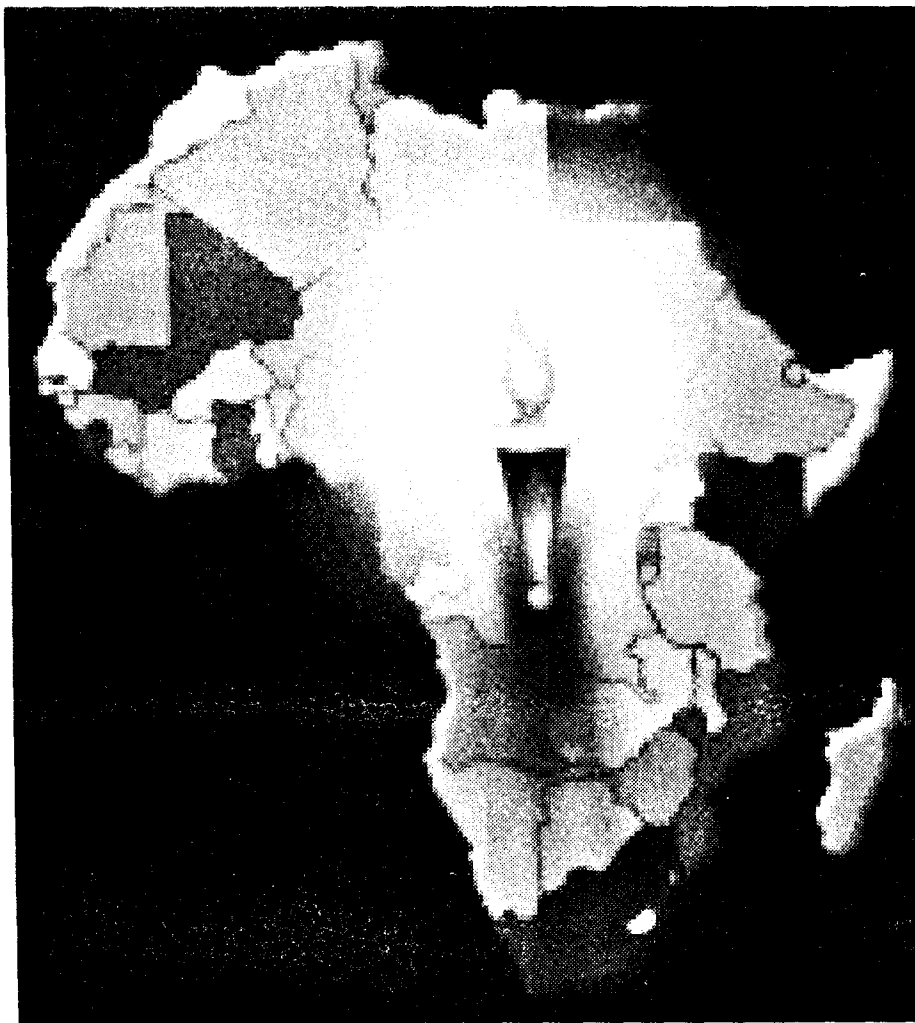
The UN, now with nearly 200 member-states, is perhaps the world's most representative body and talk shop. Its advocates describe the UN system as one of the most democratic in the world where every national leader worth his salt has as much time on the floor as anyone else.

Of course, there is the right to object and the right of reply to be exercised by countries either in conflict or with a history of sparring such as India and Pakistan or the USA and the former Soviet Union or even China and Japan.

But despite the outward trappings of international democracy, the UN and its running — and the international ramifications of policy in a basket of issues from the environment and energy to armed conflict, HIV/AIDS, health and hunger — depend on the P-5.

If one was to be cynical, five nations can essentially tell the world to go to hell if they were unconcerned about specific issues which trouble life on earth. And over the decades, there has been growing support for the expansion of the Security Council to reflect existing social and economic realities.

The process got a kick-start from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said members of the General Assembly should try and arrive at a consensus on a more democratised structure for the Permanent Council by the time of the Millennium Summit this month, when most heads of state or government, would be in New York



to assess progress on goals by 2015 to reduce acute poverty, improve maternal and infant health apart from other efforts.

This was a not-too-subtle reflection of his exasperation with the current system. Over the past year, the G-4 of India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, all four major international economic powers, have actively pursued a process of lobbying others, including the P-5, to expand the council.

The going has not been easy at any point, despite the fund of goodwill that India enjoys in the countries of the South.

When it became clear that the P-5 were not going to part initially with their veto power, the G-4 caved in and agreed to fight for more seats, including two for Africa but without veto powers. It was seen as the more practical way of getting "a foot into the door" as one veteran Indian diplomat, who has worked extensively in Africa, put it.

That's when the turmoil began within the AU: when Nigeria, the current president of the African Union, agreed with the G-4 in London last month that this was a pragmatic way of approaching the issue and the veto question should be put aside for the time, it summoned the other 52 AU members to headquarters in Addis Ababa to put the seal on what it thought was a done deal.

Not by a long shot: representatives of nearly 43 countries and the heads of state of

10, including Zambia, one of the pioneers of African unity and resistance to colonial regimes as well as apartheid, arrived and many slammed Nigeria for accepting the non-veto status, for hectoring the AU "like a headmaster" and presuming it knew what members wanted.

In the background was the concern also that Nigeria and South Africa, the two most powerful countries of the continent, would grab the seats and leave east, central and northern Africa unrepresented.

"Even if it takes 50 years, we will stay out if we do not get the veto," one African leader declaimed. Such sharp divisions were unprecedented in the AU, known for its collegial approach, and it is significant that Libya, Egypt and Algeria, friends of the "coffee club" of Pakistan and Italy, were among those spearheading the attack on the G-4/Nigeria proposals.

They were, in the terminology of Asian and African diplomats, "the spoilers." Once the battle lines were drawn at Addis Ababa, and the majority was clearly in no mood to compromise with the G-4 and Nigerian formulation, Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo beat a retreat.

A new committee of 10 heads of state, including Zambia, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Kenya was set up to canvass support for the dominant view not just in the AU but

also across the world. The time limit set for its report was one month. But this is not a feasible option, given the time constraints on the committee and the heads of state, some of whom have little time to travel within their own countries. So a view appears to be emerging, in classical South formulation, that while an extraordinary summit of the AU will be held this month during the UN Millennium conference, the coordinating committee would need more time for its consultations. There are strong reservations about a proposed "right to recall" by some AU groups. Under this, a second member of the SC from Africa (the AU suggests this could be a post filled by rotation within Africa) could be withdrawn if a majority felt that its views were not being articulated.

For Indian and Asian diplomats, the new position of the AU was a setback but not "the end of the road". Indian officials say the G-4 proposals remain on the table although there are problems within the Asian power structure. Thus, while China does not oppose India's entry, it is furiously opposed to Japan, with which it has had a running verbal and diplomatic spat for months on the Japanese occupation record during World War II and other issues.

But the African view has essentially ensured that for the time being there will be no "democratisation" of the Security Council. A Zambian diplomat says that over the past months, the USA and China have been working hard and quietly in Africa to press their own views, which effectively seek to block change.

"China says it is happy to support our position not to give up the veto," he said. Essentially, that meant that reaching a consensus for the G-4 and the AU would be that much more difficult, burying, at least for now, the effort to win more seats at the UNSC. Indeed, questions have arisen here and elsewhere in Africa about the value of a seat in the Security Council.

A senior editor in Zambia asked if "Africa was ready for membership." He said it was important to be careful "not to be seen fighting other people's battles," a reference to the China-Japan scrap and the constant jousting between India and Pakistan. But time seems to be running short, if not out.

"The African feeling is, 'Let us take a position before the Millennium Summit', and it will be non-changeable," said a senior Zambian official. Former President Kaunda, who now leads the campaign against HIV/AIDS, asserts the need for UN restructuring but says that the veto can come later. "What is important is to go stage by stage whereby representation is given to all parts of the world." "We must not rush so much that even the first part is not done," says the statesman and friend of India.

(The author is a Consulting Editor with The Statesman.)

World confronts Bush over U.N. revamp

Summit in danger of being overshadowed by the publication of a report on corruption

Ewen MacAskill

LONDON: An international alliance will confront U.S. President George W. Bush next week to salvage as much as possible of an ambitious plan to reshape the United Nations and tackle world poverty.

The head-to-head in New York on Monday comes after the revelation that the U.S. administration is proposing wholesale changes to crucial parts of the biggest overhaul of the U.N. since it was founded more than 50 years ago.

A draft of that plan had included a review of progress on the U.N.'s millennium development goals — poverty eradication targets set in 2000 for completion by 2015 — and the introduction of reforms aimed at repairing the

damage done to the U.N.'s reputation by Iraq, Rwanda and the Balkans.

But it was revealed this week that Mr. Bush's new ambassador to the U.N., John Bolton, was seeking 750 changes to the 36-page draft plan to be presented to a special summit in New York on September 14-16.

Threat to plan

Mr. Bolton's amendments, if successful, would leave the plan in tatters.

The U.K. Foreign Office confirmed that Britain was standing behind the original plan, putting it at odds with Mr. Bush.

The concern in British and other international circles is that the American objections, if adopted, would severely undermine the U.N. summit, the big-

gest-ever gathering of world leaders.

At least 175 world leaders have accepted an invitation to attend. The U.N. said that Mr. Bush had confirmed that he would be there.

A wide range of organisations, from aid groups to the anti-arms lobby, voiced dismay about Mr Bolton's objections and expressed concern that the summit may end in failure.

The Make Poverty History campaign said there was a danger that the millennium development goals, the original reason for holding the summit, would be reduced to a footnote.

A source close to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said it was too early to declare the U.N. plan dead.

"Bolton wants to knock down the plan and start from scratch," the source

said. "He will find that his opinions are not shared by most of the rest of the world."

Working on draft

The President of the U.N. General Assembly, Jean Ping of Gambia, has been working on the draft, covering issues of poverty, climate change, genocide, small arms, the creation of a permanent U.N. peacekeeping capability and reform of the U.N. management structure, for the past year.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the U.K. and the European Union, of which Britain holds the presidency, "are broadly content with the summit draft. It reflects the ambitious agenda thrown up by Kofi Annan". — © **Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005**

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Poverty fuelling violence, says UN

China, India Have Huge Urban-Rural Divide, Gender Gap

United Nations: Expressing concern over increasing poverty and schism between haves and have-nots in the developing countries, including India, the UN has warned that violence and terrorism would rise unless steps are taken to reverse economic and social inequalities. The growing violence associated with "national and international acts of terrorism" is the result of stark economic and social inequalities and competition of over scarce

resources, a report released by the UN said.

Inequalities within and between countries, it said, have "accompanied" globalisation and have had negative consequence.

To prevent global conflict and violence, it said, attention should be paid to reducing inequalities in access to resources and opportunities. The report, *'The Inequality Predica-*



A Chinese man walks past a beggar on a Beijing street

ment" points out that 80% of the world's gross domestic product belong to one billion people in the developed world and remaining 20% is shared by 5 billion people in the developing countries.

Since 1990s, the inequalities have become a common feature in these states, it added. In some cases, the report said, it appears to be closely related to growing distance between

parts of the world. More troubling is the sharp increase of women being employed by the informal sector, it added.

The gains made in gender equality, education and other areas proved that social mobilisation, particularly civil society engagement, can help raise awareness to social problems and spur action at national and regional levels, an UN official said. PTI

rural and urban areas. "This type of inequality is particularly stark in China and, to a lesser extent, in India and Thailand. In case of China, half of the overall increase in income inequality since 1985 is attributable to difference in income distribution among the country's regions," it stressed.

The report says although more women and girls were being educated, formal employment figures for women had stagnated or even decreased in some

G4 refuses to bow down as Annan flip-flops

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US Supports Overall Changes, Against Deadline For Reforms

United Nations: Japan and its G4 allies—India, Brazil and Germany—will keep pushing to achieve UN Security Council reform by September. Tokyo's UN ambassador said on Thursday, even as United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan again distanced himself from his own appeal that the debate be settled by then.


Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, whose country wants a permanent seat on the council, said that no matter what Annan says, talks will continue with African and other nations over its proposal to add four permanent seats to the 15-nation council.

"There is no change in our position," Oshima said. "We have not given up anything."

Diplomats have acknowledged for more than a decade that the council, established in 1945, doesn't reflect the world in the 21st century, but have never been able to reach a deal on changing it.


Hopes were high that this time would be different after Annan told the 191-member General Assem-

THE GREAT UN DEBATE




I hope for the sake of their leaders and the peoples of the world they will be able to put a solid document before them (world leaders). The issue is not going to die. They will have to pursue and I hope resolve it before we all go away for Christmas.

— UN Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**



There is no change in our position. We have not given up anything.

—Japan's UN ambassador
Kenzo Oshima



UN reforms is not a one night stand. UN reform is forever.

—American ambassador to UN
John Bolton

bly in March that member states should settle the issue before a September summit of world leaders.

But the debate has again stalled because of national and regional rivalries.

On Wednesday, Annan backed away from the September deadline for the first time, saying he thought that if a deal couldn't be reached before the summit, it should be finished by the end of the year.

Annan repeated that on Thursday. He ruled out the possibility that world leaders would themselves be able to resolve the issue at the September summit, saying they would be too busy.

"Ideally, it should be done by September. That was my own initial recommendation," Annan told Japan's NHK television.

"But if that were to slip, I think the member states

should remain focused, determined and engaged, and try to do it by the end of the year because it is urgent."

The council currently has 10 members elected for two-year terms and five permanent members with veto power—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have proposed a 25-member council, adding six permanent seats and four non-permanent seats.

The so-called Group of Four are hoping to win four of the permanent seats on the UNSC. The African Union has proposed expanding the council to 26 members—adding six permanent seats with veto power and five non-permanent seats. A third variant would add 10 non-permanent seats.

US ambassador John Bolton repeated the US stance that there should be no set deadline for council reform. He cited efforts through the 1990s and into 2000 when nations couldn't meet deadlines on the issue. "UN reform is not a one night stand," Bolton said. "UN reform is forever." Agencies

Annan extends deadline for UNSC expansion to Dec

Secretary-General Says 'Issue Is Not Going To Die' If Agreement Is Not Reached By September

United Nations: UN secretary-general Kofi Annan on Wednesday backed away from his appeal for nations to resolve their bitter differences over expanding the UN Security Council by September, saying he now wants the issue settled by Christmas.

Annan's statement was a strong indication that, like many other observers, he sees that the 191 UN member states are deadlocked and unlikely to agree on a way forward before a summit of world leaders in mid-September as he had hoped.

"If they are not able to resolve it before the summit, the issue is not going to die," Annan warned. "They will have to pursue it and I hope resolve it before we all go away for Christmas."

There is widespread support for en-

larging the 15-member council to reflect the world in the 21st century rather than the global power structure after World War II when the United Nations was formed. But previous attempts have failed because of national and regional rivalries.

The council currently has 10 members elected for two-year terms representing different regions and five permanent members with veto power—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. Three resolutions to expand the council have been introduced in the 191-member General Assembly. After 10 years of seemingly endless debate, Annan told UN members in March that he wanted a decision before the September summit. But the issue remains contentious.



"I think the reform of the council is long overdue. So I would urge the member states to engage with each other and find a solution."

and no proposal on the table can win the required two-thirds support.

Algeria's UN ambassador Abdallah Baali said on Tuesday he believes "the secretary-general is as embarrassed as everybody else about the way the Security Council reform negotiation has been evolving". Asked by re-

porters on Wednesday whether council reform was possible before world leaders arrive on September 14, Annan replied the vast majority of nations want the UN's most powerful body enlarged but are debating the formula. "I am still hoping that they will reform the council," he said. "I think the reform of the council is long overdue.... So I would urge the member states to engage with each other and find a solution."

Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have proposed a 25-member council, adding six permanent seats without a veto and four non-permanent seats. The so-called Group of Four are hoping to win four of the permanent seats with the other two earmarked for Africa. South Africa, Nigeria and

Egypt are the leading African contenders.

The African Union has proposed expanding the council to 26 members—adding six permanent seats with veto power and five non-permanent seats. A third resolution by a group called Uniting for Consensus would add 10 non-permanent seats.

On August 4, African leaders met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss a possible compromise resolution with the Group of Four, which had a chance of achieving a two-thirds vote. But the African Union stuck with its demand for two veto-wielding permanent council seats. General Assembly president Jean Ping, who is trying to achieve consensus, is reportedly also working on a proposal. ^{AP}

Bush and Beijing gang up against G4

K.P. NAYAR

New York, Aug. 5: George W. Bush's handpicked new ambassador to the UN yesterday roped in China to work together with him in opposing Security Council reform.

The agreement will potentially deal a death blow to India's efforts to win a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The pact between John Bolton and China's ambassador to the world body, Wang Guangya, came close on the heels of an emergency African summit in Addis Ababa, which refused to water down the continent's demand for two permanent seats with veto power in a reformed Security Council.

India, which sent a delegation to Addis Ababa headed by South Block's secretary dealing with Africa, had hoped to persuade the summit to compromise on that demand and jointly table a General Assembly resolution with the Group of Four (G4) states seeking Security Council reform.

Other G4 countries — Germany, Japan and Brazil — had also joined forces with India in this effort at the African Uni-

on (AU) summit even as Nigeria's president Olusegun Obasanjo, the AU president, warned the continent's leaders. "We need to negotiate with other groups, unless our objective is to prevent any decision. If that happens, let us be under no illusion: Africa stands to lose more than any other region."

But Obasanjo's warning fell on deaf ears at the summit, and speaking for the majority in the AU, Sudan's foreign minister, Mustafa Osman Ismail, said: "We are not ready to accept a distorted resolution which will divide the Security Council into three categories: one permanent group with veto power, another permanent group without veto power and (a) third group with rotating representation. This is totally unacceptable."

Meanwhile, Wang met Bolton a day after the latter presented his credentials to UN secretary-general Kofi Annan and then told reporters: "We agreed to work together to make sure that our interests are maintained.... At this stage, our objective will be to oppose the G4, to make sure they do not have sufficient votes to

take the risk to divide the house."

The US has been without a permanent representative to the UN all through the second Bush term because the Senate refused to confirm Bolton, a neo-conservative who has been accused of everything from undiplomatic behaviour and doctoring US intelligence to high-handedness and misleading the Congress.

But the White House this week bypassed the Senate and used a rare constitutional provision which authorises the president to temporarily nominate an ambassador.

Delhi on Africa

India has said it will continue to negotiate with the African Union in spite of it rejecting the G4 proposal. "It is a matter of regret that the extraordinary African Union summit held in Addis Ababa was unable to endorse an AU/G4... agreement in London on July 25," foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said in Delhi. Foreign minister K. Natwar Singh has spoken to G4 counterparts following yesterday's development.

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AFRICA FIRM ON ITS STAND

G-4 plans receive a jolt

Agencies

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 4. — The efforts by G-4 nations including India to get permanent UN Security Council seats suffered a jolt today with the 53-member African Union virtually rejecting their compromise formula and the USA and China deciding to work together to defeat their framework resolution on expansion of the 15-member body.

Reports from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the African leaders met at an extraordinary summit, said the meeting rejected the G-4 suggestion that they accepted two permanent seats without veto power. The African leaders stuck to their demand for veto power and announced setting up of a 10-member panel to continue talks on the Council reforms.

Diplomats at the United Nations said, the decision shows virtual split in the African Union and G-4 would now have to count votes of individual African nations before deciding how to proceed on their

resolution.

The Group of Four (G-4) comprising India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, had proposed a 25-member council, adding six permanent seats without veto and four non-permanent seats.

The G-4 had sent representatives to Addis Ababa in an effort to reach an agreement with the AU to win the two-thirds support of UN member states needed to change the Security Council.

Rejecting the Group of Four countries' compromise formula, African leaders stuck to their demand for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council today.

Ethiopian foreign minister Mr Seyoum Mestfin said: "Africa has come together with a consensus, which is to push Africa's case. Africa's case is to get two permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council with veto power." The Group of Four — Japan, Brazil, Germany and India — had proposed that Africa can get two permanent seats on the council, without veto power.

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THE STATESMAN

Sino-US spanner in G4 plans

Informal agreement says expansion bid will divide member-nations

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, August 4

THE UNITED States and China have decided to join forces for a mission extraordinary: To block the plan of India and other G4 nations to expand the UN Security Council.

The informal agreement came about at a meeting China's UN envoy Wang Guangya had with his newly-installed American counterpart, John Bolton, on Tuesday — the first full day of Bolton at the new post.

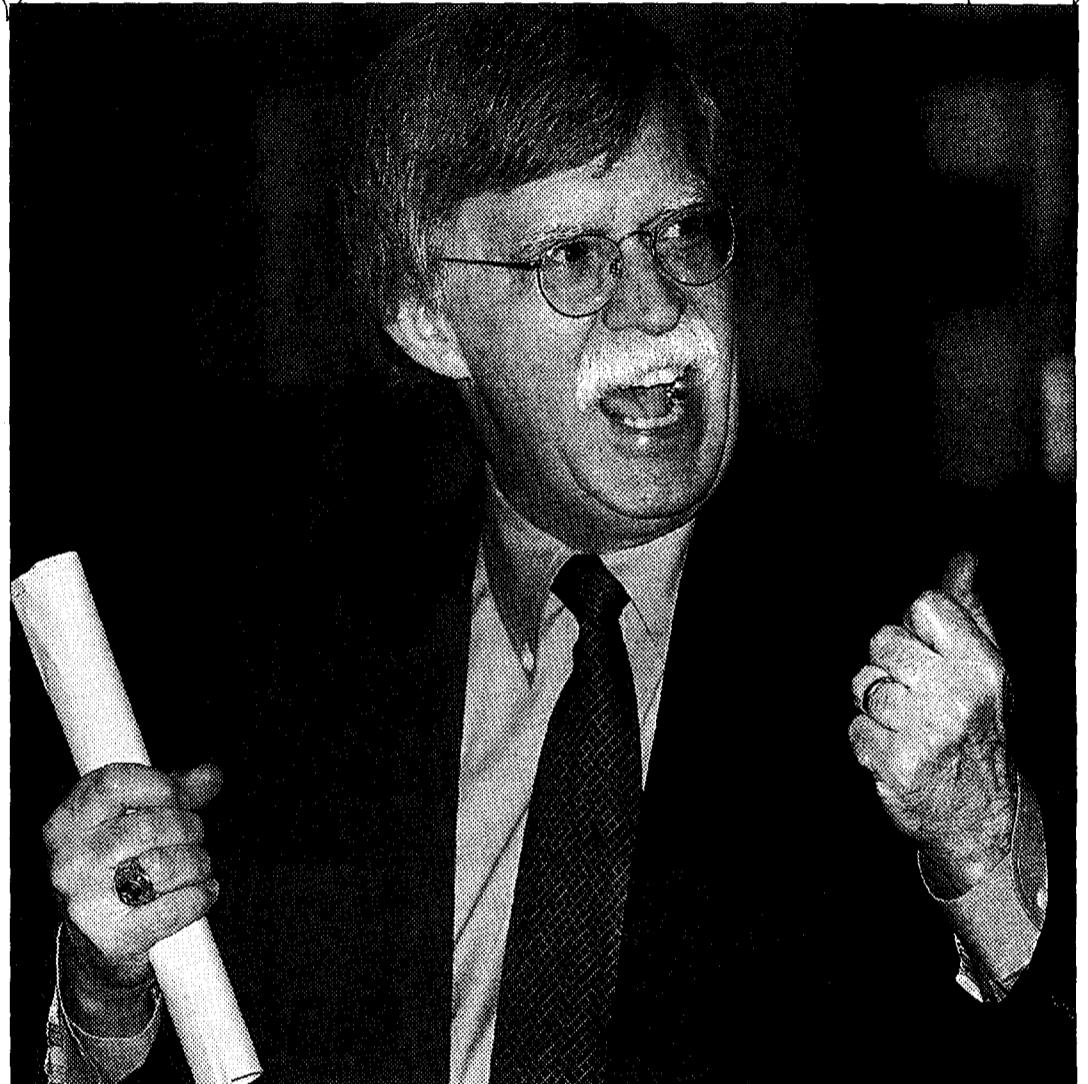
Although Washington and Beijing have been vehemently opposed to the G4 move right from the start, this is the first time they will be coordinating their efforts in a bid to halt G4 in its tracks.

Wang was quoted as saying that he and Bolton reached the agreement after they both concurred that the resolution moved by India, Japan, Germany and Brazil will divide the UN's member states.

"We agreed to work together to make sure that our interests are being maintained — which means that we have to work in parallel ways to see that the unity of the UN members, the unity of every regional group, will not be spoiled because of this manoeuvre," Wang said.

As he put it, the "ultimate goal" of both China and the US is an expansion of the Security Council that will not divide its 191-member states. "But at this stage, I think our objective will be to oppose the G4, to make sure they do not have enough votes to take the risk to divide the Council," he added.

There was no immediate comment from Bolton, but his second-in-command Anne W. Patterson told a UNSC meeting that the world body's immediate focus should be on "more urgently needed reforms" than on expanding the UNSC.



US ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton speaks to journalists as he leaves after meeting United Nations General Assembly president Jean Ping in New York recently.

REUTERS

She called upon the G4 and the rival Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group to defer tabling their competing resolutions and stop pushing for votes. She took the stand that the UNSC debate has "indeed siphoned extensive resources and attention away from more critical UN reforms".

The US-Chinese agreement came about virtually on the eve of the crucial meeting of the 53-member African Union in Addis Ababa to hammer out a common position with G4 on the UNSC expansion.

Over the last couple of months India, Japan, Germany

and Brazil have been campaigning vigorously seeking UN reforms which would pave the way for the SC expansion. The agreement last week with the 53-member African Union gave the Group a much-needed boost needed to bring about the Security Council expansion.

G-4, AU agree on UNSC expansion

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Press Trust of India

LONDON, July 26. — In a significant breakthrough, the Group of Four and the African Union have agreed to present a joint resolution to the United Nations on expansion of the Security Council after the African nations dropped their demand for veto rights for new permanent members.

After hectic parleys with the foreign ministers of the G-4 nations comprising India, Germany, Japan and Brazil, representatives of the African Union agreed to drop their demand for a veto right for a new permanent member of the expanded Security Council.

The G-4 reciprocated by acceding to the AU proposal to add five new non-permanent members of the Security Council, mak-

ing it a 26-member body. The G-4 wanted to add only four non-permanent members to the UN body.

The extra seat will be floated among developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean states.

"The above changes shall be incorporated into a joint AU-G4 resolution on the understanding that continued support by the AU and the G4 co-sponsors as well as supporters is ensured, with a view to adopting the resolution, if possible by the end of the month," an Indian official spokesman said.

"We all want the UN reforms to go forward. We have also agreed not to press for veto. There is an agreement that the African Union would meet at an extraordinary meeting to discuss the way forward," said African Union Group chairman and for-

eign minister of Nigeria, Mr Adeniji Oluyemi.

External Affairs minister Mr Natwar Singh, foreign ministers of Japan, Germany and Brazil — Mr Nobutaka Machimura, Mr Joschka Fischer and Mr Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim, respectively, represented the G-4.

A spokesman of the African Union said everyone had accepted the objective that the United Nations system must be changed to make it more functional, more representative, more reflective of the reality and more democratic. "We cannot amend the UN charter unless we have 128 members — two-thirds of 191 member UN General Assembly — supporting our resolution. In the game of numbers, the G-4 has 32 countries supporting it. African Union has 53 countries. Altogether

the two groups have 85 countries — still a shortfall of 43," he said.

"We are going back to our capitals. The whole objective accepted by everybody is that the UN system — Security Council and other systems must be changed to make it more functional, more representative, more reflective of the reality and more democratic. To accomplish that we are all going back to our countries to work out a strategy to ensure that we have 128 countries supporting our resolution. We are committed to working together with all countries in the world so long as we have a group which is prepared to work with us," the spokesman said and added: "We shall work with them. G4 has shown a clear indication that they are ready to work with us. We are not excluding any group."

27 JUL 2006

Talks on for G-4-AU resolution

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, July 25. —The foreign ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa yesterday met two of their African Union counterparts to evolve a common G4-AU resolution for expansion of United Nations Security Council in London.

The IBSA foreign ministers, Mr Natwar Singh, Mr Celso Amorim of Brazil and Ms ND Zuma of South Africa discussed the subject of UN reforms with the Nigerian foreign minister, Mr Adeniji Oluwemi, and Botswana foreign minister, Mr Mompoti Merafhe.

There were also representatives from other African countries at the meeting in London.

Describing the discussions as "detailed and positive", the official spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs said the participants agreed that that in view of their common objective, it was important for G4 and AU to reach a mutual understanding.



Foreign minister Mr Natwar Singh with foreign ministers of Brazil, South Africa and other AU countries in London. — PTI

Towards that goal, the scheduled meeting of G4 foreign ministers and AU 18 foreign ministers today in London "would be important".

The external affairs minister also held a bilateral meeting with Japanese foreign minister, Mr Nobutaka Machimura.

The G-4 resolution introduced in the UN General Assembly had called for expanding the UNSC from 15 to 25 members, with six more permanent members and four new non-

permanent rotating seats. They also called for the veto power for new permanent members to be frozen for 15 years.

The differences in the African Union resolution mainly relate to the veto power, with the African Union demanding that new permanent members should be immediately given veto power.

Also, they also asked for two non-permanent seats for Africa, rather than just one as proposed by the G-4.

26 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

G-4, AU fail to agree on UNSC expansion

UN HQ, July 23. — The G-4 nations and the African Union have failed to reach a consensus on the issue of UN Security Council's expansion at their ambassadors' meeting here and have decided to leave the matter to their foreign ministers, who will be meeting in London soon.

The UN ambassadors of India, Japan, Germany and Brazil were commissioned by their foreign ministers to draw up a draft resolution on the issue, that would be acceptable to both. But AU ambassadors were unable to arrive at a common position with the G-4, a source said.

The G-4 presented the

AU with options but, having considered many options, the AU was unable to agree on any one position.

All the options would now be presented to the foreign ministers of the G-4 and the African Union, who are scheduled to meet in London on Monday. External affairs minister Mr Natwar Singh will hold parleys with his counterparts Nobutaka Machimura of Japan, Joschka Fischer of Germany and Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim of Brazil. African diplomats said that the joint G-4-AU meeting could be preceded by discussions among African foreign ministers. **PTI**

5 JUL 2005 THE STATESMAN

G4 resolution 'delicately poised'

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, July 24

LAST-MINUTE negotiations to save the G4's framework resolution for expansion of the United Nations Security Council from collapse will be held on Monday and Tuesday in London, official sources said.

External affairs minister Natwar Singh will meet foreign ministers of Brazil and South Africa as part of the India, Brazil South Africa (IBSA) trilateral initiative to decide on the fate of the resolution introduced in the UN General Assembly by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan (G4). The IBSA foreign ministers will be joined by the foreign ministers of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal in an effort to resolve differences between the G4 resolution and the African Union (AU).

Without the AU's 53-nation vote bloc, the G4 resolution, facing stiff opposition from the US, China and the 'Coffee Club' (Uniting for Consensus) members, is doomed to face embarrassing defeat. Even India's neighbours, like Nepal, where the minister of state Rao Inderjit Singh was sent to lobby for support, have not come out in support of the G4 resolution.

G4 and AU ambassadors at the UN, including India's Nirupam Sen, are also in London for the crucial meet, official sources said.

It is likely, sources indicated, that the G4 would be more vocal on the veto issue, to accom-



An AP file photograph of the G4 foreign ministers at the United Nations on July 17.

modate the AU. The G4 resolution, introduced on July 11, had deferred the right of veto for new permanent members to the UNSC by 15 years, after which France, the only permanent UNSC member, agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

After the IBSA meet, at which the two permanent contenders from Africa could be decided, the G4 foreign ministers would meet,

separately and with representative foreign ministers of the AU, to work out whether to withdraw the resolution (a major diplomatic setback) or go ahead with a vote.

Singh, after the G4 meetings, will return to New Delhi on July 26 to participate in the Parliament debate on the Prime Minister's just concluded visit to the US.

25 JUL 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Pakistan, Italy-led group to table draft resolution

UNO.
HD-9
29/7

Opposes expansion of Security Council's permanent membership

B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD: The Italy and Pakistan led group of countries, which oppose expansion of the Security Council's permanent membership, plan to table in the U.N. General Assembly a draft resolution on Monday.

According to Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), official news agency of Pakistan, the draft calls for increase of the strength of the 10-elected members to 20 with renewable two-year terms.

