

China backs Pak stand on UN reforms: Kasuri

Islamabad: Pakistan, which is opposed to India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council (UNSC), has claimed that China has supported its stand that expansion of the powerful organ of the world body should not be country-specific.

Pakistan was "completely satisfied" with the talks Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had

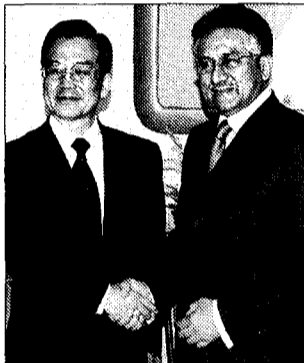
with the leadership here on UN reforms-related issues prior to his April 9-12 visit to India, said foreign minister Khurshid M Kasuri.

"We are completely satisfied with the meetings... that we have had with the distinguished leadership from China. Pakistan and China have both adopted a principled position that the UN Security Council expansion should not be country-specific," he was quoted as saying by local daily *The News* on Thursday.

Kasuri also claimed that China backed Pakistan's stand that a consensus should be evolved for the implementation of the UN reforms.

He noted that the joint statement issued at the end of Wen's India visit called for comprehensive UN reforms and an increase in representation for developing countries. "I have read this statement from New Delhi, which is in complete cognisance of the Pakistan-China position. The major factor is that both China and Pakistan believe that UN reforms of the general assembly and security council should not be divisive and instead be a process that should work towards creating consensus. There should be no artificial deadlines or timelines. Pakistan's principled position is that there should be sovereign equality of nations," he said.

Kasuri said the Indo-China joint statement underlined the importance of the UN's role in global peace, stability and common development. "They expressed their determination to continue efforts with the international community in strengthening the UN." PTI



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao with General Musharraf in Islamabad recently

'Japan, India need permanent seats'

Tokyo: Ahead of his state visit to India later this month, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi stressed on the need to reform the UN and supported India's view that the two Asian countries be made permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Koizumi had a 40-minute meeting here with visiting Indian commerce and industry minister Kamal Nath. Agencies

15 APR 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

China-Pakistan relations enter a new phase

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 6. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and the visiting Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao, on Wednesday said that with the signing of new pacts, particularly the Friendship Treaty, relations between their countries have entered a "new qualitative stage."

The two leaders, who met at the Presidential House here this afternoon, said that their multi-faceted ties would not only be mutually beneficial but also contribute to regional stability. Diplomatic and political observers here are of the view that though there is no dramatic element in the Treaty of Friendship signed by Beijing and Islamabad on Tuesday, the document for the first time, defines the contours of the five-decade-old relationship between the two countries.

During the meeting, they also exchanged views on regional and international issues and said they would continue to share and coordinate their views at political and diplomatic levels.

Strategic dialogue

Under the "Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourly Relations" both sides are committed to maintain a regular high-level strategic dialogue. It noted that both sides should adhere to the principle of non-encroachment on nation-

al territories and boundaries and strictly observe the boundary agreements between the two. They resolved to maintain lasting peace and friendship in their border areas. The Pakistani side reiterated that there is but one China in the world and Taiwan is its inalienable part and supported Beijing's "great cause of national reunification." The Chinese side reiterated its respect for Pakistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and appreciated and supported its efforts to settle peacefully all the problems with its neighbouring countries.

Military cooperation

It said both sides should enhance and consolidate trust and cooperation in the military and security fields to strengthen their security. It said they should enhance their cooperation in the United Nations and other international and regional organisations.

Gen. Musharraf, in his meeting with Mr. Wen, described the treaty as a step forward from the historic declaration signed in Beijing in 2003.

He particularly referred to economic and defence cooperation between the two countries and said Chinese assistance in the construction of Gwadar deep-sea port and other development projects is a testimony to Beijing's commitment to the region's economic progress.

Trade tops Wen agenda

China firms up Pak ties

Islamabad, April 5 (Reuters): Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao began a tour of South Asia in Pakistan today, reinforcing a strategic alliance between the old friends and signing a range of agreements on economic and trade cooperation.

Wen arrived with a 70-strong delegation of business people and officials and was greeted by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

"This is a very meaningful day which marks a new stage in Pakistan-China relations," he said after talks with Aziz.

Tomorrow, Wen will deliver a keynote address to an Asian ministerial meeting and travel to Lahore on Thursday before heading to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

Analysts said China and Pakistan would reaffirm their long-standing close political ties but booming China's economic concerns were expected to dominate Wen's agenda.

Among more than 20 agreements signed today was a treaty of friendship and a pact on combating terrorism and separatism.

"Both countries have committed themselves to carry forward their strategic partnership in the interests of ... peace," Aziz said. The treaty bound both to support each others' efforts to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity, a Pakistani official said.

Despite the reiteration of strategic ties analysts say China is now dealing with the

region on a pragmatic basis, with economics setting the agenda, and Pakistan could no longer take a special relationship with China for granted.

Underlining that, 15 of the agreements today were on trade and investment. "There's huge potential," Wen said when asked about prospects for trade.

Pakistani officials said the agreements involved Chinese investment of about \$350 million.

06 APR 2005

THE TELEGRAPH