The 12-nation draft was submitted on Thursday to the 191-member Assembly for processing. The co-sponsors, all members of the "Uniting for Consensus" (UFC) group, are Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, South Korea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey.

On July 8, Italy, on behalf of the group, circulated the draft to other U.N. member states and the General Assembly President, Jean Ping. The draft proposes expanding the Council's non-

• **The 53-nation African Union introduces another resolution**

• **G-4, African Union may hold talks on Monday**

• **15-year freeze on veto power for new permanent members proposed**

permanent members to 20 with all non-permanent members on the enlarged Council entitled for immediate re-election.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — and 10 elected members with two-year terms, half of which are rotated annually.

As per the draft resolution Asia and Africa would each get three new non-permanent seats, Latin America would gain two, and the Eastern Europe and Western Europe one each.

The draft contains amendments to the U.N. Charter to reflect the enlargement of the Council's non-permanent membership, and calls upon U.N. member states to ratify the amendments by September 2007.

The measure is counter to a framework draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly on Wednesday by G-4. The G-4 proposal calls for an increase of six new permanent members and four non-permanent members on the Security Council. It also provides for a 15-year freeze on the veto power for the new permanent members.

Another draft introduced

Another draft was introduced by the 53-nation African Union (AU), which envisages an increase of six permanent Council members with the veto power and five elected members, two of them for Africa.

The G-4 and the AU held negotiations at the level of ambassadors in New York a few days

ago but the talks remained deadlocked. According to APP, Foreign Ministers of the G-4 and the AU are expected to meet in London on Monday to further coordinate their position on the Council expansion.

Pakistan's suggestion

Last week, Pakistan's U.N. Ambassador Munir Akram called for implementing U.N. reforms by consensus, not by vote. "Instead of a divisive vote, let us opt for a decisive dialogue," he told the Assembly.

Ambassador Akram maintained that a "small group of nations" had used all kinds of pressures to "selfishly" secure permanent membership in an enlarged Council. "We will not choose to anoint six states with special privileges and stamp ourselves as second class members in this organisation," Mr. Akram said, calling the G-4 plan "unequal" as it would give permanent membership to 11 states, consigning 180 others to compete for 14 seats."

2 JUL 2005 THE HINDU

G4, Africa to put heads together on UNSC

Foreign ministers' meet on July 25 after ambassadors talk

DHARAM SHOURIE
NEW YORK, JULY 18

THE G4 nations, including India, have met representatives of the African Union and agreed to establish a joint mechanism to arrive at a common position on the vexed UN Security Council expansion issue.

At a luncheon meet at India's UN mission on Sunday, External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh along with his counterparts from Brazil, Germany and Japan held talks with an 18-member AU delegation, led by Nigerian Foreign Minister Olu Adeniji.

Describing the first substantive G4-AU talks as "use-

ful, constructive and cordial", Singh said, "We are finding a way for our differences not only to narrow, but to disappear."

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said that the two sides had vowed to explore ways to arrive at a common position, overcoming differences over their respective draft resolutions on Security Council expansion.

After the talks, Indian Ambassador Nirupam Sen rejected the suggestion that any compromise between the G4 and the African Union could lead to a split in AU votes, and said all regions of Africa were represented at the meeting.

At the centre of previous contentions between the two groups has been the question of veto power for the proposed new members.

But during the discussions, diplomats and participants said the differences between the two sides were not so wide as to defy solution.

They said the establishment of a mechanism to iron out problems at the first meeting showed the seriousness with which the leaders viewed their discussions.

The foreign ministers of both sides will meet again in Geneva on July 25 to review talks that their UN ambassadors in New York are due to begin to thrash out any remaining differences. —PTI

19 JUL 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

G4, Africa agree

UN 19/7
Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, July 18. — India and other G4 countries and the African Union have agreed to establish a joint mechanism to iron out differences on expansion of the UN Security Council.

The first-ever substantive meeting of Foreign Ministers of G4 countries and an 18-member African Union (AU) delegation led by the Nigerian foreign minister, Mr Olu Adeniji, here yesterday, discussed in depth ways to narrow down differences over the two groups' respective draft resolution for the Security Council expansion.

The external affairs minister, Mr K Natwar Singh, along with his counterparts from Brazil, Germany and Japan

held talks with the AU delegation at India's UN mission.

The foreign ministers of both sides will meet again in Geneva on 25 July to review in-depth discussions that their UN ambassadors in New York will begin soon to thrash out remaining differences.

Describing the talks as "useful, constructive and cordial, Mr Singh said: "We are finding a way for our differences not only to narrow, but to disappear".

A joint statement issued at the end of the luncheon meeting said the two sides discussed a way forward and prospects for a common action with regard reform of the UN Security Council. The two sides agreed to establish a joint mechanism

19 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

US deals blow to India's UNSC hopes

HR-1
1417

UN

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, July 13



THE US has dealt a major blow to the resolution moved by India, Japan, Germany and Brazil to expand the UN Security Council by categorically rejecting the "divisive" measure and urging other nations to oppose it as well. In other words, New Delhi's hopes of getting a seat in the UN Security Council has received a jolt.

Participating in the General Assembly debate on the G-4 resolution on Tuesday, the US went a step further, warning that even if the assembly were to pass the measure, the US Senate could refuse to ratify it subsequently. "Let me be as clear as possible: the US does not think any proposal to expand the Security Council should be voted upon at this stage," Shirin Tahir-Kheli, adviser to secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, said.

The American rejection comes less than a week before Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Washington at the invitation of President George W. Bush. US support for India's UNSC bid has been regarded as a top priority item on Singh's agenda.

Stating that the US would support UNSC's enlargement "only in the right way and at the right time", Tahir-Kheli told the member-nations: "We urge you to oppose this resolution and, should it come to a vote, to vote against it."

But the G-4 sought to make it clear that the resolution would be put to vote. That could be as early as next week, said Germany's UN envoy Guenter Pleuger.

War of words

- US rejects G-4 resolution to expand UNSC, terming it "divisive"
- Urges other nations to oppose resolution.
- Warns that even if the General Assembly passes the measure, US Senate might not ratify it later
- Says US would support UNSC's enlargement in the right way, at the right time
- Indian envoy says resolution is historic and would be put to vote at appropriate time.
- German envoy says this could be as early as next week

J

THE HINDU

Pakistan, China flay G4 bid to expand UNSC

1877
United Nations: Brazil formally introduced a resolution on enlarging the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Monday in what could lead to a radical change in the prestigious 15-member body.

The draft resolution from Germany, Japan, India and Brazil—the G4—led to immediate debate, with China and Pakistan opposing

the proposal and reiterating the call for a broad consensus on the issue as opposed to a vote in the UN General Assembly. The resolution faces considerable opposition, putting in question its chance of getting the two-thirds majority vote (128 of 191) needed.

Of the council's current members, five are permanent—US, France, Britain, Russia and China. Ten other nonpermanent seats rotate for two-year terms. The G4 nations want 10 new seats, four permanent seats for themselves, two for African nations, and another four nonpermanent seats. The US says no more than five new members should be added. China objects to Japan, Russia has no clear position and Britain and France support the G4.

Pakistan's UN ambassador, Munir Akram, accused the G-4 of hijacking the process for its own power. It accused the G4 of adopting "unethical" and

UN 11-14
"selfish" means to garner support for permanent membership. "We should adopt guidelines, within the UN reforms process, to prevent use of such means to twist the democratic will of free peoples and nations," Akram said in a highly caustic address to the General Assembly.

China said it rejects a "forcible vote" on any formula.

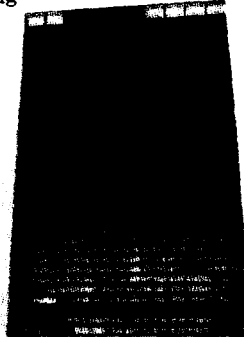
"Forcing through an immature formula by means of a vote is bound to split member states and regional groups and thus weaken the authority and role of the UN. To do so would also defeat totally the original purpose of the Security Council reform," China's UN ambassador Wang Guangya told the general assembly.

The US says only 5 new members are needed in the Security Council, while the G4 calls for 10 new members

Opposition also came from Algeria, Argentina, Colombia and San Marino. Jordan supported the G4 resolution but demanded that Arabs get one seat.

Speaking on behalf of the 53-member African Union (AU), Mauritian UN ambassador Jagdish Koonjul said the AU would put down its own resolution which calls for 11 additional seats.

Pakistan circulated a draft prepared by the Italy-led United for Consensus (UFC) group which calls for expansion in only the non-permanent category. China squarely supports the UFC group. Agencies



UN debate gets underway on UNSC reform

EVELYN LEOPOLD

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 12

BRAZIL formally introduced a resolution on Security Council enlargement on Monday in what could lead to a radical change in the prestigious 15-member body responsible for peace and security.

The draft resolution from Germany, Japan, India and Brazil, aspirants to permanent council seats, once had the most traction of any proposal. But it now faces considerable opposition, putting in question its chance of achieving the required two-thirds or 128 votes in the 191-member UN General Assembly needed for adoption.

Aware of opposition, Brazil's UN ambassador, Ronaldo Moto Sardenberg, told the General Assembly the four would negotiate with the African Union, which has a "stand so similar to ours".

"No UN reform is complete without reform of Security Council," Sardenberg said. He termed as "beguiling", arguments that a vote on expansion was premature after 12 years of debate. And he said those

who wanted consensus or a unanimous vote in the Assembly were aiming "to block the process".

Germany, Brazil, Japan and India want to add 10 new seats to the 15-member council, four of them permanent seats for themselves, two for African nations, and another four non-permanent seats.

The US says no more than five more members should be added, but it has not put forward its own draft resolution. China objects to Japan, Russia has no clear position and Britain and France support the G-4.

Complicating the issue is a rival proposal, expected to be turned into a resolution soon, by the African Union, whose 53 votes are needed to reach the two-thirds vote required. The AU wants 11 additional seats, six permanent and five non-permanent, one more than the G-4.

And a third proposal, not yet in a resolution, would ask for 10 new non-permanent members, with various terms in office. Medium-sized states such as Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, Argentina, Mexico and others support this position. —Reuters

Storm over G4's draft on UNSC expansion

Pakistan, China lead opposition

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, July 12

AMID ONGOING efforts by India and the other G4 nations to strike a compromise with the 53-member African Union, the UN General Assembly has kicked off a debate on the foursome's draft resolution to expand the Security Council.

The debate that got under way on Monday was marked by the expected rejection of the draft by China and Pakistan, with the latter going on to term the G-4 initiative as a bid to grab power.

But several other countries – including France, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Tuvalu and Bhutan – strongly supported the G4 draft to raise the UNSC's permanent seats from five to 11 and non-permanent ones from 10 to 14.

A date is still to be set for the vote, though indications are that it may take place "around July 20". The picture is expected to become clear after the foreign ministers of the group – India, Japan, Germany and Brazil – hold a crucial stock-taking meet in New York on July 17.

The implacable hostility of China and Pakistan to the G4 bid came to the fore even as Brazil's UN envoy, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, introduced the draft on behalf of the group.

Advancing the group's view, he rejected the contention of countries such as China and Pakistan that the UNSC's expansion should be attempted only through a consensus.

A vote by the 191-member General Assembly was the only prescription for a democratic expansion of the council, he said.

Taking potshots at the naysayers, including China and Pakistan, Sardenberg commented: "As for the argument that working to bring this issue to a conclusion after 12 years of discussion is somehow still premature, we can only consider it beguiling".

China stuck to its position that it would reject "forcible vote" on any formula on which significant differences still existed. "Forcing through an immature formula by means of a vote is bound to split member-states and regional groups and thus weaken the authority and role of UN", its ambassador, Wang Guangya, said.

Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram went a step further accusing the G4 of a bid to grab power and privileges.

"The seekers of special privileges and power masquerade as the champions of the weak and disadvantaged", he said.

"We won't choose to anoint six states with special privileges and stamp ourselves as second-class members in this organisation", he added.

Pakistan has indicated plans to table its draft along with Italy, Mexico and Argentina, who are leading a group called 'Uniting for Consensus'. Their proposal is to add 10 non-permanent members to the UNSC without disturbing the present core structure of five permanent members with veto power.

The African Union is planning its own draft, depending upon the way its discussions with the G4 go. The two groups have a common position on the number of new permanent members, but the African group wants veto powers for them. In addition, it favours five additional seats, two of them for Africa, in the non-permanent category.

বিরোধিতা প্রবল হচ্ছে, বিপাকে জি-৪

সীমা সিরোহি • ওয়াশিংটন

১২ জুলাই: রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের কলেবর বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব পেশ করে বড় ধাক্কা খেল জি-৪।

কূটনৈতিক সহবতের তোয়াক্কা না-করে পাকিস্তান ও চীন প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা করেছে। এই দুই দেশের বিরোধিতা যে আসবে, তার আন্দাজ ভারত-সহ জি-৪ গোষ্ঠীর কাছে ছিলই। কিন্তু আফ্রিকান ইউনিয়নও যে এই প্রশ্নে তাদের পাশে দাঁড়াতে অস্বীকার করবে, তা ভাবতে পারেননি ওই চার দেশের কূটনীতিকেরা।

ভারত, জাপান, জার্মানি ও ব্রাজিলের পক্ষে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জে সংস্কার চেয়ে কাল প্রস্তাব পেশ করেন ব্রাজিলীয় দূত রোনাল্ডো সারডেরবার্গ। প্রস্তাবে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সদস্য সংখ্যা ১৫ থেকে বাড়িয়ে ২৫ করার কথা বলা হয়েছে। এই বাড়তি ১০ সদস্যের মধ্যে ৬টি হবে ভেটো-ক্ষমতাহীন স্থায়ী সদস্য, বাকি ৪টি অস্থায়ী সদস্য।

জি-৪ গোষ্ঠীর সদস্য দেশগুলির বক্তব্য, নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের কলেবর বাড়ানোর বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত হোক ১৯১টি দেশের সাধারণ সভায় ভোটাভুটির ভিত্তিতে। সর্বসম্মতির ভিত্তিতে নয়। ভোটাভুটি হতে পারে ২০ জুলাই, ভারতে প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহ যখন নিউ ইয়র্কে থাকবেন। প্রস্তাব পাশ হতে গেলে সদস্য দেশগুলির দুই-তৃতীয়াংশের সমর্থন দরকার।

সারডেরবার্গ বিবৃতি শেষ করতে না-করতেই তীব্র বিরোধিতা আসে চীন-পাকিস্তানের নেতৃত্বাধীন 'কফি ক্লাব' থেকে। কটর ভারত-বিরোধী বলে পরিচিত রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জে পাকিস্তানের স্থায়ী দূত মুনির আক্রম বলেন, "বিশেষ সুবিধা আর ক্ষমতা যারা চাইছে, তারা নিজেদের দুর্বল এবং সহায়হীনদের হয়ে লড়াই করে বলে দাবি করে। তারা

বলতে চায়, তারা এই বিশেষ ক্ষমতা পেলে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদ আরও কার্যকর এবং নিরপেক্ষ হবে। আমরা কখনওই বিশেষ সুবিধা-সহ ৬টি দেশকে নিয়োগ করতে দিয়ে নিজেদের দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির নাগরিক করব না।"

ভারত-বিরোধিতায় সিদ্ধহস্ত হলেও আক্রমের এই ভাষায় আক্রমণ রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের কূটনৈতিক মহলকে বিস্মিত করেছে। তবে এই মুহূর্তে কূটনৈতিক শিষ্টাচার নিয়ে ইসলামাবাদ বিশেষ ভাবিত নয়। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জে ভারত তাদের চেয়ে উচ্চ আসনে বসবে, সেটা ঠেকানোই পাকিস্তানের উদ্দেশ্য।

আক্রমের মতো তীক্ষ্ণ শব্দ প্রয়োগ না করলেও চাঁচাছোলা বক্তব্য ছিল চীনের দূত ওয়ান গুয়াংগারও। তাঁর বক্তব্য, সর্বসম্মতি নেই এমন একটি বিষয়ে জি-৪ অন্যান্য দেশের উপরে তাদের মত চাপাতে চাইছে। গুয়াংগারের সাক্ষর কথা, "নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে সংস্কারের জন্য কোনও কৃত্রিম সময়সীমার ঘোর বিরোধী চীন।"

এর পরেই পরিস্থিতি আরও জটিল করে দেয় আলজেরিয়া। আফ্রিকান ইউনিয়নের হয়ে বলতে উঠে তারা জানায়, জি-৪-এর প্রস্তাবে তাদের সায় নেই। ছবিটা যা দাঁড়িয়েছে, ফ্রান্স আর পতুর্গাল বাদে কোনও বড় দেশকে পাশে পায়নি জি-৪। ইউক্রেন, হাইতি, ডেনমার্ক, ভুটানের মতো কিছু ছোট দেশ শুধু সায় দিয়েছে।

ভারতীয় কূটনীতিকেরা অবশ্য এখনও দাবি করছেন, পরিস্থিতি তাঁদের অনুকূলে আসবে। আমেরিকা, রাশিয়ার মতো দেশ শীঘ্রই তাদের বক্তব্য জানাবে বলে আশা করা হচ্ছে। আমেরিকা নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সম্প্রসারণের বিরোধিতা এখনও করেনি বটে, কিন্তু সেই প্রক্রিয়ায় সহায়তা করার মতোও কিছু করেনি। এতে আরও অস্বস্তিতে আছে জি-৪।

13 JUL 2009

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

G-4 favours U.N. vote "around July 20"

Africa could help garner the magic figure of 128 countries

Siddharth Varadarajan

NEW DELHI: After taking stock of the international support for their proposal to expand the United Nations Security Council, the G-4 Foreign Ministers, meeting in London over the weekend, have agreed to put their draft resolution to vote in the General Assembly "around July 20."

This deadline is elastic but not open-ended, a senior official told *The Hindu* on Sunday, with everything depending on the "magic figure of 128" — the number of countries required to pass

the G-4 Ambassadors to the United Nations will seek to bridge the difference between the G-4's draft and the proposals endorsed by the African Union (A.U.) at its summit in Libya last week.

The A.U. proposals are also in the process of being tabled as a separate resolution in the General Assembly. And as if the waters were not muddy enough, the 'Coffee Club' group of countries, opposed to the addition of new permanent members, will also be tabling its resolution.

Harmonised text

"In our negotiations with the African countries, every effort will now be made by us to produce a harmonised text," a se-

nior official said.

Like India, Japan, Brazil and Germany, the A.U. also wants the addition of six new permanent members, including two from Africa, but insists they must have the right of veto.

The G-4 countries had originally sought veto rights but agreed to hold that demand in abeyance for 15 years in order to win wider support. The A.U. proposal also involves one extra non-permanent seat for Africa, which would take the proposed size of the Security Council up to 26 rather than 25.

The weakest link

The Africans may drop their insistence on the veto but their plan to have an extra non-per-

manent seat could be a deal-breaker.

"I don't think any of the G-4 minds Africa getting an additional seat but then that would open up a can of worms. Latin America or the Caribbean may insist on one more for their grouping. More African countries would vote for our resolution but we would lose support on the other side," the official said.

"Africa is the weakest link. If a compromise is reached on the two resolutions, fine. But if at the end of the day there are still two separate resolutions, we might just have to accept that expansion [of the Security Council] will not happen this year."

India's UNSC hopes fade as G4 considers backing down

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: The Group of Four countries, including India, is likely to defer seeking a vote on their resolution calling for an expansion of the UN Security Council.

Lukewarm support among member nations faced with disapproval from two of the P5 countries (United States and Russia) appear to be the main reason why the G4 is considering backing down.

India is inclined to agree to the postponement given that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is due in Washington on July 17-20, diplomatic sources indicated. The Bush administration has made it known that it will not only not back the G4 resolution but will also be unhappy if the group pushes for a vote. It is now clear that behind all the public posturing and ambiguous words, the US, China and Russia among the P5 countries are opposed to a rush to vote and prefer a consensus approach. Britain and France wholly back the G4. The G4 proposal stands little chance of succeeding without backing from the full-bench P5.

Besides, the G4 resolution, which will come up for deliberation before the UN General Assembly on Monday, has found support of only 23 other members, well short of the 100 the group was hoping to drum up before the debate.

The resolution needs 128 votes (two-thirds majority) needed for it to pass. But many countries have been reluctant to commit themselves ahead of the debate, even as Japan and Germany, the two countries most anxious to press for a vote, are pulling out all stops. There are few backers for the resolution from Asia and the 53-member African Union queered the pitch at their meeting in Libya last week by saying they will introduce a slightly different resolution. The derailing of the G4 push vindicates critics within the Indian establishment who have been warning that New Delhi is out of touch with reality if it believes it can railroad its way to an UNSC permanent seat without support from the P5.



1 JUL 2007

THE TIMES OF INDIA

U.N

G4 hopes for link-up with African Union

U.N

1077

VIJAY Dutt
London, July 9

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The G4 has achieved a crucial diplomatic breakthrough at a meeting with Ghana foreign minister Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. Late on Friday evening, the meeting, attended by the foreign ministers of India, Brazil, Japan and Germany, was held at the Brazilian embassy in London.

In the meeting, the G4 reportedly achieved a breakthrough with the African Union, whose more than 50 votes are crucial for securing a permanent seat in the Security Council.

For the first time, the group's foreign ministers held talks with Akufo-Addo, who is a member of the core group of the follow-up mechanism on the UN reforms established by the African Union. The summit will also discuss prospects of common action in the immediate future with regard to the expansion and reform of the Security Council.

After the meeting, foreign minister K. Natwar Singh told *HT* that the outcome of the meeting was "very good". According to him, the urgency and importance of working together to achieve a common goal was also stressed.

Brazilian foreign minister Celso Amorin said that the draft framework of the resolution on UNSC reforms is aimed at making the body compatible with the current global scenario and recognise the geo-political importance of nations. "Our permanent representatives will meet on July 17 in New York for further discussions". India's foreign secretary Shyam Saran pointed out that the next 10 days would be crucial.

In the resolution, G4 have recalled the Brussels Declaration, which expressed their intention to introduce the text of the framework resolution leading to its adoption by the General Assembly after the African Union and Caricom meetings this month.

The ministers also reiterated, in the backdrop of decisions at the recent Summit of the African Union in Syrte and the Caricom Summit in St Lucia, their readiness to continue dialogue with the African Union as co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

A statement issued after the meeting said, "The participating ministers remain committed to UN reform, in particular Security Council reform, including enlargement by non-permanent and permanent members, and will work together towards a successful outcome".

1 JUL 2005

08 JUL 2006

G4 rolls up sleeves for seat battle

K.P. NAYAR

15

ve of activity today even as the General Assembly's secretariat was translating the resolution, drafted in English, into the various UN languages, hoping to complete its distribution among the UN's 191 members by Friday.

"The G4 intends to request that debate begin on this framework resolution in the UN General Assembly as early as next week," Japan's permanent mission to the UN said in a statement.

The permanent missions to the UN here of the Group of Four (G4) countries — which includes India — was a beehi-

Germany's ambassador to the UN, Gunter Pleuger, confirmed that the debate would begin early next week, but other diplomats at the UN said the historic vote on the resolution may be called by the G4 for Wednesday.

A final decision on the matter will be taken on Friday when G4 foreign ministers, including India's K. Natwar Singh, meet in England.

At the time of writing, their meeting was on schedule

notwithstanding the terrorist attacks in London.

As of last night, 23 countries, including many US allies, such as Denmark, Poland, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Portugal and Georgia, were co-sponsoring the resolution. One permanent member of the Security Council — France — is also a co-sponsor.

The UK has told G4 ambassadors that it would vote for the resolution, but China said today that it would oppose it in

the General Assembly.

According to the final version of the resolution, now before the General Assembly secretariat, six new permanent members to the Security Council will be chosen through secret ballot in the General Assembly no later than 12 weeks after this resolution is adopted by two-thirds majority.

A 15-member committee of African states, headed by Ghana and Nigeria, is to talk

to G4 ambassadors ahead of the vote to harmonise the position of the African Union and the G4 on the resolution.

Africa has 53 crucial votes at the UN. The German ambassador said the resolution "gives Africans 95 per cent of what they asked for" and in the latest sign of hope for the G4, Algeria, one of the African states in the "Coffee Club" opposing G4, said it would support any collective decision by the Africans.

U.N

G-4 submits draft resolution

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, July 7. — The campaign to obtain a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council reached a decisive stage today, with India, Japan, Brazil and Germany submitting their draft framework resolution to the General Assembly secretariat. The debate on the resolution may be held next week.

The G-4 foreign ministers were supposed to meet in London tomorrow, on the sidelines of the G8 Summit. However, following the London blasts, it is not known if the meeting is still on schedule. As per the resolution, the election of new permanent members should be held within twelve weeks of adoption of the resolution. South Block officials said that they hope to complete the procedure for adoption of the draft this month. After the submission of the resolution to the secretariat, it will be translated into all the official UN languages and then distributed to the 191 members. Officials hope to start the distribution by tomorrow, so that the debate could be started from Monday. The six more permanent members will include two members each from Africa and Asia and one each from Europe and Latin America. Interestingly, none of the co-sponsors are from Africa, which is a disappointment for the G-4 nations. Further, African Union also announced that they would submit their own resolution to the General Assembly. However, officials said that they would keep negotiating with the African countries to bring them over to their side. There are two chief differences — in the number of non-permanent members and veto power.

08 JUL 2004

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের কাঠামো বদলের খসড়া দিল জি-৪

সীমা সিরোহি • ওয়াশিংটন

৭ জুলাই: রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের পুরনো কাঠামো ভেঙে নতুন কাঠামো তৈরির ঐতিহাসিক খসড়া প্রস্তাবটি রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সচিবালয়ে জমা দিল জি-৪ গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত ভারত, জাপান, ব্রাজিল ও জার্মানি। আমেরিকা-সহ বিশ্বের বহু দেশকে খানিকটা চমকে দিয়েই কাল বিকালে প্রস্তাবটি ভোটাভূতির জন্য পাঠিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে। জি-৪ গোষ্ঠীভুক্ত দেশগুলি ছাড়াও ফ্রান্স, বেলজিয়াম, ডেনমার্ক, পোল্যান্ড, আফগানিস্তান-সহ ২৩টি দেশ এই সিদ্ধান্তে ইতিমধ্যেই সমর্থন জানিয়েছে।

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে নতুন স্থায়ী সদস্য কারা হবে, সে সম্পর্কে কোনও নাম উল্লেখ করা হয়নি।

প্রস্তাবে বলা হয়েছে, ছটি নতুন স্থায়ী সদস্য দেশ এবং চারটি নতুন অস্থায়ী সদস্য দেশ নিয়ে বর্তমান নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে সদস্য দেশের সংখ্যা ১৫ থেকে বাড়িয়ে ২৫ করা হোক। নতুন ছয় স্থায়ী সদস্য দেশের মধ্যে আফ্রিকা থেকে দু'টি দেশকে রাখার প্রস্তাবও দেওয়া হয়েছে। নতুন স্থায়ী সদস্যদের ভেটো দেওয়ার অধিকার না থাকার কথাই খসড়া প্রস্তাবে বলা হয়েছে। বর্তমানে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে পাঁচটি স্থায়ী সদস্য দেশ হল, চীন, আমেরিকা, ব্রিটেন, ফ্রান্স ও রাশিয়া।

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জে ভারতের স্থায়ী প্রতিনিধি নিরুপম সেন বলেছেন, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের ১৯১টি সদস্য দেশ ১২ জুলাই থেকে প্রস্তাবটি নিয়ে আলোচনা শুরু করবে বলে তারা আশা করছেন। এই বিতর্কের পরেই প্রস্তাবটির উপরে ভোটাভূতি হবে। তবে কবে

নাগাদ এই ভোটাভূতি শেষ হবে, তা এখনও নিশ্চিত করে বলা যাচ্ছে না। তবে প্রস্তাবটি গৃহীত হওয়ার জন্য রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সাধারণ অধিবেশনে মোট সদস্য দেশের দুই-তৃতীয়াংশের অর্থাৎ ১২৮টি দেশের সমর্থন প্রয়োজন। এর মধ্যে আফ্রিকার মোট ৫৩টি দেশ রয়েছে। তাদের সমর্থন ছাড়া এই প্রস্তাব পাশ করানো কার্যত অসম্ভব।

জি-৪ এর খসড়া প্রস্তাবে আফ্রিকার দু'টি দেশকে স্থায়ী সদস্য করার কথা বলা হলেও বিষয়টি নিয়ে বিস্তারিত আলোচনা রয়েছে। লিবিয়ায় সদ্য সমাপ্ত আফ্রিকান ইউনিয়নের বৈঠকে দু'টি দেশের মনোনয়ন নিয়ে কোনও চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত হয়নি। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান আফ্রিকার দেশগুলির কাছে আর্জি জানিয়েছিলেন যে, জি-৪ এর প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করতে। কিন্তু তাতেও

লাভ হয়নি। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের তিন স্থায়ী সদস্য দেশ আমেরিকা, ব্রিটেন ও চীন আফ্রিকার দেশগুলিকে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী আসন সংখ্যা বাড়ানো নিয়ে 'তাড়াহুড়ো' না করার পরামর্শ দিয়েছে।

চীন ও আমেরিকা নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের আয়তন বাড়ানোর বিরোধী। তারা যে কোনও প্রকারে বিষয়টি পিছিয়ে দেওয়ার জন্য চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে। গত সপ্তাহেই নিরুপম সেন এ নিয়ে চীন ও আমেরিকার মনোভাবের কথা সমালোচনা করেছেন। তার পরেই তিনি নয়াসিঙ্গিকে পরামর্শ দেন, দেরি না করে খসড়া প্রস্তাবটি আলোচনার জন্য তুলতে। অবশেষে জি-৪ 'ডুস্ত দেশগুলি' নিজেদের মধ্যে আলোচনার পরে কাল বিকালে খসড়া প্রস্তাবটি জমা দিয়েছে।

UN

G-4 to submit resolution today

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, June 6. — The 'Group of Four' countries, India, Brazil, China and Japan will submit the draft framework resolution for expanding both the permanent and non-permanent seats of the United Nations Security Council to the General Assembly secretariat tomorrow.

This was decided at a closed-door meeting in New York between the permanent representatives of the G-4 and co-sponsors of the resolution.

Agencies report that India's permanent representative to the UN, Mr Nirupam Sen, said a debate on the resolution will be held in the General Assembly on 11 July.

The move to submit the resolution comes after the African Union's decision to demand two more permanent and non-permanent seats.

Earlier in June, the G-4 foreign ministers had declared their resolve to introduce the resolution after the AU summit (4-5 July) and the Caribbean

community summit (3-6 July).

Yesterday, India had termed African Union's demand for two permanent seats in an expanded Security Council as "encouraging".

The foreign secretary, Mr Shyam Saran, had said that the African countries played a "critical role" in the G-4's strategy for expanding the UN Security Council with six permanent seats. The G-4 countries are India, Brazil, Japan and Germany who are actively campaigning to join the elite club as permanent members.

African countries account for 53 votes, which is a big chunk of the 128 votes need for a two-thirds majority required to pass the resolution in the 191-member UN General Assembly.

On Monday night, the heads of governments gathered at the AU summit meeting at Sirte, Libya endorsed their foreign ministers' recommendation for two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats for Africa. This declaration and resolution will be submitted to the UN.

PM leaves for G-8

NEW DELHI, July 6. — Dr Manmohan Singh hopes that the G-8 summit will be an opportunity to consider practical measures on climate change based on "true partnership" between developed and developing countries. Before leaving Delhi today, Dr Singh said: "It is our expectation that the Gleneagles summit will provide an opportunity to consider additional practical measures focusing on clean and affordable technologies to address climate change issues, based on a true partnership between developed and developing countries for ensuring the larger common good." He left at 11.30 a.m. by a special flight. After an overnight stay in London, he will be arriving at the summit venue, Gleneagles Hotel, tomorrow. — SNS

"From initial reports, it is encouraging that the AU has endorsed the principle of expansion in permanent and non-permanent members," he said.

This is in line with the G-4's draft resolution that calls for six more permanent members, including two from Africa.

Russia not for G-4 move

HN. 16 4/7

“Reform debate must not lead to a split in the United Nations”

Vladimir Radyuhin *VR*

MOSCOW: Russia has indicated its opposition to the Group of Four decision to move a framework resolution in the United Nations on the Security Council reform.

A joint communique issued at the end of Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Russia, the two countries said they were against rushing any U.N. reform plan before it wins very broad consensus.

“The sides believe that reform of the U.N. Security Council affects the vital interests of all parties and corresponding decisions must be based on a maximum broad consensus,” said the communique released by the Kremlin on Sunday.

“To avoid a split Russia and China come out against imposing any time frames for taking uncoordinated decisions on the issue.”

The criticism appears to be directed at the G-4 initiative since it is the only time-bound plan for U.N. reform today.

President Vladimir Putin on Sunday reiterated Russia's concerns that a U.N. reform should not weaken the main international organisation he has been projecting as an important balance to American unilateralism.

“Russia will agree to any reasonable plan [for U.N. reform] that will receive the support of a maximum broad number of States,” Mr. Putin said at a joint press conference with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder after their trilateral meeting in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

“The main thing for us is that



MULLING REFORMS: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) talks to his French counterpart Jacques Chirac (second left) and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Svetogorsk, Russia, on Sunday. - PHOTO: AFP

the reform debate does not lead to a split in the organisation, does not provoke conflict and lack of mutual understanding, and does not turn the U.N. Secu-

rity Council into a discussion club that is unable to resolve any key issues of the present day.”

An anonymous Russian diplomat explained that Moscow is

opposed to the G-4 plan to table a framework resolution on the Security Council reform in the U.N. General Assembly later this month.

Africans join the race for UNSC seat

United Nations: The African Union summit on Monday and Tuesday could make or break plans to enlarge the 15-seat UN Security Council, which still reflects the balance of power at the end of World War II.

Foreign ministers of the African Union, meeting in Sirte, Libya, have drawn up a plan that is similar to the UN resolution proposed by Germany, Brazil, Japan and India. And they are far apart on who should get the seats. Should there be no compromise, analysts believe a reform of the council will be delayed for years to come, to the detriment of seats for Africa.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan wants a decision by the time a UN world summit takes place in September, arguing that the make-up of the council, weighted towards industrial nations, needs a wider representation. Currently, the council has 15 members, five veto-wielding states—the US, France, Britain, Russia and China—and 10 non-permanent seats, including two for sub-Saharan Africa, which rotate for two-year terms. After a decade of debate, Brazil, Japan, Germany and India, known as the G-4, have circulated a resolution calling for six additional permanent council seats, including two for Africa, and four more non-permanent seats, where Africa would get two.

Among the five council powers, Britain and France support the G4 proposal while the US, Russia and China have argued against it. Reuters

Expanding the UN Security Council has been a prime item on the international agenda for years. With the vast increase in UN membership, the demand for enlargement of its most important apparatus for maintenance of peace, the Security Council,

Crunch time for UNSC expansion

has greatly strengthened. The five permanent members do not represent today's political and military

realities and know they cannot stave off change forever, much as some of them may desire the contrary.

Yet how to set about change remains problematic. The key to the process, like many other matters of high international import, lies in the hands of the USA. Indeed, it was the USA that started this latest phase of attempted expansion in the mid-1990s when it called for enlargement of the council to include Japan and Germany as permanent members, with provision for a few more non-permanent members.

At that stage America was embroiled in endless recrimination with the UN for its persistent failure to pay its dues, and the US Congress was critical of the UN's supposedly profligate ways.

It must have seemed like a good idea to make permanent members of the world's second- and third-largest economies whose dues would sharply increase and relieve the pressure on the USA. But it was no simple matter to attain that goal. Many other claimants came forward, including India, and their competing claims could not easily be reconciled.

At the UN are found the world's most skilled diplomats, an experienced and ingenious group of representatives. They subjected the expansion proposal to close scrutiny and came up with endless variations designed both to reflect what seemed fair and just in the circumstances, and to serve their own particular national interests.

Some were opposed tooth

and nail to expansion, fearing they would be left out, like Italy. Others started a campaign to keep some likely candidates out of the reckoning, like Pakistan against India.

Africa had its demand, its prime candidates being either South Africa or Nigeria, unresolved even now. Latin America was not to be denied. Asia threw up

major countries that has emerged in the vanguard of those pushing for expansion.

India is there along with Brazil, Japan and Germany. They have developed a

wide angle

SALMAN NAIDAR

threatens.

Among the veto-bearing members, the USA has taken a position of deliberate ambiguity: it favours expansion but by a small margin, and backs only Japan and one more for permanent membership, this latter from the developing world.

There could be an opening for India in this, but

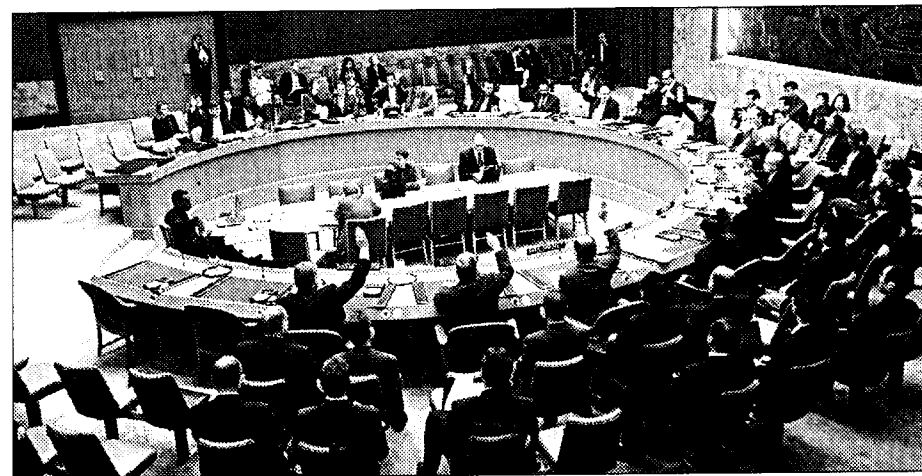
rents in these difficult waters.

Investing new members with veto powers is another divisive issue. India has always said it will not agree to be a second-tier permanent member without veto rights. This is a fair and legitimate demand but it may be difficult to achieve. Indeed, dropping this demand may prove to be the price for entry.

The value of the veto cannot be denied — we only have to see how China dangles it on the expansion issue to realise its worth. But even so, it may become necessary to consider dropping this demand if it stands in the way of entry. It is more important at this juncture to get in and be there when major world issues are discussed and be part of the core group of major nations at the centre of the UN security process, leaving open the possibility of returning to the matter of the veto at a suitable time.

The moment of decision is getting closer and the G-4 initiative could be an important step. Today, India's claim cannot be ignored or easily set aside. Even a decade ago, its chances seemed more remote and more vulnerable to the stratagems of its rivals. Many uncertainties remain in the shifting sands of the UN, and the direction of US policy is unpredictable. Many adjustments may become necessary before the matter is concluded, but the four-nation initiative shows that India is now to be regarded as a prime candidate for inclusion.

(The author is former Foreign Secretary, Government of India.)



A UN Security Council meeting in progress in New York. — AFP

rivals to India, like Indonesia. It became an active and intense engagement, with the multiplicity of demands making decision very complicated. When its original proposal seemed unattainable, the USA seemed to lose interest and the pressure to reach a conclusion appeared to subside. But it has now revived and seems today to be much closer to a decision.

Through a process of elimination that reflects their commitment and staying power, and their own aspirations, a group of four

shared view of how expansion should be done, envisaging a Security Council of 25 against the present 15, including six new permanent members. A resolution to this effect is to be introduced in the General Assembly by the four, and the search for co-sponsors and positive support is now proceeding.

This might succeed but the General Assembly is not the final arbiter. When it comes to amendment of the UN Charter, the Security Council has the important say, and there the veto

there are others in the field. The other permanent members have largely held their fire. They do not openly oppose expansion but are not pushing for it — for obvious reasons.

Only China has been explicit in its reservations, possibly because of its current problems with Japan. Regarding India, China has never given more than vague, generalised support. The others, France, the UK and Russia, seem willing for the present to let the USA make the running. Thus there are many cross cur-

U.N. seat: U.S. boosts hopes of Germany

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New "warmth" in relationship

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Monday highlighted a new warmth in U.S.-German relations as Mr. Bush promised the United States would not block a German bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Reforms to the United Nations dominated what Mr. Bush called "frank" talks at the White House between the two leaders, who had been divided over German opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq.

"We oppose no country's bid for the Security Council," Mr. Bush said to the obvious delight of the German leader who faces a tough re-election test in September.

Germany has been part of a campaign with Brazil, India and Japan to get permanent seats on the Council though it has withdrawn demands for a veto on resolutions that the five current permanent members get.

The United States has so far only endorsed Japan to join Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States as a permanent member.

"I was very pleased indeed to hear that there was no opposition, vis-a-vis Germany as such, from the President," Mr. Schroeder said through an interpreter.

"We are very much in agreement that this reform is duly and urgently needed. And it has always been clear that it is first the reform and then the candidacies to potential seats" that must be decided, Mr. Schroeder said.

"If you ask me about whether I see differences, I'd possibly say there are differences in the timing; we were pushing to have things happening very

quickly," the Chancellor added.

Mr. Schroeder said he had pleaded Germany's case for a permanent seat to Mr. Bush by highlighting its contribution to stabilisation efforts in Afghanistan and the Balkans and to reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

"Since we're doing all these things internationally, we would very much hope that at some point in time we could also have a right to representation on the Security Council if there were the space," he said.

The White House meeting added momentum to the Washington-Berlin thaw after their dispute over Iraq.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Schroeder last met in Germany in February. They will meet again at the Group of Eight industrial powers' summit in Scotland next week.

Mr. Schroeder needs good news as Germany will hold a general election in September and Mr. Schroeder's Social Democratic Party (SPD) trails the conservative Christian Democrats in opinion polls.

"As we say in Texas, 'This won't be his first rodeo'," commented Mr. Bush when asked about the Chancellor's election hopes.

The U.S. administration is also closely watching efforts by Germany, Britain and France to convince Iran against developing nuclear weapons — efforts that will attract even more attention after the election of hardliner Mahmood Ahmadinejad as Iran's President.

Mr. Bush said the United States would maintain its support for the European trio though the message to Iran remained blunt. — AFP

US wants G-4 to hold off vote on UNSC expansion

Washington: The "immediate goal" of the US is to postpone the G-4 resolution, which seeks to enlarge the UN Security Council and give permanent seats to India, Japan, Germany and Brazil and two African nations, a senior American official has said.

"Our immediate goal is to get the G-4 to hold off in calling for a vote on their resolution because it is so divisive that a vote, regardless of the outcome, could do serious, long-term damage to the UN as an institution," said Philo L. Dibble, acting assistant secretary in the State Department's Bureau of International Organisation Affairs, testifying before the

House Appropriations Subcommittee.

He said the G-4 move is strongly opposed by a number of countries, adding the US is now engaged in a dialogue with the G-4 and with the other permanent members of the Security Council. "I plan to meet personally, within the next two weeks, with my counterparts from both groups," Dibble said, adding a resolution that enjoys a broader base of support would stand a better chance of General Assembly adoption. "We also want our friends to understand that while Security Council reform is an important issue, we cannot let discussion on expansion to divert our at-

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tention from, and delay action on, other important, more urgently-needed UN reforms." UN reform, Dibble said, is a very high priority for the US but "we should not, however, change the UN for the sake of change alone". While the US is open to considering expansion proposals, "the primary purpose of Security Council reform should be to make the council more effective".

The US reform agenda for the UN, he said, has six priorities: economic development, effective human rights mechanism, creation of peace-building commission, budget and management reforms, democracy fund and counter terrorism. PTI

Reforming and strengthening the United Nations

Kofi A. Annan

THIS SUNDAY marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter in 1945. Debate about "reform" of the U.N. has been raging almost from that moment on. This is because idealism and aspiration for the U.N. have always outstripped its actual performance. Too often, we have failed to live up to the world's expectations.

In the United States, the debate now centres on two documents from the U.S. Congress: a report by a bipartisan task force led by former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Democrat Senator George Mitchell; and the "United Nations Reform Act," put forward by Representative Henry Hyde and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 17, which ties a long list of reforms to the possible withholding of U.S. dues to the United Nations. There is considerable overlap between these two prescriptions, as there is between both and some of the reforms that I myself have proposed — or, where they are within my power, am already implementing. That is not surprising. The desire for change is widespread, not only in the U.S. but among many other U.N. member states, and also many U.N. staff.

All of us want to make the U.N.'s management more transparent and accountable, and its oversight mechanisms stronger and more independent. All of us would like the General Assembly to streamline its agenda and committee structure, so that time and resources are devoted to the burning issues of the day rather than to implementing resolutions passed years ago in a different political context. All of us are eager to make

There are more shared global problems and threats today than 60 years ago, when the U.N. Charter was signed. We can make progress only by addressing all these threats and problems at once. Development and security are connected and linked to human rights and the rule of law. The stakes are high, and a reformed and strengthened U.N. is a high priority.

the U.N.'s human rights machinery more credible and more authoritative, notably by replacing the present Commission on Human Rights with a Human Rights Council, whose members would set an example by applying the standards they are charged to uphold.

All of us would like to see a Peace-building Commission created within the U.N., to coordinate and sustain the work of helping countries make the transition from war to peace — so that we do not repeat the dangerous relapse into anarchy that we witnessed in Afghanistan before 2001 and more recently in Haiti, as well as several African countries. And all of us want to impose stricter standards of conduct on U.N. peacekeeping missions, especially to put an end to sexual abuse and exploitation. Those are some examples, among many. I believe this convergence of expectations offers us — perhaps for the first time in 60 years — a chance to bridge the gap

between aspiration and performance.

Where there are differences — not so much between the U.N. and the U.S., but between the Hyde Act and the other proposals on offer — these relate essentially to two points: the method to be used to make reform happen, and the global context that makes U.N. reform so important. For Mr. Hyde and his colleagues, reform can only be brought about by threatening a draconian and unilateral cut in the U.S. contribution to the U.N. budget. I believe that approach is profoundly mistaken and would, if adopted by the U.S. government as a whole, prove disastrously counterproductive. It would break the reformist coalition between the U.S. and other member states whose collective pressure could otherwise make these reforms happen.

The United Nations is an association of sovereign states, which agreed, when they ratified the Charter, to share the expenses of the organisa-

tion "as apportioned by the General Assembly." The scale of assessment, which determines the share borne by each member state, is renegotiated every six years; and every year the General Assembly passes a resolution — invariably supported by the U.S. — enjoining all members to pay their contributions promptly, in full and without conditions. The way to make changes or reforms, therefore, is to negotiate agreement with other member states.

As the Gingrich-Mitchell task force put it, "to be successful, American diplomacy must build a strong coalition including key member states from various regions and groups ... many of whom share America's strong desire to reform the United Nations into an organization that works." Such a coalition will not be built by one nation threatening to cut its own contribution unilaterally. Other states will not accept such a "big stick" approach. Fortunately, the Hyde withholding proposal is not backed by the Administration, or indeed by the task force.

Even more important, however, is the global context. The U.N. does not exist in a vacuum, or for its own sake. It is a forum in which all the world's peoples can come together to find common solutions to their common problems — and, when they so choose, also an instrument with which to pursue those solutions.

There are surely more shared global problems and threats today, or anyway not fewer, than when the U.N. was founded. Among the most worrying are the proliferation of terrorist groups and weapons of mass destruction, and the danger that the latter will fall into the hands of the former. Those are very serious threats to people in rich and poor countries alike. The failure of last month's review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to address them seems breathtakingly irresponsible. I hope the world's political leaders will now take up the issue, with much greater urgency. To deal with such issues, we need, among other things, a stronger and more representative Security Council.

But the threats that seem most immediate to many people in poor countries are those of poverty, disease, environmental degradation, bad government, civil conflict, and in some cases — Darfur inevitably springs to mind — the use of rape, pillage, and mass murder to drive whole populations from their homes.

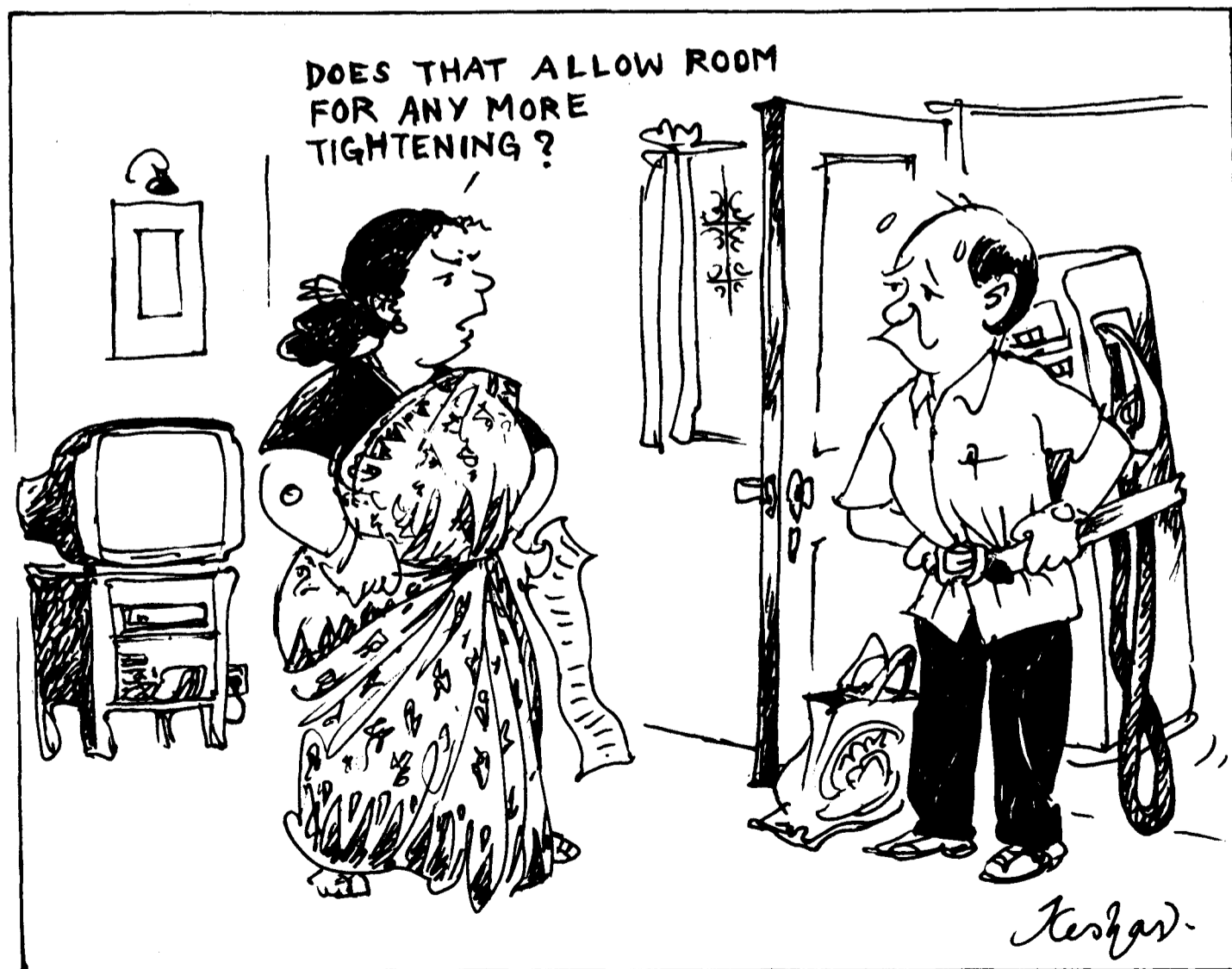
We can only make progress if we address all these threats at once. No nation can reasonably expect cooperation on the things that matter to it most, unless it is prepared in return to help others with their priorities. And, as the U.N.'s own high-level reform panel pointed out, the different kinds of threats are closely interconnected. Neglect and misgovernment in Afghanistan allowed terrorists to find a haven. Chaos in Haiti caused attempted mass migration to Florida. And poor health systems in poor countries may make it easier for a disease like avian flu to spread spontaneously, or even to be spread deliberately, from one continent to another.

So development and security are connected — and both in turn are linked to human rights and the rule of law. The main purpose of my *In Larger Freedom* report was to suggest things that can and should be done, by all nations working together, to achieve progress on all these fronts and to make the U.N. a more effective instrument for doing so. Decisions can be taken this September, when political leaders from all over the world meet at U.N. headquarters for the 2005 world summit. Over 170 have already said they will come.

The stakes could hardly be higher. The opportunity to forge a common response to common threats may not soon recur. It is in that context, and for that reason, that a reformed and strengthened U.N. is so badly needed.

(The author is Secretary-General of the United Nations.)

CARTOONSCAPE



G-4 to go ahead with Council expansion draft

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, June 23. — Despite the US plans to allow 'limited' expansion and China's strident opposition, India, Brazil, Japan and Germany announced that they plan to introduce the framework resolution for adding new permanent and non-permanent members to the United Nations Security Council after 6 July.

This was decided at a meeting of the foreign ministers of four countries at Brussels, Belgium, yesterday, with the joint statement announcing that "expressed their resolve to introduce the text of the framework resolu-

tion, leading to its adoption by the General Assembly after AU and Caricom Summit meetings in July". The meeting was attended by the Brazilian external affairs minister, Mr Celso Amorim, German foreign affairs minister, Joschka Fischer, external affairs minister, Natwar Singh, and Japanese foreign minister, Machimura Nobutaka.

While the African union summit will conclude in Tripoli, Libya on 5 July, the three day Caricom summit will be held from 3 to 6 July in St Lucia.

Senior MEA officials said that they hope that two African countries will be nominated at the AU summit as candidates for permanent seat. These two nations will then

join the 'G4' turning it into a 'Group of six'.

The support of the African union countries is crucial, as they alone account for 54 votes. This accounts for a very large portion of the 128 votes needed to garner a two-thirds majority to adopt the resolution in the General Assembly.

However, there are doubts whether African nations will be able to come to a consensus, with several countries, like South Africa, Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria, competing within the continent to be nominated.

The Caribbean community also accounts for a vital 15 votes.

The joint statement further said that the four countries shared an "urgent need to

strengthen the United Nations in order to effectively address today's challenges, and the need for comprehensive U.N. reform, including development, security and human rights". They reiterated their resolve to further cooperate to make the Summit meeting on the Millennium Declaration in September a great success, with substantial achievement in various fields," it added.

Stating that the Security Council should represent today's global realities, the G-4 reasserted that it should be expanded in both permanent and non permanent categories, "on the basis equitable representation, with the inclusion of both developed and developing countries".

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THE STATESMAN

Confident G4 opts for UN reform vote

K.P. NAYAR

New York, June 23: India and three other members of the Group of Four (G4) countries bidding for permanent seats in the UN Security Council have decided to go for a vote on their draft resolution on UN reforms in July.

A joint statement issued by external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh and his counterparts from Japan, Germany and Brazil, who met in Brussels yesterday, "expressed their resolve" to introduce the text of the framework resolu-

tion, leading to its adoption by the General Assembly after AU (African Union) and Caricom (Caribbean Community) summit meetings in July.

The African Union will meet on July 4 and July 5 and the heads of Caribbean states will meet from July 3 to July 6.

Singh will have a round of talks with his three fellow G4 ministers either by telephone or by videoconference on Saturday, when a decision will be taken on the precise date in July when the resolution is to be tabled as well as the strategy for calling a vote in

the General Assembly.

Saturday's talks will dwell on what Nicholas Burns, the US under-secretary of state for political affairs, tells Indian officials tomorrow about the US position on expanding the Security Council.

The sense in the General Assembly here, which is having an informal session to discuss UN reforms, is that the vote on the G4 resolution may take place a few days before Prime Minister Manmohan Singh travels to Washington to meet President George W. Bush.

As a follow up to yesterday's G4 meeting, Japanese foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura today met US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and conveyed the group's inability to accede to her request to delay tabling its resolution in the General Assembly.

Machimura, who met Rice in London on the sidelines of a meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of Eight (G8) nations, did not even go through the formality of seeking US support for the G4's position, according to sources here.

This is said to reflect the

confidence within the G4 that it has the mandatory two-thirds support in the General Assembly for the draft resolution after the group dropped its insistence on veto power for new Security Council members.

American sources in Washington, however, said Machimura and Rice will continue their discussions and may talk again after the G4 foreign ministers have their next round of consultations on Saturday.

The US has supported Japan's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded

Security Council.

Machimura's unwillingness to abandon the G4 despite US support for Japan's candidature is a severe setback to US plans to split the group and gain entry only for its client states in an expanded Security Council.

The Americans had also hoped to wean India away from the G4 by dangling the prospect of US support for an Indian bid to be at the UN's top table.

Having failed in that effort, US representative to the UN Anne Patterson did not pro-

claim American support for India in her widely anticipated speech here yesterday on UN reforms.

She said the UN must be reformed lock stock and barrel and that Security Council expansion could not become a priority.

"UN reform must be viewed and dealt with as a whole," Patterson said in her statement. "Thus, and I must emphasise this point, reform of the Security Council cannot become the exclusive focus of attention by member states or the (UN) secretariat."

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G4 steers clear of US bait

Brussels, June 22 (PTI): The Group of Four countries — India, Germany, Japan and Brazil — tonight decided to stick together on UN Security Council expansion and introduce their resolution in the General Assembly.

At an emergency meeting, G4 foreign ministers, including K. Natwar Singh, iterated

their view that the Security Council must be reformed to reflect today's global realities and not the world 60 years ago.

The meeting took place close on the heels of a statement by the US that it favoured expansion of the council by two members — Japan and another from the developing

world with indications that it could be India. The statement was seen as an attempt by America to split the G4.

In order to help the council keep pace with contemporary global realities, it must be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent categories with representation from both developed and developing countries, the foreign ministers said.

In line with the recommendations of UN chief Kofi Annan, who has urged the members to take a decision on reforms before September, the foreign ministers expressed their resolve to introduce the text of the framework resolution.

In their revised compromise draft resolution in the face of opposition from several member countries, the G4 proposed increasing the strength of the council perma-

nent seats and dropping veto power for 15 years if they are accepted as members of the council.

German foreign minister Joschka Fischer said: "We have a good draft declaration on the table."

The G4 resolution needs the approval of two-thirds of the 191 UN members. That will have to be followed by another resolution to change the UN charter, which requires a two-thirds vote and approval by the Big Five — the US, Britain, France, China and Russia. Each of the five has the power to veto the resolution.

The foreign ministers of the G4 met in Brussels on the sidelines of an international conference on Iraq.

At the request of African nations, the General Assembly vote will take place after the African Union summit in Libya, which ends on July 5.

23 JUN 2005 THE TELEGRAPH

China vows to oppose G-4 draft

Press Trust of India

BEIJING, June 22. — Making it clear to even the meanest Beijing-infatuated Indian that its stance on the proposals mooted by India and three other aspirants (the G-4) for an expanded Security Council was unshakeable, China has said for the first time that it would vote against any “highly contentious” expansion formula which could split the United Nations membership if such a proposal was put to vote in the General Assembly.

“China is opposed to artificially setting a time-limit for the reform of the Security Council,” Xinhua quoted the Chinese Ambassador to the UN, Mr Wang Guangya, as telling a closed-door General Assembly debate in New York yesterday.

“If a formula on which there exist



If a formula on which there exist major differences is forcibly put to a vote, China will resolutely vote against it
— Mr Wang
Guangya, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations

major differences is forcibly put to a vote, China will resolutely vote against it,” Mr Wang said, apparently referring to the move by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, collectively known as the G-4.

The 191-nation Assembly yesterday started a two-day closed-door debate on UN reforms. Adoption of a resolution in the Assembly requires a two-thirds majority.

China, one of the five existing per-

manent members of the Security Council, can't exercise veto power in the Assembly. Mr Wang said that the enlargement of the UNSC is only one part of UN reforms as recent debates surrounding the Council's enlargement has already affected and impaired discussions on other major items.

“The preparation for the September (UN) Summit, especially the discussion on how to concentrate efforts to address the question of development, has been greatly hijacked,” he said and added: “Forcible voting on an immature formula is bound to lead to divisions among member states and weaken the authority and role of the UN. To the absolute majority of member states, it will be a huge loss of an irremediable nature,” he warned. Reforms should include both the increase of membership and the improvement of working methods, he said.

23 JUN 2005

US delays speech, accelerates drive to split G4

K.P. NAYAR

New York, June 21: Stung by a backlash to the Bush administration's crude attempt to split the Group of Four (G4) and wean away India and Japan from the group's joint bid for permanent seats in the UN Security Council, US representative to the UN Ann Patterson has delayed her potentially landmark statement on UN reform in the General Assembly today by 24 hours.

The statement was widely

expected to announce America's support for India's claim to one of the new permanent seats and expand on the criteria set out by the state department last week for expanding membership of the Security Council.

He will make yet another effort to persuade Japan not to table the G4 resolution on the Security Council expansion in the General Assembly when he meets his Japanese counterpart separately in London.

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice will be in Br-

delhi for talks with Indian officials, the US under-secretary

sterday about any such meeting.

But the contempt here for the G4 was evident in the question he was asked: "Could you check if there are any plans for the secretary to have bilateral meetings with any member of the so-called G4 nations that are seeking permanent membership (of the Security Council)?"

On Thursday, Rice and Burns will together meet foreign ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised coun-

delhi after the G8 meeting.

Patterson yesterday asked the General Assembly secretary to reschedule her speech. She is now the 42nd speaker in the current debate in the Assembly.

Diplomats at the UN said she ostensibly sought more time after African and Latin American countries reacted adversely to Washington's plans to selectively support only India and Japan for permanent seats in the Security Council.

Angry that the US was ignoring Africa and Latin America, several states from these regions, which were earlier lukewarm in their support for G4, rallied under the group's banner.

India is listed as the 32nd speaker in the debate. Its stand will be outlined by the deputy permanent representative, A. Gopinathan, as Nirupam Sen, India's UN ambassador, is a key player in the diplomatic moves in Brussels.

Although that meeting's main agenda will be the forthcoming G8 summit in Britain, the US will impress upon the group the desirability of a common position on UN reforms.

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan will also be in Brussels when the G4 foreign ministers meet there tomorrow.

Annan and Rice are in Brussels primarily for a donors' conference on Iraq. Burns will leave for New

Africa adds muscle to UN seat fight

K.P. NAVAR

New York, June 20: The Group of Four seeking expansion of the Security Council may become the Group of Six as the diplomatic chess game at the UN is poised to once again pit America against the majority of the international community.

Two more countries, this time from the African continent, will join the G4 after an African summit in Sirte, Libya, on July 4 and 5 to discuss UN reform, adding muscle to India and others seeking permanent seats at the UN high table.

Africa has 53 votes in the General Assembly, slightly less than a third of the UN membership.

The continent's support

will be a big boost for the G4 as it faces its biggest crisis since it was formed last year to pursue a joint, and hitherto successful, strategy on Security Council reform.

With the Bush administration deciding on Friday that it would only support countries which it can hope to manipulate to be its cat's paw as permanent members of the Security Council, UN diplomacy is once again heading for a replay of the drama that preceded similar American efforts to bend the world body to its wishes on attacking Iraq in 2003.

As in 2003, when the Americans did their very best to get New Delhi's support for the war in Iraq, India is once again at the centre of US moves at the UN.

This was clear from a number of fast-paced developments during the weekend across the globe, creating a dilemma for the Indian government.

National security adviser M.K. Narayanan, who is in Washington for extensive talks with the Bush administration, will now return home only on Wednesday.

When his trip was originally worked out in South Block, he was to stay in the US only till Monday.

Full details of the US position on the Security Council expansion will be known on Tuesday, when the US representative to the UN, Anne Patterson, will speak in the General Assembly on the issue.

Nicholas Burns, the US under-secretary of state for

political affairs, will arrive in New Delhi the same day, hoping to wean South Block away from the G4, although Bush administration sources said Burns will underplay UN reforms and stress the positive in Indo-US relations in his public pronouncements.

The G4 meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels on Wednesday has come at Tokyo's initiative after US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice pleaded with Japanese foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura to at least study Patterson's statement before tabling the G4 resolution in the General Assembly.

African diplomats here said their two representatives may join the expanded G4 even prior to the Sirte summit if

African countries are able to informally agree in advance of the meeting on African representation in the expanded Security Council.

The G4 draft resolution provides for two permanent seats for Africa in an expanded Council, but it is for the Africans to decide on who will fill those slots.

Ahead of their Brussels meeting, the view within the G4 is that tabling their resolution should be delayed until after the African summit so that the group can demonstrate its strength of numbers. "America", one G4 diplomat here said, "may be the most powerful nation on earth, but at the UN, fortunately, it has only one vote like everybody else."

Pakistan, continuing its

drive to put a spanner in the efforts to expand the Security Council, is asking the Organisation of Islamic Countries to demand a permanent seat for Muslims in the Council. OIC foreign ministers, meeting in Yemen from June 28, are expected to discuss the issue.

Arab diplomats here said Saudi Arabia is being prodded by Pakistan to put the issue of the OIC agenda. Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al Faisal said in Riyadh during the weekend that Islamic nations have a right to get one permanent seat in the UN.

But G4 diplomats said the matter could be easily resolved if the African summit nominates Egypt or another Muslim-majority state in Africa as one of its two candidates.

2 JUN 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

G-4 readies for show of strength

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, June 18. — With both India and Japan standing firmly by G-4, foreign ministers of the four countries would be meeting in Brussels on 22 June to project an united front, and formulate their strategy.

The official spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs said the minister, Mr K Natwar Singh, will be "cutting short his visit to Italy" to join the other three foreign ministers in the Belgian capital.

The decision of the G-4 countries to meet has come a day after the US announced that it would be willing to support "two or so" countries, including Japan for a permanent seat in the Security Council.

On 16 June, the under secretary of state for political affairs, Mr Nicholas Burns, said the USA would be presenting a set of criteria for future permanent or non-permanent members in the General Assembly, early next week.

"Let me give you some examples of that. Certainly, the size of a country's economy is important; the size of its population; its military capacity, its potential to contribute militarily to United Nations peacekeeping missions; its contributions to peacekeeping; its commitment to democracy and human rights; its financial contributions to the United Nations system; its record and commitment on counter-terrorism; its record and commitment on nonproliferation; and we have to look, of course, at the geographic balance, overall, of how the Security Council is constituted," he told reporters in Washington.

India qualifies on all counts. The US has already indicated emphatically that it will not support Germany, while it is not very enthusiastic about Brazil or an African candidate.

However, Indian officials contend that it will continue to stand united with the other G-4 members, Brazil, Germany and Japan.

19 JUN 2005

THE STATESMAN

Advani must quit Lok Sabha'

Special Correspondent

MEDABAD: A section of sadhus vowing allegiance to the Vishwanathu Parishad has demanded the resignation of Lok Sabha president L.K. Advani's resignation from the Lok Sabha.

A meeting held on Saturday under Avichaladasji Maharaj also set up a "Forum of voters in Gandhinagar" to continue the fight for Mr. Advani's resignation for "betraying the people of his constituency." Mr. Advani was elected from the Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency in Gujarat. A resolution adopted at the meeting said that Mr. Advani had sought votes in the name of Ram temple but "betrayed" the people by describing Mohammed Ali Jinnah, "architect" of Partition, as a "secular person."

G-4 Ministers to meet in Brussels

To discuss strategy for the expansion of the Security Council

Diplomatic Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Foreign Ministers of the G-4 grouping, which comprises India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, will meet on June 22 in Brussels to discuss their future strategy on how to push ahead with plans to expand the United Nations' Security Council.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said on Saturday that External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, who is currently on a European tour, would cut short his visit to Italy to be present for the

G-4 meeting.

Mr. Singh is also expected to attend a meeting convened in Brussels to review the state of international assistance to war-torn Iraq.

Previously, India's Special Envoy for West Asia Chinmay Gharekhan was to have represented India at this conference.

The meeting of the G-4 Foreign Ministers comes just after the United States, for the first time, has expressed its opposition to the draft resolution circulated by the G-4 in New York

setting forth its own criteria about the required qualities in a potential new member.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is also scheduled to be in Brussels on June 22 and could have discussions with G-4 Foreign Ministers.

Washington, while expressing its opposition to the G-4 move, has stressed that a large expansion of the Council as proposed by the grouping could possibly hurt the effectiveness of the body.

Handwritten notes: "H.D. 8" and "KOTW Advani" with checkmarks.

19 THE HINDU

US robe for UNSC stitched to fit India

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, June 17

IN WHAT may be terms tailor-made to back India's bid, the US will go before the UN General Assembly next week with a proposal setting eligibility criteria for the new permanent and non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The conditions outlined by the US Under-secretary of state Nicholas Burns were music to Indian ears. They spoke of the size of a country's economy, its population, military capacity, potential to contribute to UN peacekeeping forces, financial contributions to the UN system, commitment to democracy and record on non-proliferation.

Last but not the least, Burns stressed the geographical balance in the UNSC setup -- a criterion

that will exclude Germany, given the over-representation of Europe in relation to its overall population.

Burns, who will be visiting New Delhi next week, spelled out the terms after confirming the US's decision to support the Security Council's expansion by "two or so" permanent members, including Japan, and "two or three" non-permanent members.

This proposal, if endorsed, will see the council's strength go up from the present 15 to 19 or 20 without veto power for the new permanent members.

While making this first definitive statement on the subject, Washington simultaneously made known its opposition to putting Security Council reforms on the fast track at the cost of "other extremely important" UN reforms.

The US secretary of state, Con-

what the UN is, and we are determined that this is going to go forward in a way that draws people's attention and people's commitment to those reform measures, too," she added.

Burns, commending the US's plan for "a modest expansion" of the UNSC, said that a nine or 10-member expansion mooted by the G-4 nations was "not easily digestible" and "possibly injurious" to the council's effectiveness.

He said the US would also want the UN members to pass a counter-terrorism convention, a proposal that has been in the wings for a long time now because the countries cannot agree on a standard definition of terrorism.

India, Brazil, Japan and Germany are jointly gunning for permanent membership of UNSC, under the umbrella group known as the G-4.

Dialogue on missile defence systems

India will enter into lightly."

Describing the Indian Parliament's legislation on export controls as an "important step forward", Rademaker, however, cautioned that this shouldn't be seen as the end game.

The visiting official also described his discussions with the Indian foreign secretary, Shyam Saran, as well as other foreign ministry officials as "extremely productive".

ANI, New Delhi

UN management reform, secretariat reform, peace building, issues about non-proliferation and building a democracy fund.

"These (reforms) are core to

THE BUSH Administration said that it was willing to talk to India on the issue of supplying missile defence systems, provided India spells out the regulatory mechanisms for export control of sensitive technologies.

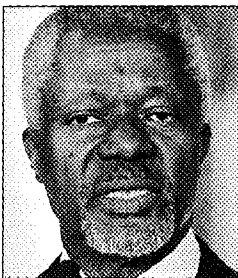
Visiting US assistant secretary of state for arms control, Stephen Rademaker, told reporters, "We are willing to talk to India about missile defence. Missile defence is very expensive. So, it is not something that

doleezza Rice, went on record saying that the US "simply will not let Security Council reform sprint out ahead of other reforms". The urgent reforms she listed included

UN chief in fresh trouble

JULIAN Borger
Washington, June 15

THE FUTURE of UN secretary general Kofi Annan was once more in question on Tuesday after a commission of inquiry revealed it was "urgently reviewing" a newly disclosed document that cast fresh light on Annan's role



Kofi Annan

in the oil-for-food corruption scandal. The document is a memo from Michael Wilson, the vice-president of Cotecna Inspection SA, which employed Annan's son Kojo.

In the memo to his colleagues Wilson mentions contacts with Annan "and his entourage" in Paris in 1998, and claims that Cotecna "could count on their support" for its bid on the \$10m contract to help implement the oil-for-food humanitarian programme. The Associated Press reported on Tuesday night that a second memo from Wilson had come to light expressing his confidence Cotecna would get the bid because of "effective but quiet lobbying" in New York diplomatic circles. Wilson is a childhood friend of Kojo Annan's and reportedly refers to Kofi Annan as "uncle". His memo was dated December 4, 1998. A week later the company won the contract.

Annan has repeatedly denied having any prior knowledge that his son's company was applying for a contract under the pre-war scheme by which Iraq was allowed to sell oil to buy food, medicines and other basic supplies. The system has since been found to have been riddled with corruption and has been under scrutiny by the Volcker committee and the US Congress. On Tuesday the secretary general's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, repeated that denial, saying the views attributed to the UN "secretariat" in the memo "could not have come from the secretary general because he had no knowledge that Cotecna was a contender for that contract".

An investigation into the oil-for-food scandal, headed by Paul Volcker, a former US federal reserve chairman, issued an interim report in March which accepted Annan's assertion that he had no role in or knowledge of the award of the contract to Cotecna. That finding was considered crucial to Annan's survival in the secretary general's post. But Volcker's independent inquiry committee said on Tuesday it would "conduct additional investigation regarding this new information".

The new document surfaced as Cotecna conducted a search of its files on the oil-for-food contract. "One of these documents may result in speculation about the procurement of its oil-for-food authentication contract," the firm said in a statement. "Cotecna once again confirms that it acted at all times appropriately and ethically in its bidding for, winning and performing that contract."

Eckhard told the Guardian that UN officials had examined the records from the 1998 trip to Paris for a Franco-African summit, but found no evidence of a meeting with Wilson. "The secretary general has no recollection of that nor has the trip coordinator. Nor has a review of the trip files, which contain a final record of every meeting he has, shown any mention of this guy," Eckhard said.

The committee issued a statement on Tuesday saying it was "reviewing newly disclosed information concerning possible links" between Annan and representatives of Cotecna while the secretary general's son was a consultant for the company.

Annan was earlier found to have had meetings with two Cotecna executives before the award of the 1998 contract, which he initially omitted to inform the investigators about. Chief investigator Robert Parton believed Annan's account had changed after being confronted with new facts.

Guardian News Service

H/16
UN 3
11/6

Changing membership rules

THE NEW draft resolution of the G-4 countries campaigning for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) could be just the catalyst needed for long overdue reforms in the world body. Provided it can win support from the majority of members of the General Assembly, and overcome reservations of the US and China. In the revised draft circulated, India, Japan, Brazil and Germany propose to change the UN charter to allow six more countries to become permanent UNSC members (including two unnamed African countries), and to have ten more rotating seats.

Currently ten non-permanent members rotate through the Council, each elected to a two-year term, with seats allotted regionally: three to Africa, two each to Asia, Latin America and Western Europe, and one to Eastern Europe. The G-4 draft skirts the controversial question of veto power for new permanent members by suggesting a review conference after 15 years to address the issue. The fact that France has agreed to co-sponsor the resolution — which has the blessings of Britain and Russia — brightens the chances for India and Japan, even

if they have to go it alone to circumvent Washington's unease over Germany's inclusion as a permanent member. Washington always considered it a realistic proposal to have Japan (the largest aid and reconstruction donor) and India (an important ally in the war on terror, as well as potential contributor of troops) sit alongside the Permanent Five, so long as the 'V' word wasn't mentioned.

It's deplorable that the UNSC still reflects the global power structure of 1945, though its membership was expanded from 11 to 15 in 1965. The five World War II victors have held on to their privileged status and behave like presidents for life, each able to veto any Council decision. This makes the Council both undemocratic and often ineffective. Despite most countries agreeing on the need for reforms, no single proposal has ever had majority support. As a result, what is necessary — a comprehensive re-evaluation of the UNSC's membership — has not been politically feasible, and what has been politically feasible — adding already over-represented developed countries — is not necessary. The new G-4 resolution may hopefully break this spell.

19 JUN 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

G-4 sacrifice may end veto rights

u/b to Aton
K29

NILOVA Roy Chaudhury
New Delhi, June 10

THE NEW draft framework resolution tabled by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan (G-4), seeking to forego veto powers by 15 years if accommodated permanently on the UN Security Council, could be the beginning of the end of the veto itself.

According to top diplomatic sources, persuading the G-4 to tone down their demand for veto rights is "a masterstroke by the United States."

Hampered in many ways by veto powers of the other four permanent members of the UNSC, the US wants to do away with the entire veto provision, diplomatic sources said.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke to the foreign ministers of all the G-4, including Natwar Singh, recently, and urged them to tone down their insistence on veto powers as a precondition to being admitted as permanent members of the UNSC. In return, official sources indicated, Washington would approve the G-4's candidature for permanent seats on the UNSC.

The reworked draft, circulated by the G-4 on June 8, adds the provision, "that the new permanent members shall not exercise the right of veto until the question of

the extension of the right of veto to new permanent members has been decided upon in the framework of the review." It retains the provision that "the new permanent members should have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members."

Many of the UN's 191 members want the veto done away with, as it is discriminatory and slows down the decision-making process.

According to official sources, under Section 27 of the UN Charter, there cannot be two categories of permanent membership of the UNSC, one set with and one set without veto powers. "Either all or none could have the veto," an official source said.

The US, diplomatic sources said, has felt hampered in its attempts to "force democracy" on the world, especially in West Asia, by the UN. As the world's sole superpower, that nevertheless requires the UN to provide legitimacy (like UNSCR 1546) to many of its international acts, it wants the entire veto provision removed, the sources said.

The sources said US President George W. Bush's nomination of John Bolton, a fierce UN critic, as his envoy to the UN indicated the "low priority" he accorded to the international body.

VETOMETER

■ US MASTERSTROKE

Hampered by veto powers of the other four permanent members, the US wants to do away with the entire provision.

■ MAJORITY REPORT

Many of the UN's 191 members want the veto done away with, as it is discriminatory and slows down the decision-making process.

11 JUN 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

ভেটো ছাড়াই সই

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ অর্জনের জন্য ভারত সহ চারটি দেশ কিছুটা নমনীয় অবস্থান গ্রহণ করিয়াছে। এত দিন এই চার দেশই জিদ ধরিয়া ছিল, স্থায়ী সদস্যপদের পাশাপাশি অন্য পাঁচ সাবেক স্থায়ী সদস্যদের মতো 'ভেটো' প্রয়োগের ক্ষমতাও তাহাদের চাই। এই ক্ষমতা স্থায়ী সদস্যদের এক বিশেষাধিকার। স্বেচ্ছায় কে আর স্থায়ী বিশেষাধিকার অন্যের সহিত ভাগ করিয়া লইতে চায়? মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র, রাশিয়া, চীন, ব্রিটেন এবং ফ্রান্সও চাহে নাই। অবস্থা এমন দাঁড়ায় যে ভারত, জার্মানি, জাপান ও ব্রাজিলের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ অর্জনের সম্ভাবনাই বানচাল হইবার উপক্রম। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নানও নবীন সদস্যদের ভেটো ক্ষমতা মঞ্জুর করার অসম্ভাব্যতার উপর জোর দেন। একপ্রকার বাধ্য হইয়াই ভেটো-র বিশেষাধিকার ছাড়াই চার দেশ নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হইতে সম্মত হইয়াছে। এই মর্মে একটি খসড়া প্রস্তাবও রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জে বিলি করা হইয়াছে। ইহাকে এক পা আগাইয়া দুই পা পিছাইয়া যাওয়ার সহিত তুলনা করা যায়, এমনকী পরমাণু শক্তির পাঁচ মহারথীর চাপের কাছে পশ্চাদপসরণও আখ্যা দেওয়া যায়। কিন্তু ইহা কৌশলগত। ভারত সহ চার দেশই ভেটো প্রয়োগের অধিকার নীতিগতভাবে ছাড়িয়া দিতেছে না, কেবল আপাতত তাহা ছাড়াই নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্য হইতে সম্মত হইয়াছে।

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের পাঁচ স্থায়ী সদস্যের ক্লাব নিজেদের কলেবর বাড়িতে দ্বিধাগ্রস্ত থাকিবে, এটাই স্বাভাবিক। অথচ অর্থনৈতিক ও রাজনৈতিক ভাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ দেশগুলিকে বাহিরে রাখিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিবাদগুলির মীমাংসায় একতরফা সিদ্ধান্ত লইলে তাহার গ্রহণযোগ্যতাও খর্ব হয়। এ কারণেই ওই সব দেশকে তাহাদের মর্যাদা ও গুরুত্ব অনুযায়ী নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ দিবার প্রস্তাব। সেই সঙ্গে পরিষদকে আন্তর্জাতিক মধ্যস্থতাকারী মঞ্চ হিসাবে আরও প্রতিনিধিত্বমূলক করিয়া তুলিতে আফ্রিকা মহাদেশ হইতে দুইটি দেশকেও স্থায়ী সদস্য করার প্রস্তাব। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ ও তাহার বিভিন্ন সংস্থার কাঠামোগত সংস্কারের অপরিহার্যতাই এই সব প্রস্তাবের তাগিদ। বৃহৎ শক্তিগুলি নিজেদের একচেটিয়া আধিপত্য কায়ম রাখিতে এ ধরনের সংস্কারে বাধা সৃষ্টি করিবে, স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধের ঐতিহাসিক প্রেক্ষিতে যে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ গঠিত হইয়াছিল, গত পাঁচ দশকে তাহা আমূল পরিবর্তিত। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের কাঠামোগত সংস্কার তাই অবশ্যস্বার্থী। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র কেবল তাহার তাঁবেদার জাপানের জন্য পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ বিবেচনা করিতে রাজি। জার্মানি, ব্রাজিল, এমনকী ভারতকেও নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা একমেরু বিশ্বের অধীশ্বরের পক্ষে কঠিন। কিন্তু ফ্রান্স, রাশিয়া ও চীন ভারতকে ওই অভিজাত ক্লাবের সদস্যপদ দিতে সম্মত। জার্মানি ও ব্রাজিলকে লইয়াও তাহাদের তত শিরঃপীড়া নাই। আপত্তি বা দ্বিধার কারণ হিসাবে মুখে নবীনদের দায়িত্ববোধ লইয়া সংশয় ব্যক্ত করা হইয়াছে। অথচ বিগত অর্ধ শতাব্দী ধরিয়া বিশ্বে উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টির প্রতিটি ঘটনা, প্রতিটি অন্যান্য ও অসম যুদ্ধ নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যদের প্রত্যক্ষ অংশগ্রহণ বা পরোক্ষ পরোচনার পরিণাম। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের বাস করিয়া অন্যদের প্রতি টিল ছোড়া কি প্রতারণামূলক নয়?

বলা হইতেছে, আগামী পনেরো বছর ধরিয়া ক্লাবের নূতন সদস্যদের অবদান বিচার করিয়া তবেই ভেটো মঞ্জুরের বিষয়টি বিবেচিত হইবে। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের বিভিন্ন কর্মকাণ্ডে ভারতের ভূমিকা, উত্তেজনা প্রশমনে, শান্তি রক্ষায়, মানবিক ত্রাণ ও পুনর্বাসন দানে ভারতের অবদান কিন্তু প্রশংসিত। তুলনায় অনেক শক্তির স্থায়ী সদস্যের অবদান প্রশ্নকটকিত। যেমন কিয়োটো প্রোটোকল রূপায়নে মার্কিন বিরুদ্ধতা, ইউনেস্কো, ছ, ইউনেসেফ প্রভৃতি কল্যাণব্রতী সংস্থায় ওয়াশিংটনের দেয় তহবিল আটকাইয়া রাখার মতো কাজ এক দিকে বিশ্বের পরিবেশগত ভারসাম্য রক্ষার কাজে বাধা সৃষ্টি করিয়াছে, অন্য দিকে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের আর্থিক সমর্থন গ্রহণ করিয়াছে। এই সব শক্তির অন্যদের দায়িত্ববোধ ও সন্তোষ্য অবদান লইয়া প্রশ্ন তোলে! কিন্তু বীরভোগ্যা বসুন্ধরী বীর না হউক, শক্তিমানরাই যে বিশ্ব, রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ এবং নিরাপত্তা পরিষদেরও নিয়ন্তা, তাহা নিত্য প্রমাণিত। শক্তিমানদের ক্লাবে তাই মাথা একটু নামাইয়াই ঢুকিতে হইবে, পরে কখনও উঁচু করার সুযোগ পাইতে।

11 JUN 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

DRAFT RESOLUTION MOOTS 15-YEAR WAIT

G-4 tones down UN veto pitch

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, June 9. — Faced with opposition from several United Nations members, India and other G-4 countries have dropped their demand for veto power in an expanded Security Council for 15 years if they are accepted as permanent members of the world body.

In a new compromise draft circulated yesterday, India, Japan, Brazil and Germany, campaigning vigorously to become permanent members of the Security Council, proposed increasing the strength of the Council from 15 to 25 members with six new permanent seats, thus hoping to join the elite group. Two seats may go to African nations.

The draft, which emerged after weeks of discussions, keeps the principle of veto for the new permanent members intact but they would not exercise it until the question of its extension has been decided by a review conference 15 years after the amendments to the Charter giving effect to the recommendations in the resolution come into force.

In effect, the new permanent members would not have veto right for at least first 15 years after taking their place.

Pakistan says move will derail reforms, China dubs it immature

UNHQ/BEIJING June 9. — Both Pakistan and China reacted strongly to the draft circulated yesterday by the G-4 nations. While Islamabad said a vote on the new proposal by the group would "derail" the reform process and raise tensions across the world, Beijing termed the recent move as "immature" and called for "democratic consultations" to bridge differences. Criticising the G-4 proposals, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Mr Munir Akram, said a vote on it should be avoided as it would "derail the reforms process, divide the membership and raise tensions in different parts of the world." "Hopefully better sense will prevail and a hasty move (to put the resolution to vote) will be avoided," he added.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Mr Liu Jianchao said: "We believe that the member states should continue democratic consultations to find a solution that accommodates the interests of all parties ... rather than having revisions or modifications on a highly divisive proposal." "The action by a few countries to force through an immature proposal has derailed Security Council reforms and gravely undermined any potential progress of UN reform," Mr Liu added. "China expresses worries about this and firmly opposes the practice by those countries," he said. — PTI

Replying to questions, Indian Ambassador to UN Mr Nirupam Sen said the amended draft has not been diluted so far as veto is concerned as it keeps the principle intact.

During the 15 years, the member states would have the time to judge the contribution made by new permanent members and then decide whether that right should be extended to them. In a significant development, France meanwhile has agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

The G-4 has proposed a 15-year freeze on veto

powers for new permanent members of the Security Council to make their plan more acceptable. The revision was made to a draft resolution presented on 16 May which calls for an enlargement of the Security Council by including six permanent members and four additional non-permanent seats. The freeze on veto power was proposed after China expressed its opposition to the original draft resolution by the G-4 countries.

Another report on page 4

10 11/11/2007 THE STATESMAN

Veto sacrifice for elite seat

OUR BUREAU

June 9: India and the three other countries in the Group of Four seeking permanent membership of the UN Security Council have chosen to fight another day for veto right to overcome resistance to the main objective of acquiring a seat at the world's high table.

In a new draft circulated at the UN yesterday, the G4 — Germany, Japan and Brazil are the other members — said new permanent members need not have veto right for at least the first 15 years after joining the Security Council.

Nirupam Sen, India's ambassador to the UN, said the amended draft does not compromise on the right to veto.

In the 15 years, during which the G4 draft agrees to hold its claim in abeyance, the UN would have the time to judge the contribution made by the new permanent members and decide if they should get the right.

The US has strongly opposed veto power for the new permanent members, as has China, which, together with Russia, the UK and France, form the group of five perma-

nent members with veto right.

Whether or not it was because of the proposed deferment of veto by the G4, secretary of state Condoleezza Rice displayed some easing of the stand earlier taken by the US that it would support only Japan's candidature.

At a news conference with German foreign minister Joschka Fischer in Washington, Rice iterated support for Japan, but added: "Obviously, we are going to look at how to think about UN Security Council expansion within the context of... broader reforms."

The revised draft proposes to expand council membership from 15 (five permanent and 10 non-permanent) to 25 (six new permanent and four new non-permanent). Other than the G4, two African nations are proposed to be inducted as permanent members.

None of this can go through without the support of the five current permanent members, because of which the G4 is not pressing for veto right now. In July, when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attends the UN General Assembly, the amendment to the UN charter to take in new members should go through.

10 JUN 200 THE TELEGRAPH

US backs only Japan for UNSC seat

5/11
7/1/06

Revised G-4 Draft Proposes 15-Year Freeze On Veto

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN
& Agencies

Washington: The United States has expressed support for only Japan's membership to the United Nations Security Council but has not decided to which other nation to back for a seat, secretary of state Condoleezza Rice has said. At a press conference with German FM Joschka Fischer here, Rice reiterated US support to Japan, but left the door open for others in the context of UN reforms.

"The only country that we have said unequivocally that we support is

Japan, having to do with Japan's special role in the UN and support for the UN. But obviously, we are going to look at how to think about UN Security Council expansion within the context of broader reforms," Rice said.

While agreeing for the need of UNSC reform, Rice, however, said that "We are not against any proposal. What we are for is to look at the various ideas...to have a sober and reflective discussion of that so that we might drive toward the broadest possible consensus on how to move forward on what would be a very fundamental

change to this extremely important institution."

Meanwhile, the Group of Four nations— including India— bidding for seats in an expanded UNSC has agreed to drop the veto demand to give their proposal a realistic chance to succeed.

A revised version of a draft proposed by the G-4



"The only country that we unequivocally support is Japan, having to do with Japan's special role in the UN and support for the UN"

suggests a 15-year freeze on veto for new permanent security council members. The move comes after increasingly vocal opposition from China to the original proposal seeking parity with the P-5. The US was also reluctant to back the proposal fearing a further logjam in the UN if more countries got veto.

"The new permanent members shall not exercise the right of veto" until after the General Assembly meets to review the council 15 years after the proposed expansion comes into force, the new draft said.

10 JUL 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Downer sees scope for Security Council reforms

"Good chance of General Assembly backing G-4 resolution"

Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI: Visiting Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Wednesday that there was a "reasonable chance" the United Nations' Security Council would be expanded. Addressing a news conference after talks with External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Mr. Downer said there was "every chance" that a draft resolution put forward by the G-4 grouping would get the required two-thirds majority necessary for approval by the General Assembly.

Mr. Downer said Mr. Singh had raised the issue of Security Council reforms with him and reaffirmed that Australia backed India, along with Japan and Brazil, for a permanent seat on the Council. India, Japan, Brazil and Germany comprise the G-4 that is making moves for an expansion of the Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

'Don't give up'

Mr. Downer told newsmen that his advice to India was to push ahead with the reform move and not "give it up." How-



EXTENDING SUPPORT: Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer (left) with External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. — PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM

ing up the principle of non-discrimination.

Pointing out that there was strong opposition from the group dubbed the "coffee club" to the reform suggestions put forward by the G-4, the officials said India's Chinese friends had also been told that expansion by "consensus" was not possible.

China, which had decided to oppose the G-4 resolution in the General Assembly, has been told by India that even Beijing had entered the Council with a bare two-thirds majority.

Obstacles remain

The officials said "numbers" were the only weapons that developing countries possessed. They stressed that even if the framework resolution of the G-4 made its way through the General Assembly, it would only be a first step as other obstacles remained. Each candidate would then have to get a two-thirds majority in the Assembly and then the issue would go to the Security Council, where it could be vetoed. If it made it past the Security Council, then the expansion would have to be ratified by its five permanent members.

ever, he felt that there was need for "some finessing" of the draft resolution that had been circulated by the G-4.

On the veto issue for additional members, the officials said there was a need for India to be flexible on the issue without giv-

Push to increase non-permanent UNSC seats

Associated Press

UNHQ, May 28. — Supporters of a plan to expand the UN Security Council without adding new permanent members sent their proposal for more non-permanent seats to the 191 UN member states, calling it more democratic and representative.

The proposal provides

details for the first time of the plan by the group calling itself Uniting for Consensus, which is vehemently opposed to a plan by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to add new permanent seats to the UN's most powerful body.

Uniting for Consensus presented its proposal yesterday in the form of a resolution, which it said

should be incorporated into the final document to be adopted by world leaders at a September summit called by Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan. He has called the leaders to New York to adopt sweeping reforms of the 60-year-old world body so it can address the challenges of the 21st century. There is wide support

for expanding the Security Council, whose composition reflects the post-World War II era, to better reflect today's global realities. But after 10 years of discussion and debate, the size and membership of an expanded council remain contentious issues. In March, Mr Annan urged General Assembly members to decide on a plan

before the summit, preferably by consensus, but if that's impossible by a vote. The council currently has 15 members, 10 elected for two-year terms and five permanent members — the USA, Russia, China, Britain and France.

Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have circulated a draft resolution which would expand the council

from 15 to 25 members, including six new permanent seats. The Group of Four have been lobbying for four of those permanent seats, with the other two earmarked for Africa.

The Uniting for Consensus proposal would also increase the council from 15 to 25 members, but the 10 new members would be non-permanent.

5/27/05

Security Council reform: a bridge too far?

Siddharth Varadarajan

IN CIRCULATING both the draft of a framework resolution on Security Council reform and an ambitious timetable for the United Nations General Assembly to vote on it, India, Japan, Germany, and Brazil have taken their quest for permanent membership of the world body's highest organ to a point of no return. So long as the discussion on reform remained confined to the theoretical front, the countries concerned could afford to be expansive in their ambitions. Not any more. The G-4's ship has set sail and cannot now be recalled. On the choppy seas ahead lie two, and only two, outcomes. The four Governments must either meet success — collectively or singly — or face the bitterness, loss of international prestige and ignominy on the home front that defeat will inevitably bring with it.

The draft framework resolution commits the G-4, as the four aspirants call themselves, to seeking six new permanent seats on the Security

India, Japan, Germany, and Brazil will have a tough time pushing their draft resolution on U.N. Security Council reform through.

members should have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members."

According to well-placed Japanese sources, the veto issue led to "heated discussions" among the G-4 nations, primarily India and Japan, with the former insisting there be no discrimination between permanent members and the latter counselling flexibility. The Japanese side managed to get the Indians to use the words "should have" instead of "shall have" in the paragraph on veto power, though one leading Japanese international law expert admitted to me that 'should' and 'shall' have an identical legal meaning quite distinct from the non-mandatory implications of a word like "may."

However, it is evident that the G-4 is prepared to be flexible on the veto front. The 'Talking Points' distributed by Germany to U.N. members along with the draft resolution say the question of veto "should not be a hindrance to Security Council reform." And in an attempt to convince the U.S. that the Security Council expansion will not reduce the body's capacity to take decisions that Washington might want, the G-4 draft also proposes to reduce the percentage of affirmative votes required to pass a resolution from the present 9 out of 15 (60 per cent) to 14 out of 25 (56 per cent). Incidentally, had this voting percentage been in place in February 2003, the U.S. would have managed the required eight affirmative votes to win backing for its intended invasion of Iraq.

Clever voting method

With Tuesday's 'compromise' meeting in New York between the G-4 and the 'Uniting for Consensus' group led by Italy, Pakistan, Mexico, and South Korea ending in a deadlock, it does seem as if the General Assembly will be asked to vote on the resolution sometime in June.

The draft envisages a two-stage election pro-

cedure. First, the framework resolution must be passed by two-thirds of the U.N. General Assembly — that is, 127 countries. Within a yet-to-be-specified number of days following the adoption of the resolution, "interested states" must "submit their candidatures to the President of the UNGA."

In mid-July, all 191 countries will choose six states by secret ballot to become permanent members of the Security Council in conformity with the geographical pattern already indicated. The G-4 draft also stipulates that "if the number of states having obtained the required majority falls short of the number of seats allocated for permanent membership, new rounds of balloting will be conducted for the remaining seats, provided all ballots shall be restricted to candidates [already registered], until six states obtain the required majority to occupy the six seats."

The procedure envisaged is ingenious on two counts. Multiple rounds mean the G-4 nations do not compete against one another; and by restricting candidates to those registered within a fixed time-frame, the G-4 protects itself against a regional dark horse emerging in the event of, say, one or more of the group's nations failing to win a two-thirds majority despite several rounds of balloting.

It is only after this procedure is completed that a comprehensive Charter-amending resolution, incorporating the changes already voted on, will be submitted for another vote in accordance with Article 108 of the U.N. Charter. This requires that the changes be adopted by a two-thirds majority and subsequently ratified by two-thirds of U.N. members, including all the existing permanent members of the Security Council. The Charter Articles proposed to be amended are 27 (2) and (3) and 109 (1) (on voting procedures), though the G-4 draft, curiously, forgets to mention Article 23, where the names of the five permanent members are listed.

By staggering the reforms process in this manner, the G-4 hopes to present the five permanent members (the P-5) with a *fait accompli* that they must either accept or reject *in toto*. If China wants to veto Japanese permanent membership, for example, it will have to reject the entire package and run the risk of alienating not just Japan but the other five newly elected permanent members as well.

Similarly, the U.S., which favours only the inclusion of Japan, will not be able to cherry-pick; it will have to accept all six as permanent members. Japanese officials take heart from what happened in 1963, when membership of the Security Council was expanded from 11 to 15. Only China (whose seat was held by Taiwan) among the P-5 voted in favour of the UNGA resolution calling for expansion. France and the Soviet Union voted against (the Soviet position was that there should be no change in the Charter until the Chinese seat went to the Peoples' Republic), while Britain and the U.S. abstained. However, all five eventually went on to ratify the Charter amendment.

The hunt for 127

But while ratification by the P-5 is the final hurdle, the G-4 will not find the earlier stages smooth sailing. Even on procedural grounds, there are likely to be objections with some arguing that the framework resolution be ratified by the P-5 first. The Italians are already asking how they can choose countries to fill seats that do not legally exist.

Assuming the UNGA President allows the G-4's procedure, winning the required 127 votes is going to be a tall order indeed. Even if one includes all 53 African countries as supporters — in March, the African Union adopted the 'Ezulwini Consensus' demanding that an enlarged Security Council include two veto-wielding permanent members from Africa — the number of countries with a strong preference for the G-4 resolution does not exceed 60. Germany wields influence among the East Europeans, but so does Washington.

Latin American and Caribbean states do not find the G-4 proposal attractive and there is strong opposition in parts of West Europe as well. Japan's influence in Asia is negative, and in many world capitals the joke is that a Japanese berth on the UNSC will only increase Washington's vote from two (U.S. and U.K.) to three.

Between now and mid-June, Japan, Germany, India, and Brazil will push their case worldwide. And since the vote on the framework resolution will be an open one, the G-4 will get to see which of its friends (or recipients of largesse) kept their promises and which did not. However, there is very little time left and the Indian campaign, in particular, is far from getting into high gear. External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh's inexplicable eleventh hour cancellation of an important meeting with West African countries in Senegal earlier this month is a case in point.

What is also perplexing is the G-4's insistence on the veto rather than a demand for its abolition. Since both outcomes are equally unacceptable to the P-5, it would be better for the G-4 to incorporate, at least initially, a demand that has widespread international support — so that the proposed expansion contributes to the democratisation of the world body. Strengthening the role of the General Assembly should also be part of the reform plan. Even now, it is not a toothless body. Last year, for example, the UNGA overrode the U.S. veto in the Security Council by referring Israel's illegal wall in the Occupied Territories to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.

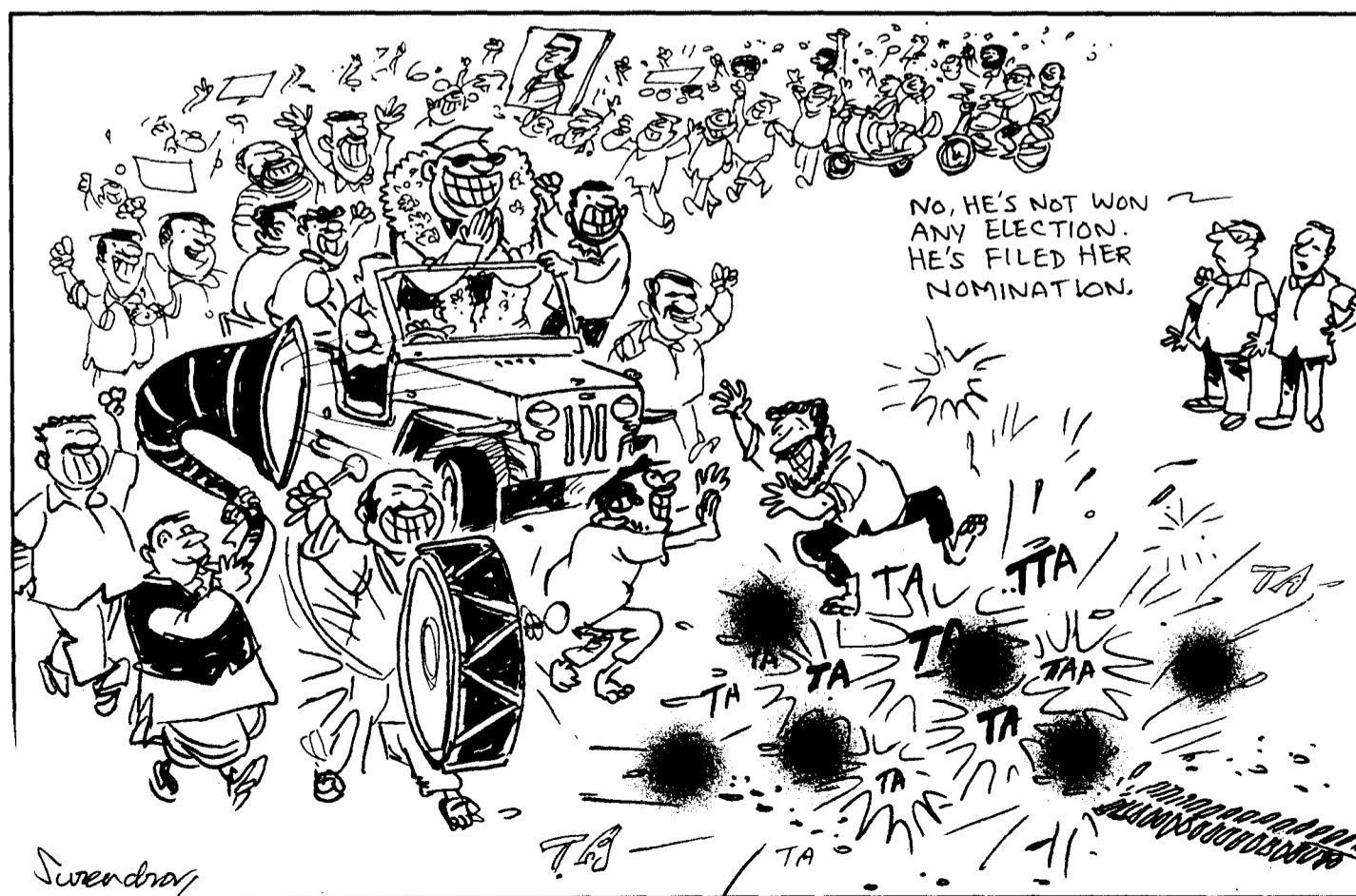
For Japan and Germany, the urgency of the current campaign is understandable. Both countries have an ageing population and economies whose relative strength in the world — though impressive — is nevertheless on the decline. If Tokyo and Berlin miss the bus, they can forget about permanent membership of the UNSC for all time to come. For India and Brazil, however, the future is not so bleak. Failure now will bring a certain loss of face, but there will come a time when the world comes knocking on their doors.

REALITY CHECK

Council. The Council's size is to be increased from 15 to 25. The new permanent members are to be chosen on the basis of two each from Asia and Africa, one from Latin America/Caribbean, and one from among 'West European and Other' states. In addition, the draft calls for increasing the number of non-permanent members by four, up from the present 10, on the basis of one each from Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and East Europe. The inclusion of an additional seat for East Europe was proposed by Germany, which felt this was the only way to win the backing of the 20-odd states in that region.

The reform envisaged differs in two respects from 'Model A' and 'Model B' put forward recently by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report, *In Larger Freedom*. Both models had envisaged an increase in membership of the Security Council to 24, one less than the G-4 draft's 25. More significantly, the G-4 resolution calls for the right to block resolutions. Under the sub-head 'Veto', it states: "the new permanent

CARTOONSCAPE



G-4 may move resolution in U.N.

Japan prepared to be realistic and flexible: envoy

Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI: India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, which have come together in the 'G-4' to campaign for entering the United Nations' Security Council as permanent members, should consolidate their solidarity, the Japanese Ambassador to India, Yasukuni Enoki, said on Tuesday.

The 'G-4' was preparing a draft resolution to be moved in the General Assembly for expanding the Security Council, he said ahead of the arrival of the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, on Thursday.

Responding to China's support for India to enter the Council and not for Japan, the Ambassador said all 'G-4' members had difficult neighbours. Asked whether Japan wanted membership with veto power, he replied: "At present, yes." It was prepared to be realistic and flexible on the issue.

Japan expected China and India to be the "superpowers" of Asia. Mr. Enoki felt that India should shoulder greater responsibility for the maintenance of stability in Asia.

Global partnership

Japan was ready to "provide strategic orientation" to the existing "global partnership" be-

'India must shoulder greater responsibility for Asia stability'

tween Tokyo and New Delhi. Development of bilateral relations was not only for mutual benefit but also conducive to stability in Asia and the rest of the world.

Action plan

An eight-point "action plan" to improve bilateral relations was likely to form part of the joint statement to be issued during Mr. Koizumi's visit, Mr. Enoki said. As part of enhancing dialogue and exchange, the two sides were likely to agree to a "strategic dialogue" between the National Security Adviser, M.K. Narayanan, and the Diplomatic Adviser to the Japanese Prime Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi.

Energy dialogue

India and Japan, he said, were likely to agree on renewing their energy dialogue at the level of Petroleum Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry. Tokyo could help India set up a strategic oil reserve and also assist in efficient use of oil. The increase in consumption by In-

dia and China was driving up oil costs for Japan as well.

The Ambassador said Japan would "clearly articulate" its support for India's participation in the East Asian economic summit scheduled for December in Malaysia.

Nuclear non-proliferation

According to him, the post-May 1998 chapter in India-Japan relations was closed in 2000 following the visit of the then Prime Minister, Yoshiro Mori, to India in 2000. Stressing that Japan and India shared the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, Mr. Enoki, however, said their approach was different. Non-proliferation was one "common area" for cooperation.

Pointing out that Japan's trade and investment with China was 30 times more than that of Japan and India, Mr. Enoki was quick to emphasise that there was no "negative legacy" in Tokyo-New Delhi relations. (The current trade between India and Japan was between \$4 billion and \$5 billion).

The envoy was hopeful of a "second Japanese investment boom" in India. This would be possible if Japanese companies brought foreign direct investment to India for manufacturing purposes.

27 APR 2005

THE HINDU

G-4, UFC to meet Annan

United Nations, May 22

IN AN effort to bring about a compromise on the issue of expansion of the United Nations Security Council, Secretary General Kofi Annan has called a joint meeting on Monday of G-4 countries, including India, and another group led by Pakistan and Italy.

Annan, diplomats say, apparently decided to call the joint meeting of the Group of Four (G-4), comprising India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, which are seeking permanent membership of the Council, and the Uniting for Consensus (UFC), led by Pakistan and Italy, after UFC sought his intervention to bring about a compromise.

But it was unclear whether UFC would be flexible on its demand that there should be no expansion in the permanent membership of the Security Council.

Major concessions by one of the groups would be needed for Annan's efforts to succeed as fundamental differences exist between them.

The G-4 is seeking expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent category of members of the United Nations Security Council while the UFC wants the number of members to be increased in the non-permanent category only.

Envoys of the UFC met Secretary General Annan on Friday and diplomats said that they complained that the G-4 countries were using his name to promote their viewpoint.

They envoys were apparently referring to Annan's remarks that consensus is preferable but lack of it should not be used to block the expansion of the 15-member Security Council.

The G-4 also advocates similar position but the UFC

wants expansion to take place only on the basis of consensus.

Assembly President Jean Ping had called a meeting of the two groups earlier — also at the request of the UFC which is nicknamed the 'Coffee Club'.

But the UFC now feels that the announcement of a timetable by the G-4 to move three resolutions leading to amendment of the Charter to increase permanent members to the United Nations Security Council by six and non-permanent by four has preempted the effort by Ping to bring about a compromise.

At Friday's meeting with Annan, the 12 UFC envoys stressed that a "broadest possible agreement" on all aspects of the UN reform package is essential to avoid serious divisions among member states.

After the meeting, Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, told Pakistani journalists that Annan agreed that all possible efforts should be made to bring about an understanding between the two groups.

The G-4 framework resolution, which was circulated last week, calls for the enlargement of the Security Council from the current 15 to 25 members, including six permanent members instead of the four at present.

"Our approach is to bring about an understanding among all member states before going for a resolution," Akram said.

"The G-4 has put forward the resolution and they want any talks on the basis of that."

"Ours is a bottom up approach while the Group of Four have a top down approach", he remarked.

PTI

UN condemns abuse of Afghan prisoners

Kabul, May 22

A REPORT of US military abuse of detainees in Afghanistan is deeply disturbing and those involved should be punished, the United Nations said on Sunday.

The abuse, including details of the deaths of two inmates at an Afghan detention center, took place in 2002 and emerged from a nearly 2,000-page file of US Army investigators, The New York Times said on Friday.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, speaking before leaving on a US trip, said on Saturday he was shocked and was demanding action against the culprits as well as custody of Afghan prisoners and supervision of US military searches.

Jean Arnault, special representative of the UN secretary-general in Afghanistan, said the abuse reported in the New York Times was unacceptable and an affront to everything the international community stood for.

"The gravity of these abuses calls for the punishment of all those involved in such inexcusable crimes, as demanded by President Karzai," Arnault said in a statement.

Arnault said steps taken since 2002 to eradicate mistreatment and improve conditions should be made public. Complaints that continue to be made of arbitrary arrest and detention without charge should be fully addressed, he said. The United States commands a foreign force in Afghanistan of about 16,300, most of them American, fighting Taliban insurgents and hunting militant leaders, including Osama bin Laden.

The US is holding more than 500 prisoners from its war on terrorism at the Guantanamo Bay naval base on Cuba. Many of them were detained in Afghanistan after the Taliban overthrow in late 2001. US forces are also believed to be holding several hundred Afghans in Afghanistan.



A file photo of US troops searching Afghans.

The New York Times said US army report centres on the death of a 22-year-old taxi driver known only as Dilawar and that of another detainee, Habibullah, who died at the US base at Bagram, north of Kabul, in December 2002.

According to the report, Dilawar was

chained by his wrists to the top of his cell for several days before he died and his legs had been pummeled by guards.

"The file depicts young, poorly trained soldiers in repeated incidents of abuse. The harsh treatment, which has resulted in criminal charges against seven soldiers, went well beyond the two deaths," the newspaper said.

In sworn statements to army investigators, soldiers described mistreatment ranging from a female interrogator stepping on a detainee's neck and kicking another in the genitals to a shackled prisoner being made to kiss the boots of interrogators, according to the newspaper.

US officials have characterized incidents of prisoner abuse at Bagram in 2002 as isolated problems that were thoroughly investigated, the newspaper said.

Two army interrogators have been reprimanded and seven soldiers have been charged, it said.

Reuters

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VETO ISSUE

The process of expanding the United Nations security council has finally generated momentum. The latest evidence of this is the new draft resolution moved by India, Germany, Japan and Brazil: the so-called G-4 countries. Although it is unlikely that the draft resolution will invite widespread support, the possibility of a larger UN security council is greater today than at any time since 1945. The draft resolution, which was circulated to nearly 70 countries, seeks to expand the security council from its present strength of 15 to 25 members. This would include six new permanent members and four temporary members. The resolution explicitly states that the new permanent entrants would have the same "responsibilities and obligations" as the present permanent members. In other words, the new entrants would also have veto powers if the resolution were translated into reality.

All the G-4 countries are claimants of permanent membership, while the two other vacant slots would be filled, according to the resolution, by representatives from Africa. According to the strategy developed by the G-4, after a month of lobbying, a framework resolution would be moved in the UN general assembly in June this year. For the resolution to be passed, it would require the support of two-thirds of the membership of the UN. If this happens, an amendment to the UN charter also needs to be made subsequently. The draft resolution, however, has already invited criticism. The United States of America, easily the country with the greatest weight and influence in the UN system, has described the G-4 draft as a "matter of concern" and clearly indicated that it will not support security-council expansion with veto powers. Even China has suggested that the draft resolution "will fuel conflict and undermine the security council. The bulk of the membership of the UN general assembly has, for long, believed that the veto power has been misused by the five permanent members for their vested interests, especially during the Cold War era. Under the circumstances, it is unlikely that the majority will support more states with veto powers.

There is, however, clearly a silver lining. Support for reforming the UN, especially for the expansion of the security council, is all pervasive. All the permanent members of the security council and a large section of the member states want the UN security council to reflect contemporary international realities. Thus, there could be considerable support for a resolution which will seek expansion without extending veto powers. The G-4 members probably realize this ground reality, but may be using the "veto issue" as a bargaining chip to finally settle for permanent membership without the right to block action.

20 MAY 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

'DIFFERENCES SHOULDN'T PREVENT EXPANSION' G-4 gives UNSC veto a draft shot

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, May 17. — India and three other countries demanding permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council today circulated a draft resolution, calling for an expansion of the Council from 15 to 25 members, with six new entrants having veto powers and four alternating members.

The draft resolution unveiled by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan — known as G-4 — said the new entrants should have the “same responsibilities and obligations” as the current permanent members, including the veto power, sources said.

The text, circulated to diplomats from over 70 countries at a meeting here, however, made it clear that the differences over the veto power should not be a stumbling block in the way of the Council's expansion.

The Council should be expanded to reflect contemporary world realities better, the draft said, a day after *The New York Times* reported that the USA had signalled it would not support the quest for G-4 nations unless they gave up their demand for the veto power.

When asked, State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said: “I think we know that this matter will raise a lot of different views among different nations. We look forward to that discussion. It is a matter of concern.”

The G-4 nations today decided to move a framework resolution in the General Assembly in June, before which they expect to muster the required number in their favour — two-thirds of the 191 UN members.

Diplomats said there was no dilution of their original stand that new permanent members should have veto powers.

Of the six new permanent members, the draft proposes two each from the African and Asian groups and one each from the Latin American and Caribbean states and Western Europe and other states.

The draft proposes an addition of four members to the non-permanent category — one each from the Asian, African, East European, Latin American and the Caribbean states.

A senior diplomat belonging to the Uniting for Consensus group, led by Pakistan and Italy, expressed unhappiness.

Chinese dragon breathes fire



BEIJING, May 17.

— In a setback to India's quest for a permanent seat, China today

criticised the G-4 countries for circulating the draft resolution. “So far we have found that there is a great gap between the core aspects of this draft and the positions of various countries, including China,” the foreign ministry spokesman, Mr Kong Quan, said. “So long as various parties have differences over the concrete reform plan, bringing about a draft hastily will only fuel conflict and undermine the reform programme of the UN,” he said.

China expressed astonishment over reports that appeared in Indian media alleging that Chinese troops had intruded into Indian territory last week. “I feel astonished by your question because of some mixed information. I don't think that the People's Liberation Army will enter the Indian territory,” Mr Kong told reporters. “As for the specifics you mentioned, I have to confirm it,” he said. — **The China Daily/ANN & PTI**

18 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

UN Realities

New world powers must continue their efforts to reform the Security Council

JUDGING by what its officials have been saying on background as well as in public forums, the United States doesn't want India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. It "unambiguously" supports Japan's demand for a permanent seat, as secretary of state Condoleezza Rice made clear in March in Tokyo. When it comes to India's case, the US position is to link the issue with broad UN reform, which is a smart way of saying "Wait your turn, boys". And as far as giving the veto power to any new permanent member, the Americans have ruled out the possibility, a stance that the other four current members of the council happily support. It is clever policy for the Americans to try to create a rift among the four nations — Japan, Germany, Brazil and India — that are carrying out a global campaign to change the patently unfair and outdated global power structure reflected in the composition of the present Security Council. But the four, especially Japan, must not cave in. They are now attempting to garner support of the two-thirds of UN membership required for amending the UN charter and Japan, to its credit, is leading the charge. It has summoned more than 100 of its ambassadors from around the world next week to Tokyo, where they will be asked to lobby their host governments for support at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

The group of four must not only stand firm on permanent membership with veto powers, it should now expand by inviting at least one nation from Africa, perhaps South Africa, to join it. American worries about the council becoming paralysed with 10 veto-empowered nations are overblown. With the presence of the other four existing veto-wielding members, the US has been able to do exactly what it has wanted in pursuit of its global interests; the addition of five more will make little difference. A united stand for veto-wielding council membership by a group of important new powers on the global stage might seem fruitless in the face of US opposition, but it serves notice of an emerging reality in the world. It also is good preparation for a reassessment of relative voice and influence in global organisations, not only in the Security Council but also in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

17 MAY 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

The Indian EXPRESS

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NATIONAL NETWORK

Uma back, says not after post

NEW DELHI: On her return to New Delhi from Amarkantak on Sunday, senior BJP leader Uma Bharati said she had never demanded any post in the party and welcomed the appointment of her detractor, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, as Madhya Pradesh party chief.

Will let you know on UPA, says Maya

NEW DELHI: Under the CBI scanner in a disproportionate assets case, BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday slammed the UPA, saying her party would decide on supporting the government "at the appropriate time."

US to India & rest: give up veto demand or forget it

■ SECURITY COUNCIL | Washington may block new members, fears dilution of US power; it's not an aircraft with first class, economy seats: Japan

JOEL BRINKLEY
WASHINGTON, MAY 15

THE United States has warned four nations campaigning jointly for permanent seats on the UN Security Council that Washington will not support their cause unless they agree not to ask for the veto power that the five current permanent council members hold, senior diplomats and administration officials said.

The four nations—Brazil,

India, Germany and Japan—are unhappy about that position. "The Security Council is not like an aircraft, with first-class, business and economy seats," said Ryozo Kato, Japan's Ambassador to the United States.

The four are plunging ahead with an ambitious worldwide lobbying campaign. Japan has summoned more than 100 ambassadors and chiefs of mission from its embassies around the world to a rally of sorts next week in Tokyo, where Foreign

Minister Nobutaka Machimura will press them to lobby their host governments for support.

Wolfgang Ischinger, the German Ambassador to Washington, said, "I'm sure we are doing the same thing, making sure every one of us knows how we can move this forward."

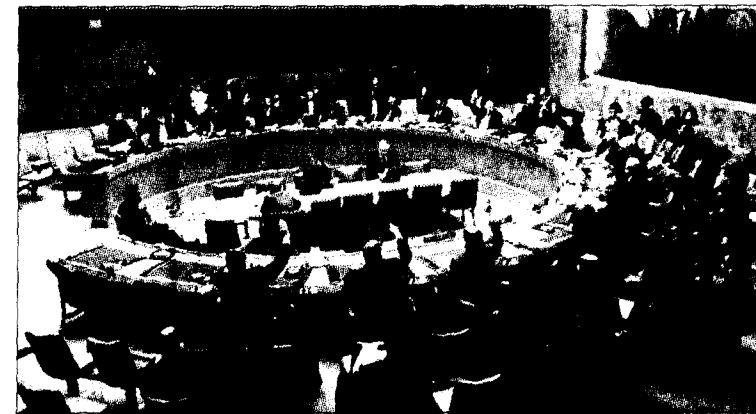
Ronaldo Sardenberg, the Brazilian Ambassador to the United Nations, said, "Our whole diplomatic establishment is mobilised for this."

Speaking to reporters on his flight home from Moscow last

week, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said it was "very important for the United States, given its importance in world affairs, to be supportive of India's aspirations."

Brazil's Sardenberg said his country would propose that the four nations be granted veto power that they could not use for 15 years. In 2020, he said, the United Nations could hold a conference to decide whether to lift the ban on the use of veto power.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



India, Japan, Germany, Brazil lead the charge for permanent seats here

Karat as leader, CPM shifts gears: day-to-day matters not his lookout

■ Divide in Left over attendance at UPA one-year gala bloc meeting tomorrow to take final call



Pranab roughed up by Cong's own over Kolkata poll deal

JAYANTH JACOB
KOLKATA, MAY 15

FOR a few tense minutes

han Bhavan, the state PCC office, to announce the party's list of candidates for the June 19 polls.

But as the Defence Min-

U.S. resists expanding U.N. veto power

Bush administration officials are opposed to giving new members veto power, saying it might paralyse the Security Council.

Joel Brinkley

THE UNITED States has warned four nations campaigning jointly for permanent seats on the U. N. Security Council that Washington will not support their cause unless they agree not to ask for the veto power that the five current permanent council members hold, senior diplomats and administration officials said.

The four nations — Brazil, India, Germany and Japan — are unhappy about that position. "The Security Council is not like an aircraft, with first-class, business and economy seats," said Ryozo Kato, Japan's Ambassador to the United States.

The four are plunging ahead with an ambitious worldwide lobbying campaign. Ronaldo Sardenberg, the Brazilian Ambassador to the United Nations, said his country would propose that the four nations be granted veto power that they could not use for 15 years. In 2020, he said, the United Nations could hold a conference to decide whether to lift the ban on the use of veto power. The four need the support of 128 nations, two-thirds of the United Nations' 191 members, to amend the U.N. charter. The issue is scheduled to come up for a vote during the September meeting of the General Assembly, which will attract more than 100 world leaders.

Besides the four countries pooling their efforts, three African nations — Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa — are conducting vigorous individual campaigns for some of the six new permanent seats proposed in March by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The purpose of the change is to have the council reflect the current balance of global power better than is the case with the original five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 members elected to two-year terms.

The proposal Mr. Annan offered the General Assembly would expand the 15-member council to 24 members, with the six new permanent members not having vetoes, and three new two-year spots for rotating members.

One reason these leaders may be campaigning on the other side of the world is that, in this effort, no nation can count on its neighbours. Argentina and Mexico oppose Brazil. Japan is facing serious opposition from North and South Korea, as well as from China, where tens of

thousands of protesters took part in angry anti-Japan demonstrations last month.

Italy opposes Germany, while Pakistan is trying to block India.

The United States' view on the group's effort remains uncertain, leading some diplomats to worry that Washington may actually oppose expanding the Security Council because it would dilute American power.

Fuelling that view, Shirin Tahir-Kheli, a special adviser to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on U.N. reform, told the General Assembly last month that the United States "would like to move forward on the basis of broad consensus." But predicating anything at the United Nations on such a consensus can be read as a formula for inaction.

The one clear statement to come from Washington is the warning about veto power. Administration officials said they were opposed to giving new members veto power, out of concern that it might paralyse the Security Council.

On the broader question of U.S. support, Rice has sent conflicting signals. On one hand, during a visit to Tokyo in March she said "the United States unambiguously supports a permanent seat for Japan on the United Nations Security Council." But when asked about seats for India and Brazil during visits there, she offered statements nearly identical to each other in their evasiveness.

"We will look at the issue of Security Council reform, but it should not get separated out from broad U.N. reform, because we want this institution to be as strong as possible, and you are not going to get as strong as possible an institution unless you restrengthen all parts of it," she said in Brasilia last month.

The Bush administration's ability to block the four nations is indirect. If 128 Assembly members vote to allow them to join the Security Council, council members must accept that decision. But then they must submit the revised charter to their governments for ratification. The Bush administration could simply withhold the treaty from the Senate, meaning it would not take effect.

Most of the diplomats say they think none of the five permanent Security Council members would be willing to defy the view of two-thirds of the world. Still, leaders of the four nations say they remain only cautiously optimistic of their ultimate success. —New York Times News Service

BEIJING BLOCKS G-4 GOAL

Coffee, tea... but no UNSC

FTI & SNS

UN 5/11 195 ✓

UNHQ, May 10. — A behind-the-scenes meeting pulling in envoys of India, Japan, Germany and Brazil — known as G-4 collectively — with the Coffee Club (led by Pakistan and Italy) to narrow down differences over expanding the UN Security Council not only failed to make any headway, it also saw the Coffee Club nations flaunting China's support for their effort to block the G-4 gaining permanent seats, even without a veto. While the two sides decided to continue the dialogue after the hour-long meeting yesterday, the major highlight was the claim by the Uniting for Consensus group — nicknamed the Coffee Club — that they now had the support of China.

While the G-4 nations are seeking permanent seats on the Security Council, the Uniting for Consensus group is opposed to an expansion of the permanent membership. Diplomats remained pessimistic about the outcome of the continuing dialogue. Especially, after Coffee Club members quoted South Korean Ambassador Mr Kim Sam-hoon, a member of the Club's core group along with Pakistan and Italy, as having said that though the group might have only 12 or 13 members, it now has half of the population, economy and territory on its side. Though he did not name China, the reference was very clear, a diplomat said.

Asked whether Mr Kim's tone was threatening, a diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "Well, he was making a strong point."

Questioned what the agenda would be next time they met, a diplomat shot back, "Was there any agenda this time?" India, Japan, Germany and Brazil want the expansion in both permanent and non-permanent memberships of the Council but Uniting for Consensus advocates an expansion only in the non-permanent category.

India has all along been demanding a permanent membership of the UN Security Council with the veto power, but Mr Kofi Annan said during his visit to New Delhi that the grant of it was highly unlikely. New Delhi has been strongly advocating the need for UN reforms so that it reflects contemporary realities, making the world body more relevant and effective.

1 MAY 2005

12 MAY 2005

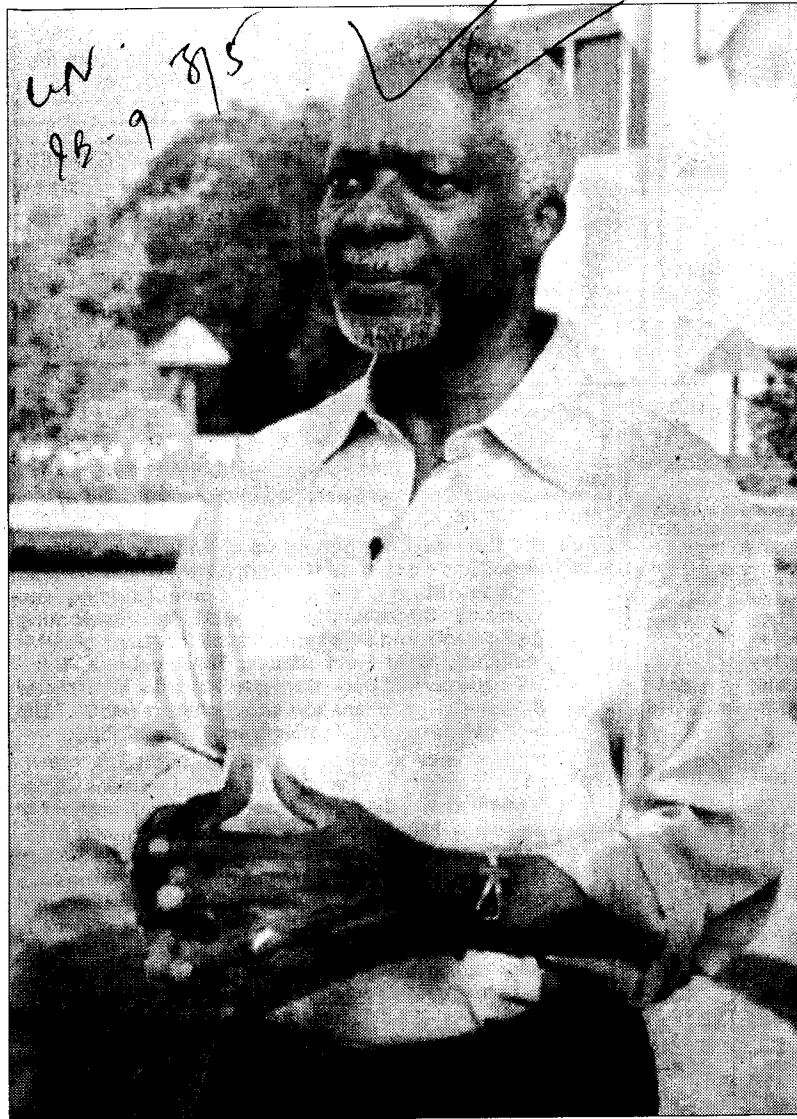
THE STATESMAN

'India is often mentioned (on Security Council membership) but a decision will have to be taken'

Kofi Annan is the seventh UN Secretary General and the first Black African to be appointed to the post. First elected to the post in 1997 and now serving his second term, Annan has presided over a tumultuous period in the history of the UN, when in the aftermath of the US actions in Afghanistan and Iraq, the relevance, jurisdiction, indeed even the much-vaunted moral power of the UN has been called into question.

ON THE RECORD
KOFI ANNAN
UN Secretary General

Annan has steered the UN with steadfast calmness, calling for wide-ranging reform and pushing towards newer initiatives in combating poverty, discrimination and HIV/AIDS. During his visit to India recently, Annan tells SHEKHAR GUPTA, Editor-in-Chief of *The Indian Express*, on NDTV 24X7's *Walk The Talk* that next year, when he leaves his post, he hopes to hand over a stronger and more dynamic UN to his successor



others. There are times when they will work with other countries in the region to attain their objectives, or with a broader United Nations. But what is important is for governments to realise that in certain situations, the collective interest is the national interest and to accept that by working collectively with others, you are not giving up your sovereignty.

■ You don't see this as a threat to the UN, you just see this as a part of change?
As a part of change in the sense that you cannot force governments which approach to take. On certain issues, they will take unilateral or bilateral, which is fine, but what is important is on those issues in an interdependent world, where many problems we're dealing with cannot be resolved by any one country, regardless of how powerful, they have to accept the need to work with others.

■ The US versus the UN, is this an uneven equation?
The US is a powerful country, it is a superpower. But it also realises there are many issues that it cannot act alone. I think relationships go through peaks and troughs and there are times when we have excellent relations, we've had excellent relations over a long period and then of course some issue like Iraq comes up and the divisions that emerge create a situation where the Americans feel the UN and the international community have not supported, but I think those divisions are beginning to heal.

■ Secretary-General, it's been a tough two years for you, personally in the UN. You think now, everything is clear, you're in the clear, or you think some shadow still hangs about oil-for-food, about your son.

Yes, well the Volcker commission, which I set up because we wanted to get to the bottom of this and get to the truth, will produce its final report in June. And that report would deal with also the bigger issue of the role of the Security Council, the governments involved, oil smuggling and I think that will put things in perspective and people will understand what went wrong with the programme.

■ But you have said two things, one that the smuggling, whatever happened happened under American and British watch. And second, you also expressed disappointment with your son a little bit?

I did, because as a father I was surprised by some of the things I discovered which I didn't know about.

■ But you only discovered them later. Yes, he hadn't discussed it with me. And so I have spoken to him about it and of course as Secretary-General and as a father it was a painful period. And the past three years have been, it started with the war in Iraq, the divisions in Iraq and of course the attack on the UN staff in Iraq. Wonderful friends and colleagues, some of them had worked with me for 25 years, were blown away, and of course, I sent them there to help deal with the aftermath of the war, based on Security Council resolutions.

■ Two tough years and another year and a half to go. What are your three big objectives, besides, of course keeping on working on your remarkable fitness?

I would want to be able to see the reforms through, the reforms that are on the table. I would want to be able to see that we have set on track and in motion collective and individual national actions to implement the Millennium Development goals. That the fight against poverty is on the highest agenda of every government. That the fight against HIV/AIDS is also getting the attention it deserves, because HIV is not just a health problem, it's an economic and social problem.

■ And I suppose to repair the credibility of the UN as an institution in a genuinely post-Cold War, post-9/11 world.

Absolutely and I think that will come if we all do the work we are supposed to do and focus on the constructive work that we are doing. And each staff member, as I tell them, do what they are assigned to do and really see us working as hard as they can to support the peoples of the world that we assist to serve and to hold the ideals of the United Nations. I think the oil-for-food has been a problem and a setback, but I also think that it has been exploited and exaggerated and has been put out of context. And I think some of our critics, quite honestly, have gone beyond the zone of all reasonableness.

■ So when you hand over to your successor at the end of next year, will you hand over a stronger UN than that you had inherited or a weaker UN?

I hope I will hand over a UN that is stronger, a UN that is seen or accepted as working a little better than it was when I took it over.

■ Do you support India's bid for permanent membership to the Security Council?

I think we've had a very fruitful and wonderful relationship with the Indian government and the Indian people and I would perhaps even consider India one of our model member states, both in terms of the intellectual contribution to peace-keeping operations and all the activities of the UN and of course, we are discussing the reform of the Security Council. Almost everyone agrees that the Council needs to be reformed, that the structure reflects the realities of 1945 and the world has changed. There are lots of discussions and negotiations going on amongst the members states and of course India is one of the countries which is often mentioned, but the decision will have to be taken by the members.

■ But in the new realities of this world, India has a place which cannot be denied to it.

India is an important country and plays an important role in this region and around the world. And I'm sure as member states discuss the future of the organisation and how to restructure the Security Council, these factors will be taken (into consideration)

■ What is the ideal reform? I know that many views will come in, many constraints will come in, but if you were doing it by executive order, what would you do?

Well, we have a rather broad agenda. We are focusing a lot on economic development and the need to fight poverty, so we are coming up with suggestions and proposals on how to implement the Millennium Development goals by the tar-

panded to make it more representative and more democratic and if we were to do that, it would gain greater legitimacy.

■ And the concept of veto, you think, it still remains relevant?

Well...

■ Particularly when all five are together now.

Yeah...Many would want to remove the veto, but it's extremely difficult, those who have that privilege are not going to give it up. I think most people would prefer to remove the veto rather than create new ones. So I don't see any possibility of creating new vetoes. Nor any possibility of removing the vetoes which...

■ What would you prefer? Tell me what you would write in your memoirs two years hence on the question of the veto. Would you prefer that it was removed or you think it's important, it gives stability, a centre of gravity to the UN?

I think it's more than a question of preference, in the sense that one of the reasons why some of these governments, the US and others, joined the organisation and we haven't gone the way of the League of Nations, was the assurance that they will get a veto. And so at this stage it's not going to be realistic to remove the veto. What people have discussed is how do you constrain the use of the veto? Would it be possible, for example, to suggest that for any issue to be vetoed, two or three of the permanent members must vote for it, you know? Or for them to agree that on certain issues, none of them would use a veto. Those are the kinds of discussions that are...

■ You know, today it doesn't look like such a big deal, the business of the veto.

and everybody is looking to secure national resource space and energy.

■ If I can drag you in what is actually an Indian internal debate a little bit, but it's a nice debate. We've always aspired to this global power status in India, we think we deserve it, we've earned it.

I think a whole ensemble, a whole collection of attributes makes India what it is and allows it to play the role it has played in this world.

■ And do those attributes include India's nuclear weapon status?

I think most people would say yes.

■ What would you say? What would the Secretary-General say?

You wouldn't expect the Secretary-General to encourage nuclear proliferation, would you?

■ On Indian soil? You are coming to India now after four years. Would you be disappointed by a sort of prickly relationship that India has with the UN and also with you, in a way? We had difficult years.

No, it's also part of the nature of the work. I've always managed to work very effectively with all my, all the member states, including India. There are times when you go through patches, but on the whole, my relationship with India has been good and I'm very happy to be able to come back here and have very constructive discussions on a whole range of issues.

■ You deal with heads of state all the time, you've dealt with them for many, many years now. Where would you place General Musharraf? Give me the Secretary-General's three-line analysis on this very interesting leader.

No, he's a dynamic leader. He's a leader who wants to make a change in his society. He's a leader who seems determined to try and improve the India-Pakistan relationship. From my discussions with him over the years, I am convinced he is sincere and I was very happy to see him and Prime Minister Singh tackle the issues the way they did and in a frank, open friendly manner. Musharraf is sincere in his search for peace.

■ But is he the kind of leader who sometimes surprises a seasoned diplomat like you, because he seems to say what's on his mind. Sometimes he bats ahead of his time, I won't say league, but he seems to talk ahead of what the audience is prepared for very many times.

No, he's very frank, he says what he wants, he's also very confident.

■ Has he ever complained to you that the UN did not deliver from Pakistan's point of view on the Kashmir issue.

We've had that discussion with him and other leaders about India, about UN not implementing its own resolutions and that these resolutions are to be implemented, you cannot be selective, but then he moves on.

■ Well, he has moved on, because you know, he's not talking about those resolutions now
Exactly.

■ In fact, the line coming out of Pakistan is that those are ossified in time or frozen in time and let's get a move on.

I have often said even if you have resolutions, the two countries concerned have to talk, the two countries concerned have to agree on how to move forward. These resolutions are not self-enforcing, you need cooperation and partnership to make it happen. And this is precisely what is happening today — without this development, without the contact between the Indian leaders and without the new awareness amongst the people, I have the sense that the peoples of both countries are ready for change. They are ready for thaw in the relationship.

Musharraf is a dynamic leader. He is a leader who wants to make a change in his society. He's a leader who seems determined to try and improve the India-Pakistan relationship



get date of 2015 and encouraging the developing world, the developed world to increase their development assistance, debt relief, deeper and more meaningful debt relief and also when we conclude the Doha Round, make sure that the developing countries get a fair stake in the world trading system.

■ And on the Security Council?

On the Security Council...let me back up and say that we are not only looking at the Security Council, we are also looking at how we strengthen the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. On the Security Council there are two proposals — each would raise the numbers from 15 to 24. One option, let's call it option A, would create six new permanent members without a veto and the other option would create semi-permanent members who will sit for four years, but...

■ And rotate?

And rotate. But they can be renewed without a gap. They can be re-elected without a gap, so that would be rotation. The permanent ones, of course, without veto will be permanent and continue their work on the Council. Of course, there are some countries who believe if you rotate, many more countries get a chance to sit on the Council.

■ Then that defeats the purpose.

Others argue that what you want is to get countries that contribute a lot to the UN and to the international community joining the Council on a permanent basis to be able to make a contribution to the Council. But apart from that, I personally believe that the Council has to be ex-

But if the world changes again, if you have rivalries again, US, China, for example, China, Japan in a reformed Security Council, somebody and India.

The world has evolved and the relationship that has developed amongst nations and I've been very happy to come to India at this time, at a time when you are making progress on all fronts, in fact I'm saying peace is breaking out around India. In your relations with Pakistan, I think the talks were very, very productive with the prime minister of China, augurs well for peace in this region and stability in the region.

■ You talk about big powers. Have you seen the definition of big power change in your tenure? Or in your times of watching international relations.

The world has changed. There are other big players on the scene now. When you look back as to who were the big players in 1945 and compare it with today's world, there are additional countries that cannot be ignored.

■ Even in the last 10-15 years, you know, from just the megatonnage of your nuclear stockpiles to per capita income, trade surpluses, foreign exchange reserves, the whole equation has changed.

In fact, you are looking at countries like India and China and to some extent, Brazil, which have a real, have taken on real importance in global trade and their political role in the world. People talk a lot about oil prices, demand for natural resources and they all turn to your region. That's because of the demand from China and to some extent, India,

The past three years have been a painful period. It started with the war in Iraq, the divisions in Iraq and then the attack on the UN staff in Iraq. Wonderful friends and colleagues, some of them had worked with me for 25 years, were blown away and of course, I sent them there to help deal with the aftermath of the war, based on the Security Council resolutions

■ So 50 years of resolutions being frozen, do you think it was a failure on the part of the UN system or do you think the Indian view that things had happened over time to change the basic situation had merit?

I wouldn't say that it was a failure on the side of the UN. I think any attempt to solve a conflict is worthwhile and one should make every effort where possible to resolve conflicts peacefully. But of course, it takes two to tango. The protagonists have to be ready and prepared to take certain steps. Until they are ready, you cannot enforce it from the outside. And I think now the time seems to be right and both countries and the peoples of both countries...

■ There's a saying in the subcontinent which we and the Pakistanis share. Miya bivi raazi to kya karega Kazi — it means if the husband and wife settle it, what does the kazi have to do with it?

Exactly, exactly. This is it. So we always prefer that it can be done by the parties directly or in some situations, regional organisations get in and the closer you can solve to the point of conflict, the better it is. If the regions can, if the regional organisation can do it we don't complain. We do not play monopoly over all conflicts.

■ So you now celebrate the fact that India and Pakistan are moving ahead bilaterally?

Oh, absolutely. I think it's wonderful, it's exciting and it has our full support.

■ The UN is not there in a competitive situation.

The US is a powerful country, it is a superpower. I think relationships go through peaks and troughs and there are times when we have excellent relations, we've had excellent relations over a long period and then of course some issue like Iraq comes up and the divisions that emerge create a situation where the Americans feel the UN and the international community have not supported, but I think those divisions are beginning to heal



Breathe life into N-pact: Annan

United Nations, May 2 (Reuters): UN secretary-general Kofi Annan challenged world leaders today to breathe life into a key nuclear disarmament treaty, with new countries acquiring dangerous weapons and nuclear powers slow to disarm.

Annan opened a month-long conference on the 1970 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty that appeared deadlocked before it began, with the US wanting the focus on Iran and North Korea's nuclear programmes.

The 188 members of the treaty, the cornerstone in arms reduction treaties, meet every five years to review progress and set new goals. Only the US, Russia, Britain, France and China are permit-

ted to have nuclear arms while all other countries vow to give up atomic warheads for good.

But most nations complain that the nuclear powers, mainly the US and Russia, have moved far too slowly in abiding by the NPT, which calls for them to move toward dismantling their arsenals.

Iran threatened today to resume producing nuclear fuel. And North Korea, which said it has nuclear weapons and withdrew from the NPT, on the eve of the conference apparently launched a short-range missile into the Sea of Japan, adding to tensions.

In his remarks, Annan corrected the threat of a nuclear catastrophe: "Imagine, just for a minutes what the consequences would be. Tens,

if not hundreds, of thousands of people would perish in an instant."

The secretary-general said withdrawal from the treaty by any country needed to be addressed or "the most basic collective reassurance on which the treaty rests will be called into serious question."

On the Iranian problem, he said that "states that wish to exercise their undoubted right to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must not insist that they can only do so by developing capacities that might be used to create nuclear weapons."

Despite resolutions and treaties, Annan said the world could not afford to be complacent. "The plain fact is that the regime has not kept pace with

the march of technology and globalisation, and developments of many kinds in recent years have placed it under great stress," he said.

A host of foreign ministers have arrived for the conference, which ends on May 27, including Iran's Kamal Kharrazi, who has scheduled private meetings with Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

But North Korea won't attend, India and Pakistan, which have nuclear weapons, and Israel, assumed to also have atomic arms, have not signed the treaty. The Bush administration, which has also scorned a nuclear test-ban treaty, is sending a mid-level delegation.



Secretary-general Kofi Annan at the United Nations. (Reuters)

UN T-4 785

A veto proposal for Japan and India

India, Japan, and other aspirants to permanent membership of the Security Council would be naïve to imagine others would support extension of the veto power.

Siddharth Varadarajan

INDIA AND Japan are tilting at windmills in demanding that the enlargement of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) include extension of the veto to the proposed new permanent members. Apart from being unrealistic, the demand for veto power shows the two countries have not correctly understood the reason why the majority of the world wants the Security Council to be reformed in the first place. Most nations — barring a handful like Israel who have been the beneficiary of vetoes — consider the veto power of the five existing permanent members (P-5) to be profoundly undemocratic. India, Japan and other aspirants to permanent status would be naïve to imagine that others would support the extension of this privilege to a handful of rising powers.

Indeed, the greater the emphasis on the veto, the greater will be the suspicion that what Japan and India are really after is not the democratisation of the U.N. but their own accommodation in an unequal set-up. All states look to further their interest and it is hardly surprising that India and Japan would seek to do the same. But what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Other countries, too, will look out for what's best for them. And there is no doubt that medium-sized or small countries will back Model B — which adds eight new semi-permanent members with four-year terms but no new permanent ones. Given the high degree of consensus with which the African Union operates, virtually every state in Africa can nurture the hope of becoming a semi-permanent member for at least one term of four years. And in Latin America, Europe and Asia too, many countries would feel they have a fair chance of occupying a Model B seat at some point. In contrast, Model A gives them nothing. Indeed, getting Model A past the U.N. general Assembly will be a tough enough task for the G-4 without them muddying the waters by demanding the veto. What India and Japan need to do is make a virtue of out of necessity by building on the world's opposition to the veto and proposing that the UNGA demand its abolition. Once the P-5 oppose this, as they surely will, a compromise formula should be proposed whereby the ability of the non-permanent, non-veto wielding members to restrain the UNSC from acting in particular ways is strengthened.

The 'veto power' exercised by the P-5 flows directly from Article 27 of the U.N. Charter, which specifies the voting procedure for adopting resolutions. Decisions on "procedural matters" are made by an affirmative vote of nine (out of 15) but "on other matters" the affirmative vote of nine must include the "concurring votes of the permanent members." Though the veto is wielded much less today than it was during the Cold War,

Security Council expansion

There are two options, both of which increase the size of the Security Council from 15 to 24

Model A:

Induct six new Permanent Members — two each from Asia and Africa, one each from Europe and the Americas — and three new non-permanent members.

For: The G-4 (India, Japan, Germany, Brazil) and South Africa.

Against: The 'Coffee Club' of 40 mid-size countries led by Italy, Pakistan, Argentina, Mexico, South Korea, Spain.

Subtle opponents: China, U.S.

Model B:

Induct eight 'semi-permanent' members with a renewable term of four years and one new non-permanent member.

All those countries opposed to Model A are backing Model B but the G-4 is against this model.

the power to block resolutions is still routinely exercised. The worst offender, of course, is the U.S., which is responsible for 70 per cent of vetoes cast since 1986, most of them to bail out Israel. The two Chinese vetoes — of U.N. observers to Guatemala and a U.N. force for Macedonia — were linked entirely to these two countries recognising Taiwan. Correctly understood, the veto is not so much a positive power as a negative one: A country with a veto only acquires the power to restrain the UNSC from acting in a particular manner. In order to pass a resolution, however, a permanent member must convince (or arm-twist) at least eight other members to vote yes. As the failure of the U.S. to win support for its illegal invasion of Iraq in February 2003 demonstrated, this is not always an easy matter.

Curiously, none of the models for UNSC enlargement have suggested what the number of votes needed should be for a resolution to be passed. A *pro rata* application of the current 9 out of 15 ratio would suggest that at least 15 positive votes are needed to get a resolution passed in a council of 24. India and Japan should propose that if the P-5 are not willing to give up their veto power, they should at least agree to raise the bar for a resolution — especially Chapter VII resolutions authorising sanctions, the use of force or the prosecution of cases in the International Criminal Court — to 18 or 19 positive votes. This way, resolutions dealing with international peace and security would require a higher degree of consensus and reduce the ability of the P-5 to get the UNSC to act in a partisan or politicised manner.

This would still be an imperfect solution. But were India and Japan to steer the debate in this direction, they would find greater support for their candidature in an enlarged Council.

29 APR 2005

THE HINDU

India and the problem of U.N. reform

There's a lot more to discuss with Secretary-General Kofi Annan than just a permanent seat in the Security Council.

Siddharth Varadarajan

WHEN THE United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, meets Indian leaders this week to discuss the ambitious agenda for reform of the world body outlined by him in a landmark report last month, he will find his hosts almost singularly pre-occupied with one issue: the expansion of the U.N. Security Council.

Though this is unfortunate, it is not surprising. Mr. Annan's report, "In Larger Freedom," contains many other suggestions — both good and bad — which can affect India's interests in a number of ways. There may be unease in New Delhi at the expanding prerogatives of the Security Council on issues such as the use of force, proliferation, and intervention, for instance, but successive governments have tended to take the view that these concerns can be dealt with once India makes it to the high table that is permanent membership.

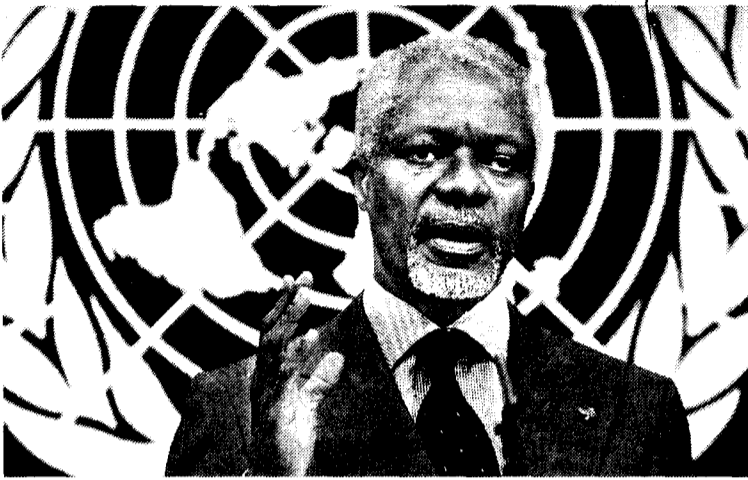
Whatever reservations an oversensitive Government might have had about Mr. Annan in the past, the Secretary-General is seen as an ally in this quest for a permanent seat. Though the formal debate on the expansion of Security Council membership began in 1997 with the proposal for the induction of five new permanent members without veto by Razali Ismail — who was President of the General Assembly at the time — it is only with Mr. Annan's appointment of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change in 2004 that the drive for expansion has moved into top gear. Indeed, by asking member states to take a decision on this in time for the U.N. summit of world leaders in September 2005, Mr. Annan is clearly hurrying the process along. And while his report calls for consensus, Indian officials were pleased to note that it also says failure to reach a consensus "must not become an excuse for postponing action."

So far, Mr. Annan has remained agnostic about the two proposals outlined in his report (see box), though the Indian Government would ideally like him to throw his weight behind Model A. This, of course, is unlikely to happen because there is a genuine and even bitter divide between countries on this question. Italy, Pakistan, Mexico, South Korea and others claim to have brought together more than 40 countries under their 'Uniting for Consensus' banner in opposition to Model A. Some of these countries oppose particular candidates for permanent membership; others feel they would have a better chance at representation under Model B.

While the two proposals for expanding the membership of the Security Council have generated the most excitement — and heartburn — around the world, including India, there has regrettably been virtually no debate on a whole raft of equally controversial proposals being made by Mr. Annan.

Ostensibly a product of the standoff between the United States and the U.N. in the run-up to the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003, Mr. Annan's report represents an effort to

KOFI ANNAN'S AGENDA



<p>KEY PROPOSALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hike foreign aid by rich countries to 0.7 per cent of GDP by 2015. ● Duty-free/quota-free access to all exports from least developed countries. ● Define terrorism as, <i>inter alia</i>, any action that kills or injures civilians. ● Stringent IAEA verification of nuclear plants through adoption of Additional Protocol. ● Restraints on uranium enrichment, plutonium separation for peaceful uses. ● Support U.S. led Proliferation Security Initiative to intercept ships on high seas. ● Adopt Security Council resolution on conditions under which use of force is allowed. ● Support International Criminal Court. ● All countries should sign/ratify international treaties relating to protection of civilians. ● Embrace 'emerging norm' on 'collective responsibility to protect' and be ready to intervene. 	<p>OPPOSED BY</p> <p>United States and most western countries outside of Scandinavia and Benelux.</p> <p>United States.</p> <p>Most West Asian countries, fearing dilution of right to resist Israeli occupation.</p> <p>India, Pakistan, Israel.</p> <p>Mainly Iran, Brazil, Algeria, but also Germany, Japan, India, Pakistan.</p> <p>China, Iran, North Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia.</p> <p>United States, Britain.</p> <p>India, United States, China.</p> <p>India (Torture Convention), U.S. (Geneva Convention Additional Protocols).</p> <p>Countries concerned about sovereignty, double standards.</p>
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overhaul the structure, direction and even legal architecture of the U.N. and its organs and agencies so as to make them more relevant to the problems of today and more effective in dealing with the problems. The report distils many of the observations and recommendations made by the High-Level Panel into a more manageable and, in some respects, politically acceptable set of proposals. However, barring some recommendations — such as the creation of an Integrated Peacebuilding Commission to help war-torn countries create viable new institutions, or the establishment of a democracy fund — several proposals, though eminently reasonable, have not found favour with one or several influential member-states. (See box)

Conceptual flaw

On the use of force, Mr. Annan's report correctly notes that the U.N. Charter is flexible enough to allow states to defend themselves under a wide variety of circumstances. Article 51 gives countries the right to defend themselves against an imminent threat, and latent but not imminent threats can still be responded to with force provided the Security Council approves it. In suggesting that any decision to authorise the use of force be based on four criteria — (i) the seriousness of threat, (ii) purpose of action, (iii) principle of proportionality, and

(iv) chances of success — the report is attempting to ensure the Security Council does not act out of purely political considerations.

However, its recommendation that the Security Council adopt a resolution setting out these principles is unlikely to be accepted by the U.S.

If there is one conceptual flaw in the report, it is the failure to recognise that the credibility problem of the Security Council stems not just from its "ineffectiveness" or unrepresentative character but from its lack of accountability. At a time when the Security Council's prerogatives seem to be expanding at a fast pace, there also needs to be some effective institutional mechanism for reviewing — if not restraining — the exercise of power by the Council. For example, the Algerian jurist and former President of the International Court of Justice, Mohammed Bedjaoui, has suggested that member-states should have the right to seek a judicial review by the ICJ of an Security Council resolution which affects them. And the former U.N. Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, had advocated greater reliance by the General Assembly on Article 96 of the U.N. Charter in order to refer to the ICJ "questions concerning the consistency of resolutions adopted by U.N. bodies with the Charter of the United Nations".

On two other issues, too, Mr. Annan's re-

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All those countries opposed to Model A are backing Model B but the G-4 is against this model.

port needs to be widely debated in India before its proposals are adopted.

The discussion on the problem of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is lopsided, focussing exclusively on the tightening of dual-use technologies rather than seeking new mechanisms to restrain the development of new types of nuclear weapons and missiles (including missile defence systems) by the U.S. and other big powers.

Mr. Annan calls on all states to adopt the model Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (thereby accepting full-scope safeguards) and accept restraints on the development of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation technologies.

These might well be necessary, but non-nuclear NPT members should not give up their right to develop civilian technologies without the nuclear weapons states giving up something in exchange. Similarly, the report's endorsement of the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative — in which the U.S. and its allies give themselves the right to interdict ships on the high seas suspected of carrying illicit nuclear, biological or chemical cargoes — is a little surprising. One would have thought the U.N. Secretary General would advocate the use of a U.N. or multilateral forum for the negotiation of any new instrumentality.

Simply stating that the Conference on Disarmament "faces a crisis of relevance" because of "dysfunctional decision-making procedures" is not good enough. Mr. Annan should have come up with proposals to increase the CD's effectiveness.

Finally, on the question of terrorism, Mr. Annan has done well to produce a working definition of terrorism that should be acceptable to all: "Any action constitutes terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a Government or an international organisation to do or abstain from doing any act."

However, his attempt to set aside the objection that "state terrorism" be excluded from this purview because states are regulated by other laws such as the Geneva Convention is problematic. As Palestinians, Iraqis and others have found out, accountability for the wrongful use of force by states (by Israel or the U.S. and others) is very poorly regulated and enforced.

WV Annan comes to India, reforms in UN to top talks agenda 862 2/5/04

Secretary General To Meet Prime Minister, President, Sonia, Advani

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 25 APRIL

WITH India focused sharply on its claim for a permanent membership in the United Nations (UN) Security Council, the issue of reforms in the world body will be the key agenda in discussions with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who reached here on Monday night on a four-day visit.

Mr Annan's official parleys with the Indian leadership begins from Wednesday, to which considerable significance is being attached since the issue of UN reforms will be taken up in the Millennium Review Summit in New York this September.

Last week in Jakarta, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh set the stage for extensive discussions on the subject when he said Africa and Asia didn't have the voice in international bodies commensurate to their size. Mr Annan, too, was present at the Indonesian capital. In advocating the need for reforms of the UN, New Delhi has consistently argued that it should reflect contemporary realities and make the world body



GUEST OF HONOUR: Kofi Annan & his wife at New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

more relevant and effective.

On Wednesday morning, officials led by Union external affairs minister K. Natwar Singh will sit with Mr Annan and his team to put across the Indian viewpoint. Mr Singh will take the help of a report that Mr Annan recently released. The report, titled "In Larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development And Human Rights For All", contains suggestions in the areas of development, security, human rights and reform of the UN system.

India has been making concerted efforts over the last few

years to garner support for its claim to become a member of the exclusive P-5 club of the UNSC. Three of the five countries — Russia, Great Britain and France — have supported India's claim for a permanent membership. China, on the other hand, has said India should play a larger role in the world body but has stopped shy of extending support for permanent membership. The US, though, is opposed to the idea.

New Delhi's initiative for a draft comprehensive convention on international terror-

ism is also expected to be taken up in the discussions. India had tabled this draft in 1996. In his report, Mr Annan strongly urged that a comprehensive convention on terrorism be concluded before the end of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly.

Mr Annan, who has visited India thrice in the past, will call on President APJ Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition L.K. Advani. In his parleys, the UN secretary general will also be appraised of the situation in South Asia and the improving relations with Pakistan.

Significantly, Mr Annan's proclivity to play the mediator's role in the Jammu and Kashmir issue had led to some coldness of ties with New Delhi. He was virtually turned away when he expressed a desire to visit South India in the wake of the December 26 tsunami disaster and had to go back after touring Sri Lanka. Mr Annan will be holding internal meetings with UN staffers and aid groups working on prevention of HIV/AIDS in India, the UN office here said in a statement.

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For more substance

The security council does not need more veto power but more members representing a variety of opinions, says N.J. Nanporia

A curious thing about the United Nations is that it has existed for sixty years without a definite identity. Sometimes the focus is on the general assembly, sometimes on one of its many do-good agencies and sometimes on the peace-keeping blue berets. Yet in none of these varying and flexible identities has the UN been recognized as an organization which is independent of its membership. This membership of 192 nations constitutes the general assembly, only two-thirds of which can sanction a change in the security council, a matter subject to intense rivalries, manipulation, horse-trading and regionalism. Where is then the UN's centre of power that moves, directs and shapes its decisions?

A process of elimination leads us to the security council with its 15 members. Eliminate the ten rotating members and we have the five veto-holding major powers. List them according to the clout they wield and there is Bush's America right on top. All of this, of course, has been obvious since 1945, but never openly acknowledged. That is till John Bolton, the recent Bush appointee as US envoy to the UN, jocularly announced that America was the sole member of the world organization.

Despite piously expressing support for the UN, the United States of America has been a prime UN-baiter. Its refrain has been that the UN is impotent, that it is dead, that it is "tarnished" by scandals, that it has been marginalized and that it is presumptuous in its belief that it has authority over the American people without their consent. This attitude is evident in the unilateralism that once enabled George W. Bush to brush aside the security council and launch an illegal attack on Iraq. Reports from Iraq show that Iraqis are often unable to distinguish UN operations from the overall US presence in the country. Kofi Annan presented the problem pithily when he said, "The UN hasn't power unless those who have it switch it through the UN as a matter of choice."

Under increasing pressure on the issue of weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein had produced a 12,000-page dossier for the UN. An intense campaign started soon by the US forced the then Colombian president of the security council to "hand over control of the document to Washington". On the face of



Misreading the response

it, the hapless Colombian leader and the security council were blamed. But the moving force had been Bush's America. This fact is glossed over, including by the US itself.

Not that the US has always had its way. Sometimes the secretary-general does things that go against its interests. Also sometimes, the other veto-holding permanent powers become obstructive. There is, however, always instant display of American ire and hints of retaliation. The common interests of the big four also prevents them from not taking the sole superpower into account. The moral of story is that the ongoing dialogue on UN reforms is entirely academic unless it faces up to what Pervez Musharraf would call the core issue — that the US policy is to use the UN as a fig leaf when it can or bash it as something "out there" when it can't.

The UN is declared a basket case until circumstances bring it back into favour. So UN reforms must logically begin in the US, in the White House, in the presidential office, and essentially, in the president's mind. And Bush's nomination of Bolton is the

answer we have got so far. A council resolution, tailored to suit the US interest, is adopted and becomes the touchstone by which a nation is arbitrarily judged. Other resolutions which the US does not bother to veto on Israel for one — are ignored. It is a situation one would be advised to ignore.

Against this extremely maladjusted background, what is New Delhi's position? Does it accept that the persistent insinuation that it is for Kofi Annan to reform the UN is a colossal lie? Or does it recognize that the proposals for reform and the aspirations of nations, including India, to be a permanent member of the council have become dangerously intermixed? Changing the council composition will not necessarily make the UN more effectual. Nor is anything to be gained by viewing the veto as a status symbol. Another veto added to the existing five will do nothing to improve the fragile cohesion the UN has managed to preserve. It will only increase the negative capacity of the council. Moreover, does any power currently agitating for permanent

membership with the veto envisage using it against any of the original five? To ask this question is also to ask whether New Delhi has thought out the implications of its refusal to join the council without the veto. What the council needs is not more vetos but more permanent members, able and willing, to bring before the council points of view that have either been ignored so far or been poorly presented. More and varied opinions will, hopefully, give the council the force and substance it has lacked in the past — a lack that has reduced it to what some call a "lackey" of the US.

Recasting the council will be a long, complicated process, the end result of which is anyone's guess. Which is why so many countries, inclined to flatter India without much cost to themselves, have "pledged" support for India's candidacy though carefully saying nothing about the veto. Yet New Delhi trumpets its aspirations from the roof-top. The undisguised glee with which New Delhi claimed Beijing's endorsement of India's candidacy reflects, at worst, a misreading of China's position and, at best, a misplaced enthusiasm for its self-appointed cause.

China shares with the US and Russia the view that consensus is the only acceptable way of determining the shape of the council to come. Which firmly puts the assembly back to where it belongs. Manmohan Singh has spoken of discrimination. But discrimination has been at the heart of the UN since 1945 and to pretend otherwise is to misinterpret the world body in the interests of what appears to be a preoccupation with national prestige.

The position Manmohan Singh has taken does not suggest that the ministry of external affairs has applied its collective mind to the problem. No surprise that K. Natwar Singh failed to get Bush's endorsement of India's candidacy. That he ever thought that he could is an index of how out of touch he is.

"Hell, no", was Kofi Annan's answer to the question whether he would resign. It is the answer of someone who knows the reality behind the appearance, and also all the forces at work behind the well-polished image of the world organization. As for Condoleezza Rice's advice that the UN must reform or die, she should convey that to her own president.

Britain, U.S. must share blame: Annan

Oil-for-food programme controversy deepens

UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, whose integrity has been dragged into a scandal surrounding the U.N. oil-for-food programme in Iraq, has said the United States and Britain shared the blame.

Speaking in New York, Mr. Annan said most of the money that the former Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, had pocketed "came out of smuggling outside the oil-for-food programme, and it was on the American and British watch".

"Possibly they were the ones who knew exactly what was going on," he said, "and that the countries themselves decided to close their eyes to smuggling to Turkey and Jordan because they were allies."

Mr. Annan spoke after the U.S. prosecutors charged three people with scheming to pay millions of dollars in kickbacks to Mr. Hussein's embargoed regime out of oil-for-food funds, which were meant to purchase relief supplies for Iraqis.

U.K. rejects claims

Britain rejected his claims, saying it had always cooperated

with U.N. measures aimed at forcing Mr. Hussein to comply with U.N. resolutions on weapons of mass destruction.

"We took vigorous actions at all times to ensure that the sanctions regime was not undermined," said the Foreign Office Minister, Bill Rammell.

In a veiled swipe at Mr. Annan, he added that it was the U.N. which needed to learn the lessons of an inquiry by the former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman, Paul Volcker, into the oil-for-food programme.

"His interim report actually makes criticisms of the U.N. management system and not of national governments," he said. "Now I think the U.N. needs to learn those lessons."

Mr. Volcker's committee has so far issued two interim reports which charged the programme's Director, Benon Sevan, with unethical behaviour, and raised serious questions over the dealings of Mr. Annan's son, Kojo Annan.

"One had hoped that when Volcker comes out with his final report in June, putting things in perspective, this will die down," Mr. Annan said. "But I don't

think with that group it will die down."

Texas oil man David Chalmers and Bulgarian national Ludmil Dionissiev were arrested in Texas earlier on Thursday in connection with oil-for-food kickbacks, said the U.S. Attorney, David Kelley.

Extradition sought

Extradition from Britain was being sought for the third man charged, British oil trader John Irving. The three could each face a maximum 62 years in prison.

"These disturbing indictments illustrate a continuing pattern of corruption that we have found in numerous instances involving the United Nations," said Henry Hyde, chairman of the House of Representatives international relations committee, which has held hearings on the scandal. Oil-for-food was the largest aid programme in UN history, overseeing 64 billion dollars in deals beginning in 1996 as the United Nations supervised Iraqi oil sales and the purchase of humanitarian supplies with the revenues. — AFP

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THE HINDU

UN approves nuke-terror treaty

United Nations, April 13 (Reuters): The 191-member UN General Assembly approved a nuclear terrorism treaty today that would oblige governments to punish those who illegally possess atomic devices or radioactive materials.

The document, negotiated for seven years after Russia proposed the accord, is the 13th anti-terrorism convention and the first completed since the September 11, 2001, attacks on the US.

The pact will be open for signature on September 14 in New York during a high-level summit and needs ratification from 22 nations to become international law. It passed the General Assembly by consensus, without a vote.

"By its action today, the General Assembly has shown

that it can, when it has the political will, play an important role in the global fight against terrorism," US deputy ambassador Stuart Holliday told the assembly.

The accord, called the "International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism," is meant to stop clandestine networks from using or possessing nuclear weapons.

It obligates governments to prosecute or extradite individuals who possess radioactive materials or nuclear devices or those who threaten others while possessing such materials. The text also calls for exchanges of information and assistance among governments.

Russia introduced the treaty in 1998 to keep "loose

nuke" from falling into the hands of terrorist groups.

At the time, Alexander Lebed, then the Russian national security chief, said Moscow could not account for about 100 suitcase-sized nuclear weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has reported an increase in incidents involving illicit trafficking of nuclear or other radioactive material: 650 confirmed cases since 1993, including nearly 100 last year alone.

Alexander Konuzin, Russia's deputy UN ambassador, said the treaty would constitute an "international legal basis for counteracting acts of nuclear terrorism" and its increasingly "violent and sophisticated methods".

"It is important to contin-

ue the arsenal of anti-terrorist measures and not leave the slightest loophole," he said.

Pakistan's UN ambassador, Munir Akram, whose country has tested a nuclear bomb, said he understood it was illegal for states "to attack and subvert the nuclear facilities of another state".

The father of Pakistan's atom bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, has admitted selling nuclear technology to Iran, Libya, and North Korea. Israel bombed Iraq's Osirac nuclear facility near Baghdad in 1981.

Still open is a comprehensive treaty on terrorism, which UN secretary-general Kofi Annan urged the assembly to adopt this year. This would include suicide bombers or anyone who deliberately harms civilians.



Former US President Bill Clinton (left) and UN secretary-general Kofi Annan in New York on Wednesday. Annan has appointed Clinton as UN special envoy for tsunami relief. (AFP)

Wounded Annan suits America

It's only a week since the embattled UN secretary general, Kofi Annan, was introducing a sweeping new reform plan in New York to usher in a new era for his organisation.

Now a defiant Mr Annan has refused to step down over a deeply damaging report into his son's connections to the Iraqi oil-for-food programme.

The former was meant to preempt the latter, of course, but instead it is working the other way round. The personal bruising of the Secretary-General looks set to destroy any hope for a renaissance of a battered organisation.

Mr Annan will survive. The continuing support of most UN member-countries will do that. Nor does the White House particularly wish him to go at this time, though they wouldn't weep too much if he did decide that it was all too much for him.

But there's no doubt that Mr Annan is wounded, if not crippled.

The report by Paul Volcker, former head of the US Federal Reserve, cleared him of direct implication in his son's dealings. But it did not clear him absolutely, pointing to shredded papers, gaps in knowledge and initial denials as reflecting badly on Mr Annan Senior.

The simple fact is that, in a public position of such high profile as the UN Secretary-General, the incumbent has not only to be above suspicion but also appear to be so.

He is now tainted by personal connections to a scandal whose full extent will be revealed when Mr Volcker delivers his final report on the oil-for-food programme this summer.

Which is just the way Washington would like Mr Annan to be, in place but kept there under US sufferance. This is not a cynical interpretation.

The view of the Bush administration towards the UN

The UN Secretary-General has not only to be above suspicion but also appear to be so. Kofi Annan is now tainted by personal connections to a scandal whose full extent will be revealed by summer, writes

ADRIAN HAMILTON

is clear and consistent. It isn't against the organisation as such.

But it does believe profoundly that the organisation has failed its own principles, is hopelessly bureaucratic, riddled with corruption and subject to the endless machinations and failings of consensual decision-making.

It doesn't want to abolish the UN, but it does want to remake it in its own image — smaller, more focused and implicitly more amenable.

Which is why it now plans to appoint such a well-known critic of the UN as John Bolton to serve as US ambassador there.

It's exactly the same with the World Bank.

So far, all the discussion over Mr Bush's proposed appointment of Paul Wolfowitz as the Bank's new head has

concentrated on whether this noted neo-con is a decent man who cares for the poor and believes in aid.

That may all be interesting, but it is beside the point. Washington sees the World Bank, as it sees the UN, as an international organisation deeply flawed by inefficiency, corruption and all the besetting sins of an institution trying to reflect the interests and views of a myriad of different nations.

Mr Wolfowitz's job is to remake it in the US image — slimmed down, committed to free markets as the solution to economic development and wedded to democracy as the essential means of getting there.

There is no dichotomy, in Washington's view, between helping the poor and pushing its own world view. In



Paul A Volcker: Chairman of the independent inquiry into the UN Oil-for-Food Programme. (Left) Kofi Annan: UN Secretary-General. — AFP

democracy and free markets lie the road to development. Full stop.

For the world outside America, this poses certain problems.

The Europeans in particular have consistently underestimated both

the depth of Republican antipathy to international organisations and

their sense of absolute justification in thinking so. The outside world may wish a more consensual universe in which the decisions on war and peace and the disbursement

of funds is handled in international institutions as equals, but America sees a world of Darfur, Zimbabwe, Iranian nuclear ambitions and corrupt tinpot dictators in Africa, and asks what good has the UN, or the World Bank, ever done to stop them.

Of course, it's grossly unfair as an argument.

The UN has failed, at least in part, because the USA has ensured that it doesn't have the resources or organisation to be effective, and for a country that believes in democracy, with all that this entails in terms of consensual politics and deal making, to denigrate the process of consensual politics at an international level shows just how arrogant Washington now is.

But those who do believe in a more internationalised world, and they include much of the public in the developed as well as the developing world, have to face the fact that bodies such as the UN and the World Bank are not going anywhere for the foreseeable future.

Mr Annan's plans of last week, based on the report of 14 wise men from around the globe (including Brent Scowcroft from the USA), were fine as an outline for a UN operating more effectively as the key world organisation.

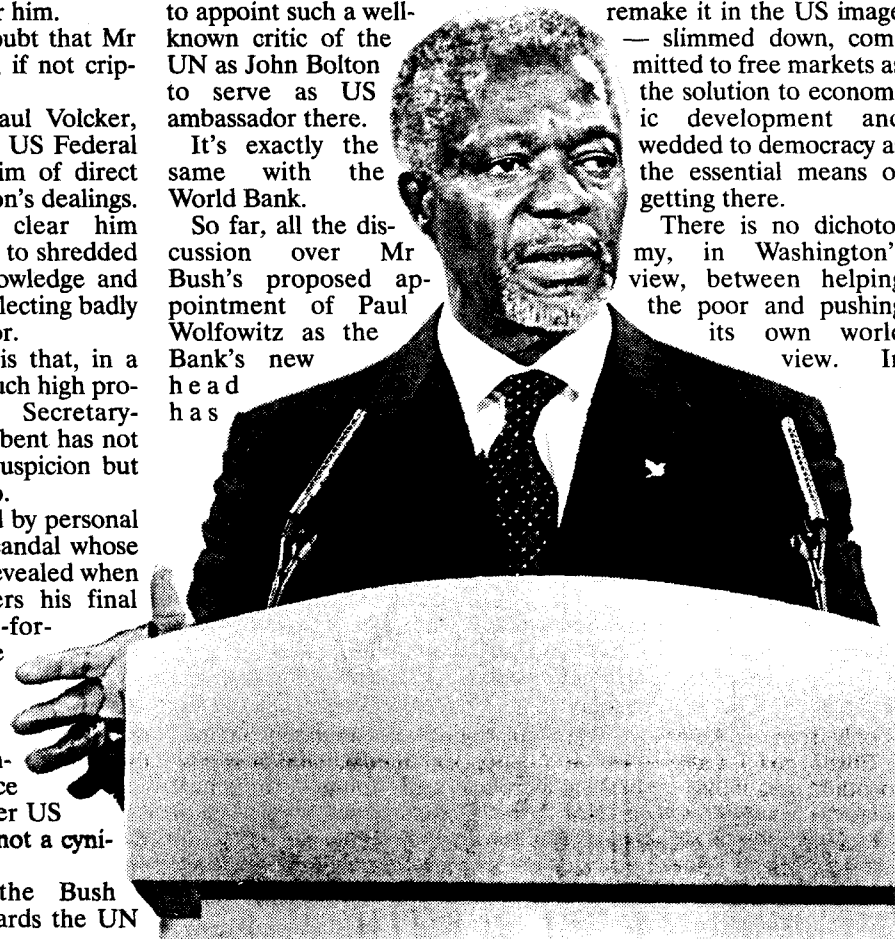
But John Bolton won't want it in that role. Reforms such as widening the Security Council will be acceptable only so long as they improve Washington's ability to create ad hoc alliances on specific issues, but not as a means of making the council more powerful.

Anything that threatens greater authority to the UN will be blocked.

Please, asked the UN Secretary-General while introducing the plan last week, take it as a whole and don't chop it up into bits.

But that's exactly what will happen and a wounded Mr Annan can do nothing to stop it.

— *The Independent, London*



Annan cleared over UN oil deal

Reuters

United Nations, March 29

A KEY inquiry into the UN oil-for-food program concluded on Tuesday that United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan had not interfered in the awarding of a contract in Iraq to a firm that employed his son. For the secretary-general, this will almost certainly be a most important finding.

But the report, prepared by a committee headed by Paul Volcker, the former US federal reserve chairman, faulted Annan for an "inadequate" inquiry into his son's employment with the Swiss-based Cotecna firm, hired by the UN to verify goods coming into Iraq.

Annan's son Kojo, now 31, was a trainee with Cotecna about the time the contract was awarded and then continued to receive a retainer.

"There is no evidence that the selection of Cotecna in 1998 was subject to any affirmative or improper influence of the secretary-general in the bidding or selection process," said the report.

But Volcker's committee said that Annan himself had initiated an inquiry into the Cotecna contract.

The report called that inquiry inadequate and the case should have been referred to the UN watchdog agency for an independent investigation.

As for the younger Annan, the report said he "intentionally deceived the secretary-general about the continuing financial relationship" with Cotecna. "Significant questions remain about Kojo and his actions during the fall of 1998 as well as the integrity of his business and financial dealings with respect to the oil-for-food program. The committee's investigation of these matters is continuing," the report said.

The Volcker committee "concludes that Cotecna has made false statements to the public, the UN and the committee by asserting that Kojo Annan had resigned his consultancy on October 9, 1998, when in fact he had been on a retainer afterward.

Global threats and U.N. reforms

By Satish Kumar

THE UNITED Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel report on global threats released in the first week of December has attracted the most attention for the suggestions made in it for Security Council reform. But the report needs to be examined in the wider context of the marginalisation of the United Nations as exemplified in the United States' invasion of Iraq in March 2003. Besides, there are numerous issues other than inter-state armed conflict that have a bearing on world peace. One needs to question how far the report has probed those issues and what recommendations it has made. At the end of 60 years of the United Nations' existence, does the report make a bold analysis of the nature of global threats and suggest courageous remedies?

It has been pointed out in the synopsis that it is as important today as it was in 1945 to combine power with principle. Recommendations that ignore underlying power realities will be doomed to failure. At the same time, recommendations that simply reflect raw distribution of power and ignore international principles are unlikely to gain widespread adherence. Unfortunately the report ends up bowing more to the raw distribution of power than to international principles. While pious hope has been expressed and holy recommendations made there is little that is mandatory in the report that would make a difference to the behaviour of those who wield raw power.

Before an analysis of how raw power has been given primacy over international principles, it is important to examine the part of the report that deals with various threats under the title, "Collective Security and the Challenge of Prevention." Referring to the threat of poverty, it points out that although the per capita income of developing countries has increased at an average of 3 per cent since 1990, the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased in some regions by 100 million. In at least 54 countries, average per capita income has declined over the same period.

The continent hardest hit by poverty is Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, average life expectancy has declined from 50 to 46 since 1990. In most of sub-Saharan Africa, one in 10 children dies before the age of five, as compared with less than one in 100 in the developed world. Again in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living on less than \$1 a day has increased since 1990.

The problem of poverty should have been examined in the full perspective of 60 years of the U.N. history rather than in the last 15 years. Poverty elimination was one of the major goals of the entire North-South debate of the 1960s and 1990s. Any number of commissions and reports has been devoted to it. Poverty

The Secretary-General's high-level panel report ends up bowing more to the raw distribution of power than to international principles.

in Africa is the cause of many intra-state conflicts. Poverty in the Muslim world is one of the causes of terrorism. And yet the steps to meet the challenge of poverty have been summed up in a two-line sermon: "All states must recommit themselves to the goals of eradicating poverty ...", and "the donor countries which currently fall short of the United Nations 0.7 per cent gross national product (GDP) target for ODA should establish a timetable for reaching it." There is nothing revolutionary or mandatory about this approach. Dealing with conflicts among and within states, the report rightly notes that even though the number of inter-state wars has declined over the last 60 years, the threat of such wars has not gone away. It also points to the increased role of the Security Council after the Cold War.

It, however, takes a very lackadaisical view of the Security Council being ignored by the U.S. when it invaded Iraq in 2003. "Superpowers, however, have rarely sought Security Council approval for their actions," it says. "That all states should seek Security Council authorisation to use force is not a time-honoured principle," it continues. This amounts to putting a veil of approval over the U.S.' act of disregarding the Security Council. By providing a historical justification to such an act, it tends to delegitimise the Security Council further. The report, instead, should have tended to re-legitimise the Security Council by deploring the U.S. act.

The report in Para 89 talks of preventing wars by developing international regimes to govern the sources of conflict. In this context, it speaks highly of the Rome Statute which created the International Criminal Court: "The Security Council should stand ready to use the authority it has under the Rome Statute to refer cases to the International Criminal Court." But the report nowhere points out that important states, such as the U.S., which have maximum military presence all over the world and whose personnel are therefore more prone to committing excesses, should not have opted out of the jurisdiction of the Court.

The question of traffic in small arms and light weapons has been referred to in the context of preventing conflicts but no drastic solution has been suggested. Most insurgencies in the world are fuelled by small arms, which are a lucrative source of profit to producers and traders of these weapons. The use of these weapons can be curbed only by some drastic measures akin to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in the nuclear

field, though of course such measures should be taken under the U.N. auspices.

The report makes a very useful suggestion with regard to enhancing the Secretary-General's capacity for early warning in the area of conflict prevention. It draws attention to the fact that the Secretary-General's access to local analysis of conflict is very limited and makes a recommendation that the U.N.'s political, peacekeeping and humanitarian departments maintain greater interaction with outside sources of information and local knowledge of conflicts. India's research institutions and non-governmental organisations should expand their capabilities in this field to be of greater use to the U.N.

In the section dealing with the threat of nuclear, radiological and biological weapons, the report gives credit to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for not allowing the number of nuclear weapon states to increase to as many as anticipated. It says that in 1963, when only four states had nuclear arsenal, the U.S. Government predicted that the following decade would see the emergence of 15 to 25 nuclear weapon states; others predicted the number would be as high as 50. As of 2004, only eight states were known to have nuclear weapons. This was mainly because of the non-proliferation regime embodied in the IAEA and the NPT, the report says.

This argument completely ignores the widespread criticism of the NPT as being discriminatory. Besides, it overlooks the fact that the treaty has been violated by nuclear weapon states such as China, and abandoned by non-nuclear weapon states such as North Korea in order to develop nuclear weapons. Other states such as Iraq and Iran have also been accused of violating the treaty and along with North Korea have earned the wrath of the United States by being dubbed "an axis of evil." From the U.S.' point of view, therefore, it is not the number of states that matter but the kind of states that have developed nuclear weapons. A less unjust or unequal treaty could have prevented that.

In the field of disarmament too, the report falls short of expectations. It merely exhorts nuclear weapon states to honour their commitment under Article VI of the NPT, and reaffirm their previous commitments not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. It does not deplore the fact that some major powers through their strategic doctrines have tended to re-legitimise nuclear weapons by finding new uses for them.

While dealing with the threat of terrorism, the report rightly identifies Al-Qaeda as the first instance of an armed non-state network with global reach and sophisticated capacity. It also says that Al-Qaeda has singled out the United Nations as a major obstacle to its goals and defined it as one of its enemies. But the report does not say enough with regard to the ways of removing the causes of terrorism, which have been identified as various social, political and economic deprivations, including poverty and unemployment. Besides, there are religion-specific terrorist organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad. Counter-terrorism strategies need to be developed in a more pervasive manner than in the manner spelt out in the report.

In part 3, the report dwells at length on collective security and the use of force, which acquire significance in the context of the invasion of Iraq by the U.S. The report makes a splendid case for taking military action through the Security Council rather than unilaterally when the threat to the security of a state is imminent. The argument is clinched very effectively in paras 190 and 191, which say that if there are good arguments for preventive military action, with good evidence to support them, they should be put to the Security Council. The risk to the global order and the norm of non-intervention on which it is based would be simply too great if we do not do so. Allowing one to act unilaterally would be to allow all.

The report has made another highly significant contribution to international law by defining the criteria that must govern any collective authorisation of military action by the Security Council. These five criteria are: (i) seriousness of threat; (ii) proper purpose; (iii) last resort; (iv) proportional means; and (v) balance of consequences. The report justifiably recommends that those guidelines should be embodied in declaratory resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. It also suggests that individual member-states, whether or not they are members of the Security Council, should subscribe to these criteria while deciding to take military action.

It is not too often that the U.N. Secretary-General appoints a high-level panel to examine the causes that make the global security system weak, and to suggest ways to make it stronger. But when he does, the members of the panel should also show courage to make recommendations that have teeth and that become a yardstick to measure great power behaviour.

(The writer is former Professor of Diplomacy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Editor, India's National Security Annual Review.)

BRITS COOL TO 'UNTOUCHABLE' CM

Stiff trip for Modi

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, March 22. — He may not have got a ticket from Uncle Sam, but the Gujarat chief minister, Mr Narendra Modi, will be sailing to the shores of fair Britannia. His trip, however, will not be smooth. Mr Modi is officially "untouchable" for the British government. For the last two years, Britain has stopped all high-level contacts with the Gujarat government over human rights concerns.

On 25 March, Mr Modi, along with a couple of senior bureaucrats, will be travelling to London, to keep a date with Royal Albert Hall. He is also scheduled to attend another function to mark "Gujarat Day" — officially observed on 1 May, it will be celebrated during Mr Modi's visit to London. He will be back on 28 March.

The British High Commission in Delhi confirmed that Mr Modi has been granted a visa to travel to the UK. The high commission spokesperson, Mr Jeff Wilson, however, did not reveal whether the visa had been issued on his diplomatic or normal passport. He also pointed out that Mr Modi had not received any invitation from the British government. "The visa has been granted as our laws are different from US regulations," said Mr Wilson.

An invite from Britain for Mr Modi was in any case unlikely since the country has an official policy of not having any contact with the Gujarat government. "This policy entails no high-level contacts with senior government



Britain has an official policy of not having any contact with the Gujarat government. It entails no high-level contacts with senior government leaders from the state due to human rights concerns

leaders from Gujarat," Mr Wilson said, adding that it was related to "human rights concerns".

This policy was put into place after the Gujarat riots in which a British national had also been killed. An internal inquiry of the British government had reportedly indicted the Gujarat government for failure to stop the riots.

The hands-off-Modi policy is still in force as those human rights concerns "still stand". The spokesperson was, however, quick to point out that Britain has a large Gujarati community for whom it has the highest respect. Mr Modi was earlier supposed to go to London straight from his recently-aborted US sojourn. He will now be travelling only to the UK. A stiff upper lip and trip await Mr Modi.

Another report on page 3

India ready for UNSC seat sans veto

Devirupa Mitra in New Delhi

March 22. — For the first time, India has publicly indicated it may be ready to join an expanded UN Security Council as a veto-less permanent member. If all goes well, India may become a permanent member of the UNSC before 2005 ends. But without a veto.

This position was made clear in a joint statement released by the G-4 nations — Brazil, Germany, India and Japan — in New York dated 21 March, following the submission of the UN Secretary-General's report on UNSC reforms.

The report puts forth two scenarios for expanding the Security Council, terming them models 'A' and 'B'. The first one calls for six new permanent members without veto and three non-permanent ones, divided among the regions, including two new Asian members. Model 'B' features no expansion in permanent membership, but a new category of eight semi-permanent members with a four-year renewable term and one with a two-year non-renewable term. The Secretary-General asked for a decision by September 2005.

Following the Secretary-General's report, the G-4 released a joint statement to the Press in New York yesterday, stating that the "debates in the General Assembly over the last months have demonstrated that a clear majority of states is in favour of a reform of the Security Council on the basis of Model A". The G-4 hoped that a resolution on UNSC reforms will be adopted by the summer.

UN watchers said this is the first indication that India is prepared to accept a UNSC seat without the veto, though this has informally been the view of ministry of external affairs officials looking at the ground realities. The foreign minister, however, had said in the Rajya Sabha in December: "Without a veto I don't think permanent membership will be acceptable."

THE STATESMAN

23 MAR 2005

আসন নিয়ে আশায় দিল্লি

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ, ২২ মার্চ: ভারত, ব্রাজিল, জার্মানি এবং জাপান। চারটি দেশ আজ এক যৌথ বিবৃতিতে আশা প্রকাশ করেছে, নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে তাদের স্থায়ী আসনের পক্ষে সাধারণ সভা হয়তো এই গ্রীষ্মেই একটি প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করবে। কালই রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান বলেন, তিনি চান, সেপ্টেম্বরের আগেই নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সম্প্রসারণের বিষয়টি নিয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত হয়ে যাক। ভারত, ব্রাজিল, জার্মানি ও জাপান— প্রত্যেকেই ওই পরিষদে স্থায়ী আসনের দাবিদার। আন্নানের বক্তব্যে এই দেশগুলি আশার আলো খুঁজে পেয়েছে। নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের আয়তন বাড়ানো নিয়ে প্রায়

দশ বছর ধরে তর্কবিতর্ক চলছে। এবার যদি তার নিষ্পত্তি হয়, সে ক্ষেত্রে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের ৬০ বছরের ইতিহাসে এটাই হবে সবচেয়ে বড় রদবদল। চারটি দেশ আজ বিবৃতিতে বলেছে, তারা অন্য সব সদস্য রাষ্ট্রের সঙ্গে ঐকমত্যে পৌঁছাতে ইচ্ছুক। এ ব্যাপারে তারা 'মডেল-এ' অনুসরণের পক্ষে। ওই মডেলে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে ছ'টি নতুন স্থায়ী পদ ও তিনটি অস্থায়ী পদ গঠনের কথা বলা হয়েছে। আন্নানও জাপানের স্থায়ী পদ নিয়ে ইতিবাচক মনোভাব স্পষ্ট করেছেন। পাকিস্তান, ইতালি, অবশ্য এশিয়া, আফ্রিকা, ইউরোপ, আমেরিকা থেকে আটটি দেশের আধা-স্থায়ী পদের সুপারিশ করেছে। — পিটিআই

স্থায়ী সদস্য বৃদ্ধি নিয়ে প্রস্তাব আম্রানের, সায় নেই ভারতের

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ, ২১ মার্চ: এ বছরের মধ্যেই নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের আয়তন বাড়াতে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সদস্য দেশগুলিকে অনুরোধ জানিয়েছেন মহাসচিব কোফি আন্নান। সেন্টেম্বরে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সাধারণ সভা। সেখানেই বিষয়টির ফয়সালা চেয়েছেন আন্নান। কিন্তু তাঁর এই উদ্যোগে ভারতের আদৌ কোনও সুবিধা হবে কি না, তাই নিয়ে যথেষ্টই সংশয় রয়েছে।

নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের সদস্যবৃদ্ধির ক্ষেত্রে আন্নান সরাসরি কোনও প্রস্তাব রাখেননি। তবে গত ডিসেম্বরে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের উচ্চপর্যায়ের কমিটি যে দু'টি প্রস্তাব দিয়েছিল, তারও বিরোধিতা করেননি তিনি। ধরে নেওয়া হচ্ছে, সরাসরি না বললেও সেই প্রস্তাব দু'টিতে মত রয়েছে তাঁর। এবং ওই দুই প্রস্তাবই ভারত খারিজ করে দিয়েছে।

শুধু নিরাপত্তা পরিষদ নিয়েই নয়, রবিবার কোফি আন্নান রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সংস্কারে ৬৩ পাতার যে রিপোর্টটি পেশ করেছেন, সেখানে উন্নয়ন, মানবাধিকার থেকে সন্ত্রাসবাদ পর্যন্ত যাবতীয় বিষয় নিয়েই বলা হয়েছে। প্রায় প্রতি ক্ষেত্রেই তাঁর প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা শুরু হয়ে গিয়েছে। সন্ত্রাসবাদ নিয়ে আন্নানের প্রস্তাবের বিরুদ্ধে গিয়েছে আরব

দুনিয়া। কোনও দেশের বিরুদ্ধে সামরিক অভিযান চালানো যাবে কি না, সেই ব্যাপারেও তিনি নিরাপত্তা পরিষদকে স্পষ্ট শর্তাদি তৈরি করতে বলেছেন। এই ক্ষেত্রে আমেরিকা একক ভাবে অভিযান চালানোর পক্ষপাতী। তাই তাদের দিক থেকে বিরোধিতা আসতেই পারে।

তবে সব থেকে জটিল পরিস্থিতি নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের আয়তন বাড়ানো নিয়ে। রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের উচ্চপর্যায়ের কমিটি যে দু'টি প্রস্তাব দিয়েছে, তার একটিতে স্থায়ী সদস্য বৃদ্ধির কথা বলা হলেও তাদের ভেটো ক্ষমতা দিতে অস্বীকার করা হয়েছে।

অন্যটিতে স্থায়ী সদস্যের পরিবর্তে চার বছর মেয়াদি অস্থায়ী সদস্যপদ তৈরির সুপারিশ করা হয়েছে।

এর কোনওটিতেই মত নেই ভারতের। জার্মানি, জাপান ও ব্রাজিলের মতো তারাও ভেটোর অধিকার-সহ স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ চায়। কিন্তু রাশিয়া, ফ্রান্স বা ব্রিটেন এই চার দেশের কারও পক্ষ নিয়েই স্পষ্ট করে কিছু বলেনি। আমেরিকা একমাত্র জাপানকেই সমর্থন জানিয়েছে। তারা জার্মানির বিরোধিতা করবে বলেই মনে করছে আন্তর্জাতিক মহল। কারণ,

ইরাক-যুদ্ধে জার্মানি আমেরিকার বিরুদ্ধে দাঁড়িয়েছিল।

ভারতের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদে কাঁটা হয়ে রয়েছে পাকিস্তানের বিরোধিতা। আবার ব্রাজিলের বিরুদ্ধে গিয়েছে মেক্সিকো ও আর্জেন্টিনা। জাপানের বিরুদ্ধে রয়েছে চীন, উত্তর ও দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া। তাই নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে স্থায়ী সদস্যপদ বৃদ্ধি হলে কারা শেষ পর্যন্ত স্থান পাবে, তা অবশ্য এখনও পরিষ্কার নয়। আঞ্চলিক বিরোধিতার জটিল সম্পূর্ণ বিষয়টি আটকে যাওয়ায় আন্নানও তাঁর প্রস্তাবে আলাদা ভাবে কোনও দেশের নাম করেননি।

মানবাধিকার কমিশনের আয়তন কমানোরও প্রস্তাব করেছেন মহাসচিব। ৫৩ সদস্যের এই পরিষদের বহু দেশের বিরুদ্ধেই মানবাধিকার লঙ্ঘনের অভিযোগ রয়েছে।

অনেক ক্ষেত্রে পরিষদের এক দেশ অন্যান্য করলে অন্য দেশগুলি একজেট হয়ে তাকে বাঁচিয়ে দিয়েছে বলেও অভিযোগ। এই পরিস্থিতির বদল ঘটাতে আন্নান প্রস্তাব করেছেন, আঞ্চলিক গোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে সদস্যপদ সীমাবদ্ধ না রেখে রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের সাধারণ সভার ভোটে প্রতিনিধি নির্বাচন করা হোক। — পি টি আই, রয়টার্স

Annan proposal for UN redemption

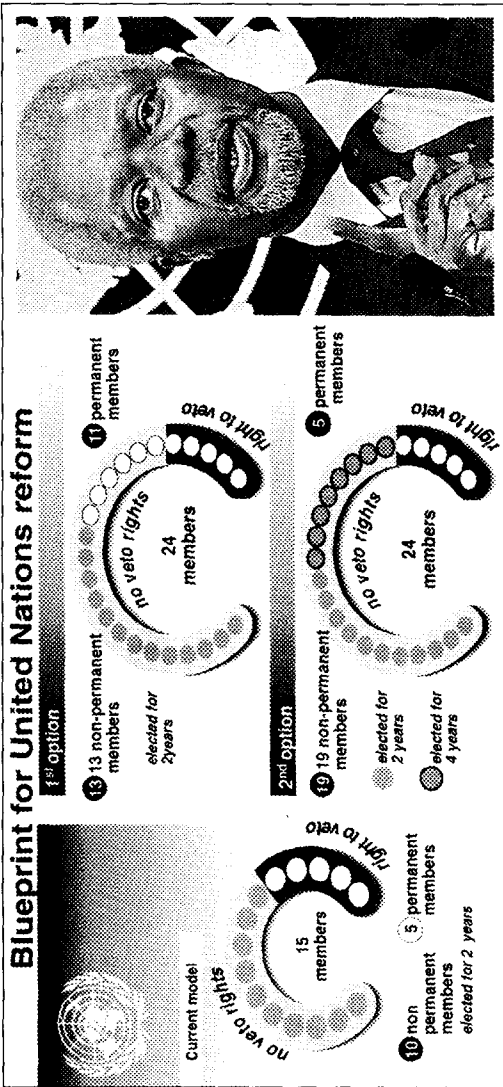
Agencies
UN/HQ, March 21

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL Kofi Annan has proposed "far-reaching" changes to refurbish the world body's battered image. Annan's proposal would address a wide range of issues but the focus of attention would be the three heavyweights - expansion of the Security Council to represent global realities, defining terrorism, and a thorough revamp of the Human Rights Commission.

However, on the key issue of expansion of the Security Council Annan has chosen to endorse the recommendation made by a high-level panel in December last year, which were rejected by India, one of the leading contenders. While one of the models suggested by the panel called for new permanent members without veto power, the other supported expansion only in the non-permanent category.

Urging members not to adopt a piecemeal approach to the "far-reaching" proposals, Annan called for greater representation of countries from the developing world in the decision-making

STRESS ON OVERHAUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION & SECURITY COUNCIL



elect by two-thirds majority in the 191-member General Assembly and not selected by the regional groups as is the case now. "Those elected should undertake to abide by the highest human rights standards," he said.

Annan also voiced concern about the fight against terrorism undermining human rights. He recommended the appointment of a special rapporteur who would report to the Commission on human rights and on the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights laws.

Referring to incidents of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, Annan urged all nations to understand that it is each one's responsibility to protect those being killed and that requires collective action. "The Security Council's decision to use force," he added, "should be guided by clear principles."

Annan's proposals come at a time when the world body is reeling under charges of corruption

in the oil for food programme for Iraq, cases of sexual abuse by peacekeepers, staff members expressing lack of confidence in the top management and some lawmakers in Washington demanding his resignation.

Shifting focus to terrorism, Annan endorsed the definition which would make it clear that any action constitutes terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-State combatants with the purpose of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organisation to do or abstain from doing any act. "I believe this proposal has clear moral force, and I strongly urge world leaders to unite behind before the end of the 60th (next) session of the General Assembly," he said.

It is vital, he opined, that the world denies access to nuclear materials to terrorists by securing, consolidating and, when possible, eliminating hazard materials and implementing effective export controls.



he opined, had plunged the UN into a credibility deficit that has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole.

One of Annan's major recommendations is replacing the current 53-member Human Rights Commission with a smaller body, whose members would be

primary focus remained on the issue that is the most widely debated in the world today - human rights. According to Annan, the Human Rights Commission has been undermined by the participation of countries whose purpose is "not to strengthen human rights but protect themselves against criticism." This,

But the Secretary-General's

Annun for fast action on seat expansion

Reform sought on UN force

THE KOFI CUP

The highlights of the reform blueprint

SECURITY COUNCIL:
A vote by September on how to expand the 15-member body to 24 members. Annan did not endorse any plan

POVERTY: Rich countries should establish a timetable to reach a 35-year-old goal of earmarking 0.7 of gross national income for development aid by 2015



USE OF FORCE:
Endorses "responsibility to protect", even by force, atrocities against civilians when a state is unwilling or unable to do so

TERRORISM: Quick adoption of resolution calling for a comprehensive treaty against terrorism, including suicide bombers

HUMAN RIGHTS: A new Human Rights Council to replace the Geneva-based Commission on Human Rights

NUCLEAR:
Pledge full compliance with non-proliferation treaties, reduce arsenals, negotiate a fissile material cut-off treaty and uphold moratorium on testing

PEACEKEEPING:
Establish a voluntary "strategic reserve force"

DEMOCRACY: Create a democracy fund

initiate a resolution soon that would call for the General Assembly to take a stand on "Plan A or Plan B," diplomats said, without specifying which countries would occupy the seats.

Plan A, proposed by a high-level panel, creates six new permanent members, plus three new non-permanent members for a total of 24 seats in the council, which now has 15 seats.

The other calls for eight seats in a new class of members, who would serve for four years, subject to renewal, plus one non-permanent seat, also for a total of 24.

The panel recommended no veto rights for new members and Annan took no position because "it's not an issue which has driven member states," said Robert Orr, an adviser on the report. Nevertheless, members believe that the debate over the Security Council, which has been discussed for a decade, had to be settled this year, or not at all.

Any change of the council membership needs approval from two-thirds of the 191-member General Assembly and no veto from the council's

five permanent members. Britain, France and Russia have supported Germany, Brazil, India and Japan. China and North and South Korea have doubts about Japan, which pays nearly as much in dues as the US.

Africa would get two permanent seats under "Plan A" but cannot decide whether they should go to South Africa, Nigeria or Egypt, all contenders, along with Kenya, which recently made a bid.

Italy, which does not want to be the only large European country without a permanent council seat, opposes Germany, Pakistan opposes India, and Mexico and Argentina oppose Brazil, a Portuguese-speaking country in a largely Spanish-speaking continent.

The Bush administration has pointedly refrained from supporting Germany, which opposed the Iraq war, supporting only Japan as a permanent member.

But in doing so, Germany, Brazil and India have taken heart that speaking at all about permanent membership indicated Washington supported "Plan A."

"Japan has earned its honorable place among the nations of the world by its own effort and its own character," secretary of state Condoleezza Rice said in a speech at Sophia University in Tokyo last week.

"That's why the US unambiguously supports a permanent seat for Japan on the UN Security Council."

In a report on sweeping UN reforms, Annan, as he has done previously, said the expansion of the council was vital before a summit of world leaders in September.

But he did not take a position on either of the plans before the General Assembly or comment on whether new Security Council members should get veto rights. However, he told nations they should not wait for a unanimous decision or consensus, indicating he expected a vote.

"It would be far preferable for member states to take this vital decision by consensus," Annan wrote. "But if they are unable to reach consensus, this must not be an excuse for postponing action" in the still-divided Assembly.

Germany, Japan, Brazil and India, who have formed a joint lobbying group for permanent seats, will probably

form a tough anti-terrorism treaty that would exclude any attacks on civilians, even in face of so-called "state terrorism."

On security, Annan's report, *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, said the UN Security Council should adopt a resolution on "when and how force can be used," with such criteria as whether the military option was proportional to the threat as well as the "right to protect" helpless civilians from their governments. He called for a "strategic reserve force" of stand-by troops as well as a peace commission to deal with operations of mounting complexity.

United Nations, March 21 (Reuters): Secretary-general Kofi Annan advocated yesterday new rules for military intervention, radically changing a key human rights body and adopting an anti-terrorism treaty against Palestinian suicide bombers.

In a 63-page report on UN reform, Annan also called on nations at a planned UN summit in September to agree on a timetable to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to combat poverty by 2015.

Among the more controversial proposals is to abolish the much-criticised Geneva-based 53-member Human Rights Commission, accused of ignoring major abuses. This body, he said, should be replaced by a smaller Human Rights Council, whose members would be elected by a two-thirds vote of the 191-member General Assembly rather than by regional groups. Too many members of the commission, Annan said, protected themselves against "criticism" or declined "to criticise others."

Annan also is bound to anger Arab governments by advocating a tough anti-terrorism treaty that would exclude any attacks on civilians, even in face of so-called "state terrorism."

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Annan calls for UNSC expansion

Agence France Presse

9113 5123
UNHQ, March 20. — UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan today called for an expansion of the Security Council from 15 to 24 members, as he unveiled a blueprint for a major reform of the world body.

In his report, Mr Annan said the expansion of the Council was crucial to making the world body “more broadly representative of the international community as a whole and the geopolitical realities of today”.

The UN chief urged member states to agree to green light his proposal prior to a summit of world leaders, scheduled for September at the UN in New York. While hoping that a decision could be reached by consensus, Mr Annan stressed that disagreement on the expansion issue “must not become an excuse for postponing action”.

Mr Annan, whose term ends in 2006, has indicated that he will devote much of his remaining time in office to pushing for the reforms, which would have to be approved by member states.

Revamping the Security Council is likely to be the most contentious issue, and there are currently two competing proposals for expanding membership of the top UN decision-making body to 24 seats.

THE STATESMAN

21 MAR 2005

A global strategy for fighting terrorism

By Kofi A. Annan

One year ago, 192 innocent people were brutally murdered in the terrorist attacks on Madrid's commuter trains. Over the past few years, thousands more have fallen victim to terrorism in all parts of the world. Terrorism is a threat to all states and all peoples.

It is also a direct attack on the core values the United Nations stands for: the rule of law; human rights; protection of civilians; mutual respect between people of different faiths and cultures; and peaceful resolution of conflict.

So the United Nations must be at the forefront in fighting against it. What we need is a principled, comprehensive strategy, which all the world can support and implement. That is what I am now proposing, under five headings which I call the "five Ds."

First, we must dissuade affected groups from choosing terrorism as a tactic. They choose it because they think it is effective, and that it will win them popular support. Such beliefs are the true "root cause" of terrorism. Our job is to prove them wrong. For too long the moral authority of the United Nations has been weakened by protracted debate about what terrorism is — whether states can be guilty of it, as well as non-state groups, and whether

it includes acts of resistance against foreign occupation. It is time to end these arguments. Deliberate use of force by states against civilians is already banned by international law. And the right to resist cannot include the right to deliberately kill or maim civilians. Let us say clearly that any action is terrorism if it is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, with the purpose of intimidating a population, or compelling a government or an international organisation to do something, or not to do something. Such a definition would have great moral force. I urge world leaders to unite behind it.

Secondly, we must deny terrorists the means to carry out their attacks. That means making it difficult for them to travel, to receive financial support, or to acquire nuclear or radiological material. Nuclear terrorism is still often treated as science fiction. I wish it were. But unfortunately we live in a world of many hazardous materials and abundant technological know-how, while some terrorists are openly determined to inflict catastrophic casualties. Both the Group of Eight and the U.N. Security Council have taken steps to eliminate hazardous materials, impose effective export controls, and plug gaps in the non-



proliferation regime. President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative is another important step. These measures must be fully enforced.

My third D is the need to deter states from supporting terrorist groups. In the past the U.N. Security Council has repeatedly applied sanctions against states that harbour or assist terrorists. This firm line must be maintained and strengthened. All states must know that if they give any kind of support to terrorists, the world will crack down on them firmly. Fourth, we must develop the capacity of states to prevent terrorism. Terrorists exploit weak states as havens where they can hide from arrest, and train or recruit personnel. Mak-

ing all states more capable and responsible must therefore be a major part of our global counter-terrorism effort. This means promoting good governance and the rule of law, with professional police and security forces who respect human rights. Few threats illustrate the need for this more vividly than biological terrorism. There will soon be tens of thousands of laboratories around the world capable of producing designer bugs with awesome lethal potential. And deadly infectious diseases can be spread across the world — intentionally or not — in a matter of days. The best defence against this is to strengthen public health systems, especially in poor countries, where they are often deficient. The World Health Or-

ganisation has done an impressive job monitoring, and responding to, outbreaks of deadly disease. But in an overwhelming outbreak — natural or man-made — local health systems will be in the front line. We need a major initiative to build them up.

Last, but far from least, my fifth D is to defend human rights and the rule of law. Terrorism is a direct attack on these core values. So we must not sacrifice them in our response. If we do, we are handing a victory to the terrorists. Upholding human rights is not merely compatible with a successful counter-terrorist strategy. It is an essential element in it.

I am asking all U.N. departments and agencies to play their part in carrying out this strategy. But it is the member states of the U.N. who must do the heavy lifting. I urge them to adopt my five-point strategy, and work together to apply it. That is the least we owe to the victims of terrorism worldwide. In their name, let us do whatever we can to spare others from meeting their fate.

(The author is Secretary-General of the United Nations. This article is adapted from his March 10 address to the International Summit on Democracy, Terrorism and Security held in Madrid, Spain.)

U.S. envoy is sharp critic of U.N.

By Farah Stockman

WASHINGTON, MARCH 8. The U.S. President, George Bush, on Monday nominated Undersecretary of State John Bolton, one of the administration's sharpest critics of the United Nations, to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. in a move that officials said signals Washington's desire to play a leading role in reshaping the 59-year-old institution.

Mr. Bolton, who once said that the U.N. "does not exist" and that "it would not make a bit of difference" if the U.N. building in New York lost 10 of its 38 stories, would succeed John Danforth, a soft-spoken former Senator from Missouri.

In announcing the nomination, the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, said Mr. Bolton, currently the Undersecretary for Arms Control, "will be a strong voice for reform."

Speaking after Ms. Rice, the

56-year-old Bolton acknowledged having "written critically about the U.N." and pledged to help improve the world body, which is already under pressure after a string of scandals and proposals to overhaul its governing structure.

"This is a time of opportunity for the U.N. which, likewise, requires American leadership to achieve successful reform," he said.

Mr. Bolton, who is likely to face tough questioning from the minority Democrats at his confirmation hearings, is well known for his hawkish stance on Iran and North Korea, and for engineering the U.S. pull-back from some international treaties, including the biological weapons ban and the nuclear test-ban treaty. He has also led the Bush administration's effort to oust Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency. — *New York Times News Service*

THE HINDU

09 MAR 2005

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New Zealand for flexibility in U.N. reforms

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By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, MARCH 8. The New Zealand Foreign Minister, Phil Goff, believes that countries have to be "flexible" on the issue of United Nations reforms, including that of the Security Council.

He feels that member nations have to agree on a compromise mechanism to expand the Council. "We believe that reform of the Security Council is important and the basic principle we work on is that its permanent membership ought to reflect the world as it is in 2005 and not as it was in 1945. And, our basic principle is equally that there are large areas of the world that are under-represented — Asia, Africa and Latin America being the key regions that are under-represented," he said.

"Stronger position for India"

While stating that New Zealand favoured a "stronger position" for India within the Security Council and had every right to be represented on the body, he felt there were problems with Brazil and Germany — two other members of the "P-4" group along with Japan. New Zealand, he stressed, had publicly supported Japan's candidature.

According to him, Germany was a major international player but the United Kingdom and France already had a place in the

permanent category of Council members. "If you are looking regionally to create a balance, that does create a difficulty. And then Italy, which is a powerful country economically and a large country, is saying why Germany, why not us?"

"Brazil certainly has a strong case to make on the permanent membership of the Security Council, but then other countries of Latin America say to us — Mexico, Argentina — Latin America is largely a Spanish-speaking continent; Brazil is Portuguese speaking ...

"So, why just take Brazil? In Africa, will it be South Africa or will it be Nigeria? Should it be Egypt?"

"There should be reform; there can be reform, but there are significant differences that have to be overcome. And, our basic position that I put to Natwar is that we all have to be flexible about this. Yes, we know what we want; we want a more representative and stronger Security Council, but we have to be flexible in how we achieve that," he told *The Hindu* after talks during the weekend with the External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh.

"Nobody will get everything they want. And, there will be a need for everybody to compromise to reach a consensus that the international community as a whole can bear," he stated. "And, whatever the configuration, yes,

India's place in the world needs to be reflected in that, but we can't say for certain what particular model will be employed at this point and how that model will work."

"What we now need to find is a mechanism to get unity around the shape the Security Council will take. My worry is that if you don't get agreement around a compromise arrangement, status quo will prevail and we'll deal with the same inadequacies of key players in the international scene being inadequately represented on the most important body in the U.N.," he felt.

Asked if the United States was interested in Security Council reforms, Mr. Goff said, "The U.S., in the end, recognises that unilateralism only takes them so far. Yes, they are the most powerful country economically, militarily and politically in the world. Their views always need to be taken into account, but whatever their strength and their power that won't be sufficient to create the sort of world they would ideally like to see without the support of the wider international community. The United Nations isn't perfect, but it's the best organisation that we've got."

"While the U.S. has played its cards quite close to its chest, I would not believe that it would like to stand in the way of reform of the Security Council and the U.N. as a whole," he added.

Pak backs Japan, opposes India's bid for UN seat

Indo-Asian News Service
Islamabad, February 23

PAKISTAN FOREIGN Minister Kurshid Mehmood Kasuri has extended support to Japan's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, but opposed a seat for India.

Kasuri, currently on a visit to Japan, told Japan's main opposition leader Katsuya Okada, there should be "objective criteria" for choosing members of an enlarged Security Council.

"Japan will certainly qualify under whatever criteria. In the post-Second World War period, Japan has been completely on the right side of all major issues," Pakistani Ambassador to Japan Kamran Niaz told reporters, reports here said.

"Our reservation is that India will not fit under those criteria," Niaz said. He however said the Security Council seat did not figure during Kasuri's meeting with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Japan's agreement in principle to resume yen loans to Pakistan, cut off in 1998 after New Delhi and Islamabad carried out nuclear tests, and the upcoming parliamentary elections in Afghanistan were discussed at the meeting.

According to APP news agency, Kasuri briefed the Japanese prime minister on Pakistan's "indispensability" in the global war against terrorism and also efforts with India to find a solution to the Kashmir issue.

He also assured the Japanese leaders about Pakistan's commitment to check nuclear proliferation and referred to the dismantling of the network of leading nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan.

The reports said the two sides also discussed North Korea and international efforts to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons programme.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 FEB 2005

UN REPORT ON DARFUR ABUSES

70,000 killed, but 'not genocide'

Associated Press

UNHQ, Feb. 1. — Sudan's government and the Arab Janjaweed militia are not guilty of genocide, but did commit atrocities in Darfur that left more than 70,000 dead and nearly two million homeless, a UN-appointed panel said in a report. The mass killings, torture, rape and other abuses merit the trial of suspects by the International Criminal Court, it added.

The panel's report, released

yesterday, sets up a possible showdown with Washington, which opposes the court and has demanded that perpetrators of the violence be tried elsewhere.

While the USA has labelled the destruction genocide, the UN-appointed panel of five lawyers said that there appeared to be no clear evidence of "genocidal intent" against the people of Darfur. Still, it said the atrocities committed there were horrific, and spread the blame among the government, the militias and the region's rebels.

"The conclusion that no genocidal policy has been pursued and implemented in Darfur by the government... should not be taken in any way as detracting from the gravity of the crimes perpetrated in the region," the report said.

Following the report, UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan urged the Security Council to take urgent action to stop the killing in Darfur's Sudan region, calling on members to consider sanctions and ensure prosecution of those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr Annan stressed his support for the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, but said the decision is up to the Security Council. "What is vital is that these people are indeed held accountable."

Facing justice

BELGRADE, Feb.

1. — One of the top four Serb Generals sought by the UN war crimes tribunal for atrocities committed in Kosovo will surrender this week to the Netherlands-based court. Gen. Vladimir Lazarevic will travel to The Hague on Thursday, the *Vecernje Novosti* daily said today. Yesterday, Gen. Pavle Strugar, the Yugoslav General who commanded the siege of Dubrovnik during the 1991 Croatian war, was sentenced to eight years in prison at the UN war crimes tribunal for violating the rules of war. — AP & The Times, London



Lazarevic

THE STATESMAN

02 FEB 2005

UN AT SIXTY

Policies Of Major Countries In Need Of Reform

By SITARAM SHARMA

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Even before war in Iraq the world had become unbalanced in military terms although the full extent of that imbalance did not become clear till the invasion by the coalition forces. New concepts of war have emerged which seek to justify, in certain circumstances, armed intervention in the affairs of another sovereign state. This refers to the concept of humanitarian war to prevent or punish genocide, ethnic cleansing and other heinous crimes, and the war to effect a regime change in order to liberate an oppressed people from dictatorship and install a democratic form of government. If such a war is waged with the approval of the United Nations, there would be no problem as to its legality. If, however, it were to be launched by a state that possesses the capacity to do so militarily, grave questions would arise as to its legality leading to a world order based on military dominance.

Challenging time

The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, has said the US action in Iraq has inflicted serious damage to the credibility of the United Nations. Calling it an illegal war Mr Annan said, "I have indicated it is not in conformity with the UN Charter from our point of view and from the Charter's point of view it was illegal". The Iraq war not only undermined the United Nations, it also undermined the multilateralism which is a key to participation of all in the management of world affairs. The new unilateral doctrine of pre-emptive force represents a fundamental challenge to the principles of collective security. The architects of the Charter were guided by a central idea — that durable international peace could be built only on the foundations of interdependence. Underpinning this idea was the rule of law and multi-lateralism as the only rational basis for civilised discourse among nations.

Since controversies surrounding the Iraq crisis began, it has been an extraordinarily challenging time for the United Nations. The weakening of the

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United Nations, especially the Security Council, has created uncertainty and has had a destabilising effect on the world order. All countries big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak need to be treated as equals with no country imposing its will on others. To avert global threats and secure peace, an effective



United Nations is needed.

As the UN approaches its 60th anniversary in 2005 amid multiple threats and challenges ranging from wars and terrorism to disease and poverty, it is imperative that the UN is reformed and strengthened from both within and without. However, reforms will change nothing if the attempts to sideline the United Nations and to disempower it continue. In such a situation reform will be reduced to a survival exercise.

Differing views

So far, the reforms initiated by the UN since 1992 to face the challenges of the post-cold-war period have neither been effective nor fruitful. "Reforming the machinery of the United Nations is no substitute for the willingness of governments to use the organisation, nor can it, by itself, bridge the very real differences in interests and powers that exist among member States".

The working group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in membership of the Security Council

has been grappling with potentially the most important and politically charged reform issues facing the United Nations. Discussions have been focused on size, composition and decision-making in the Security Council, including the right of veto. The Security Council is the only UN body where the principle of one

country one vote is not fully applied. While many countries see broader representation of developing countries as an essential expression of a more democratic and legitimate Council, others have expressed concern that too large a Council would be unwieldy and less efficient.

Much more difficult is finding a convergence of views on the right of veto. Only the five permanent members currently have the right of veto, and any changes to the veto power must be acceptable to all of them. The issue of veto remains a sticking point — some countries believe the new permanent members should possess equal rights — as does the means of determining who should be the new permanent members.

In the General Assembly's annual high-level general debate this year, 140 states spoke specially about the reform of the Security Council. The majority of states indicated their preference for the enlargement of the Security Council in the permanent and non-permanent membership. There was also a group

of speakers who wished for enlargement of the Security Council only in non-permanent membership, not for permanent members. And there was a third category of speakers that was ready to accept the enlargement of the Security Council.

India has thrown its hat in the ring for a permanent seat in the Security Council following years of canvassing support among scores of nations. Recently, the Indian effort has become coordinated in concept with three other aspirants to the same status — Brazil, Germany and Japan.

Emergence of G-4

This new group of states, the G-4, are hopeful that the high-level panel on threats, challenges and change, which is due to submit its report in December, will give them a special opportunity to enter the portals of the Council. The present situation might appear favourable to G-4 leaders because the recent crisis in the former Yugoslavia and West Africa, and above all, in Iraq, have exposed the inadequacy of the current system, and underscored the need for change.

At the conclusion of the three-day General Assembly debate on the report of the Security Council and the question of its reforms, the assembly president, Jean Ping, noted four major areas where consensus had emerged: that the 15-member body must be revitalised ahead of the 60th anniversary; that such a reform should focus on the Council's composition and its methods; that the expansion of the Council will make it more representative of geo-political realities in today's world and make its discussions more legitimate; and that the expansion of the Council should make it possible for developing countries to be better represented.

The United Nations needs strong reforms and restructuring to meet the needs of 21st century. The UN has been doing its part of reforming itself but critical reforms depend on member states alone. What is most in need of reform is not the United Nations but the United Nations policies of its member countries, particularly of the major powers who are permanent members of the Security Council.

13 JAN 2005

Kofi Annan skips LTTE-held areas

Colombo: United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan on Sunday ended his visit to tsunami-stricken Sri Lanka saying he hoped to return to accelerate the government's stalled peace process with Tamil Tiger rebels.

Annan, who visited several affected areas along the coast, was reportedly dissuaded by the government from touring rebel-held tracts in the north and east which took a severe bashing from the giant tsunamis in December.

"I'm hoping to come back ... and see all parts of the country and be of help to accelerate the peace process," Annan told reporters at the tail-end of his two-day visit to the island nation after attending the Jakarta conference on the tsunami calamity.

Annan said he had met

leaders of all political parties at a meeting chaired by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, including members of the Tamil National Alliance.

At least 300 people protested outside an office of the United Nations against Annan's inability to visit rebel-held areas of Lanka, a UN official said.

The UN secretary general did not visit victims in any of the rebel-controlled areas.

"Around 300 people held a protest outside the UN office in Jaffna and gave us a memorandum which we will forward to the secretary general through our country co-ordinating office," said Richard Barkle, assistant field officer at UN high commissioner for refugees.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation has retracted its report that LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his aide Pottu Amman are among the dead or missing in the tsunami disaster, an official said on Sunday. Agencies



UN Annan pledges UN aid for Lanka

Agencies

Hambantota (Sri Lanka), Jan 8

UN CHIEF Kofi Annan pledged support for the reconstruction of Sri Lanka's tsunami-battered coastlines during a tour of ravaged areas that excluded zones held by Tamil Tiger rebels.

"This is a beautiful country but I'm sorry for the people who suffered this destruction. (The UN) will try to reconstruct it as much as possible", he said on landing by helicopter in this wave-battered town on Sri Lanka's east coast.

On his way to Hambantota, Annan flew over the southern town of Galle to view firsthand the destruc-

tion caused by the massive waves, said a photographer on the media flight with him.

The UN Secretary-General was joined on his arrival in Hambantota by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse and World Bank president James Wolfensohn.

Thousands of locals gathered in the streets to greet them as they toured the town and made a number of stops, including at the Gallewella Buddhist temple where Annan spoke to monks about the devastation wrought by the earthquake-triggered tsunamis.

They then drove to the nearby Taber Jumma mosque where 80 tsunami-affected Muslim, Hindu

and Christian families are housed, where Annan spoke to survivors, posed for photographs with three orphaned children who had lost their parents in the sea waves and met clerics from the three religions.

He was briefed on the overall conditions of the people in the mosque-turned-relief camp and was told a steady supply of food was reaching those taking shelter there. "We came to listen and learn today, Wolfensohn and I... and that's what we did", Annan said. The victims of Hambantota were mixed in their views on Annan's visit.

"He (Annan) heard us and promised whatever he could do he would and that made us happy", said Ez-

zath Cassim, a worker at the mosque. Another survivor, MHM Nizamuddin, who told Annan he had lost his wife and three children in the tsunami, was, however, sceptical. "It's good that he came to see, otherwise he wouldn't know. But I don't know if it'll help", he said.

Before departing for Trincomalee, another devastated eastern coastal district, Annan told reporters that the UN Development Programme (UNDP) would open a temporary office at Hambantota to oversee relief work.

When asked if he planned to visit any of the northern regions of the island held by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

rebels, Annan said he was a guest of the government.

The Tamil Tigers had asked that Annan drop in on tsunami-ravaged areas in the north and the east under their control, but, according to sources, the UN had decided against including these areas on the itinerary to avoid controversy.

"The rebels want (Annan) to visit their areas and have been pressing for it through various channels, but we're playing safe", one UN source said. The rebels on Wednesday accused government security forces of preventing private donations from getting to temporary shelters holding survivors, claims which the government denied.

UN takes over, core group dissolved

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, January 5

HT-3 6/1/05 UNO

THE CORE group of countries set up at the behest of the US for mobilising international relief effort in the tsunami-hit countries has been dissolved and its role taken over by the UN, foreign secretary Shyam Saran said on Wednesday. The core group comprised the US, India, Japan and Australia. It was expanded to bring the UN, EU and Canada on board. "The group is not functioning any more. Its role has been taken on by the UN," Saran said while briefing the media on India's massive relief efforts in the wake of the disaster.

"With the focus shifting to operationalising assistance, it was decided by common consent that it would be best for the UN to take over," Saran said. On the issue of not accepting international assistance, he said the Indian position was "not dogmatic". Several UN agencies and international NGOs had already joined relief efforts in In-

dia. "We feel we have enough resources at hand. If at any point in time we could benefit from the support of friendly countries, we'll review our position," he said.

While stressing India's capability to extend assistance to its disaster-hit neighbourhood, the foreign secretary clarified that India had no objection to US assistance to Sri Lanka. "If the US believes that it can contribute to the relief effort (in Sri Lanka), it is welcome. We have no misapprehension in this context. In a disaster of this scale, whatever assistance can be provided is welcome. But coordination in relief efforts is important," he said.

India and the US have coordination centres at Colombo and Jakarta. "There's active coordination with the US," he said. Projecting the massive relief effort mobilised by India, the foreign secretary described as "completely misplaced" reports in the foreign media that India is not being able to cope with the consequences of the disaster and yet not accepting foreign aid. A presentation was made to show the Indian response to the tragedy was prompt.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 JAN 2005

Secret meet on "rescue U.N."

By Warren Hoge

UNited Nations, JAN. 3. The meeting of veteran foreign policy experts in a Manhattan apartment one recent Sunday was held in strict secrecy. The guest of honour arrived without his usual retinue of aides.

The mission, in the words of one participant, was clear: "to save Kofi and rescue the U.N."

At the gathering, the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, listened quietly to three and a half hours of bluntly worded counsel from a group united in its personal regard for him and support for the United Nations. The group's concern was that lapses in his leadership during the past two years had eclipsed the accomplishments of his first term in office and were threatening to undermine the two years remaining in his final term. They began by arguing that Mr. Annan had to refresh his top management team.

Their larger argument, according to participants, addressed two broad needs. First, they said, Mr. Annan had to repair relations with Washington, where the Bush administration and many in Congress thought he and the United Nations had worked actively against the President, George Bush's re-election. Second, he had to restore his relationship with his own bu-

reaucracy, where many workers said privately that his office protected high-level officials accused of misconduct.

In the week after the session, Annan sought and obtained a meeting with Condoleezza Rice, the nominee for Secretary of State. U.N. officials said afterward that it was an encouraging meeting.

The meeting was held in the apartment of Richard C. Holbrooke, a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President Clinton.

Others in attendance were John G. Ruggie, assistant secretary general for strategic planning from 1997 to 2001 and now a professor of international relations at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of government; Leslie H. Gelb, former president of the Council on Foreign Relations; Timothy E. Wirth, president of the United Nations Foundation, based in Washington; Kathy Bushkin, foundation's executive vice-president; Nader Mousavizadeh, former special assistant to Mr. Annan who left in 2003 to work at Goldman Sachs; and Robert C. Orr, assistant secretary general for strategic planning. Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's Ambassador to the U.N. from 1998 to 2003, was invited but could not attend. — *New York Times News Service*

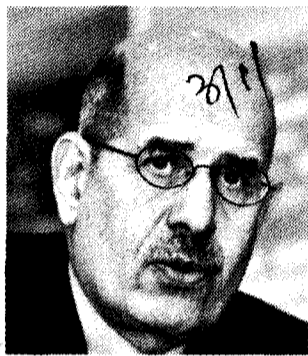


GLOBESCAN

ElBaradei for third term

UN 14

VIENNA: Mohamed ElBaradei (in the picture) will run unchallenged for a third term as head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said, despite Washington's campaign to oust him. Mr. ElBaradei, an Egyptian lawyer, recently announced he would seek re-election as Director-General of the agency he has headed since 1997. No other candidates came forward before the deadline for nominations at the turn of the year, the IAEA said. Some U.S.



and other countries' officials have privately complained that Mr. ElBaradei was not only soft on Iraq and Iran, but had also withheld information from the IAEA Board of Governors that could boost the U.S. campaign to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for economic sanctions. Mr. ElBaradei says there is no clear proof that Washington is right and Iran is seeking the bomb — an allegation that Teheran denies. But he has repeatedly said the jury was still out. Countries on the IAEA's 35-nation Board will attempt to reach a common position on the election. — Reuters

Croats go to the poll

ZAGREB: Croats voted for President on Sunday, with liberal incumbent, Stjepan Mesic, expected to win a second term and help shepherd the former Yugoslav republic's planned 2009 entry into the European Union. If he wins, the popular 70-year-old Mr. Mesic will act as a counterbalance to the ruling conservative Government of Prime Minister, Ivo Sanader. Mr. Mesic and Mr. Sanader have clashed over minor issues since the once hard-line nationalist Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) won power in 2003. But both men are ardent supporters of bringing Zagreb into the European mainstream after a decade of isolation. The race is seen mainly as a clash of personalities with few political issues at stake. — Reuters

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