

Abandon N-weapons, Nobel laureate ElBaradei tells world

Oslo (Norway): Nuclear watchdog agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei warned on Saturday in accepting the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize that humanity faces a choice between nuclear weapons and survival.

ElBaradei, who shared the coveted award with his International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—cited for their drive to control the spread of nuclear weapons, especially to terrorists.

“I have no doubt that if we hope to escape self-destruction, then nuclear weapons should have no place in our col-

lective conscience, and no role in our security,” ElBaradei said in his acceptance speech. The 63-year-old Egyptian and the IAEA’s Board of Governors Chairman Yukiya Amano, from Japan, were accepting the award on the 60th anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

“The Nobel Peace Prize is a powerful message,” ElBaradei said. “A durable peace is not a single achievement, but an environment, a process and a commit-

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Meanwhile, ten scientists and literary giant Harold Pinter received the Nobel Prize at Stockholm’s Concert Hall from Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf.

The prizes for medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and economics are handed out in Stockholm. The winners of each category share a 10 million kronor (\$1.3 million) cheque, and also receive a gold medal and diploma.

Australians Barry J Marshall and Robin Warren won this year’s physiology or medicine prize for discovering a bacteria that causes ulcers. Americans Roy J Glauber and John L Hall and German Theodor W Haensch won the physics category for their work in applying modern quantum physics to the study of optics and light. The chemistry prize went to Americans Robert H Grubbs and Richard R Schrock and Yves Chauvin of France for their development of a chemical ‘dance’ that makes molecules swap atoms. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was given to Israeli-American Robert J Aumann and American Thomas C Schelling for research on game theory, a branch of applied mathematics that uses models to study interactions between countries, businesses or people.

Literature winner Harold Pinter, a British playwright, could not travel to due to poor health, but has sent his publisher to accept the award on his behalf. AP



ElBaradei (left) and Yukiya Amano, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IAEA, with the Nobel Peace Prize award for 2005 on Saturday

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Nobel in hand, attack on N-arms

Oslo, Dec. 10 (Reuters): The world should work to make nuclear weapons as universally condemned as slavery or genocide, UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei said today after receiving the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the world had 27,000 nuclear warheads and "to me, that is 27,000 warheads too many".

"The hard part is how do we create an environment in which nuclear weapons — like slavery or genocide — are regarded as a taboo and a historical anomaly?" ElBaradei, an Egyptian, said in his acceptance speech.

Announced as laureates in October, ElBaradei and the IAEA shared the Peace Prize for their work to prevent the spread of nuclear arms and

promote the safe use of atomic power in a year marking the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

ElBaradei and IAEA board of governors chairman Yukiya Amano of Japan received gold medals and Nobel diplomas at a ceremony at Oslo City Hall to applause from about 1,000 guests.

The 10 million Swedish crown (\$1.25 million) award was the 15th Nobel Peace Prize to go to a UN agency or people linked to the world body.

ElBaradei urged a halt to proliferation of nuclear arms and disarmament by the "eight or nine" states that now have them.

"We must ensure — absolutely that no more countries acquire nuclear weapons," he said, adding: "We must see to it that nuclear

weapon states take concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament."

A security system that does not rely on nuclear deterrence should be put in place, he said. In areas where conflicts are allowed to fester, some countries may seek weapons of mass destruction, he warned.

The IAEA has been at the heart of efforts to resolve an international dispute with Iran over its nuclear programme, but ElBaradei did not take up that issue in his speech.

The choice of laureates this year was seen by experts as a return to the roots of the Nobel prize in disarmament after expansion of the scope of the prize since the 1960s to human rights work and even to environmental protection.

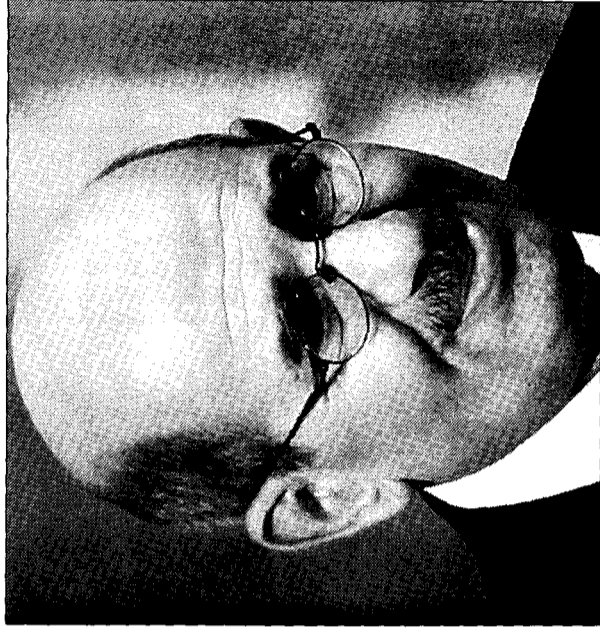
Swedish philanthropist Al-

fred Nobel said in his 1895 will that the prize should go, among other criteria, to whoever had done most for the "abolition of standing armies".

"Nobel would surely have agreed that in our day the struggle against nuclear arms must be even more urgent than opposition to standing armies," Norwegian Nobel Committee chairman Ole Danbolt Mjoes said.

Despite hopes at the end of the Cold War 15 years ago for a new world order based on human solidarity, the world is still "nowhere near that goal", the peace laureate said.

ElBaradei said the world faced "threats without borders" that could not be tackled by building walls, developing bigger weapons or dispatching troops, but only through multilateral cooperation.



Mohamed ElBaradei after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. (Reuters)

Sign NPT first, then think of NSG, Norway tells India

Says Rules Can't Be Relaxed But Leaves Room For Talks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Putting itself at the opposite end of the nuclear spectrum, Norway has said India should sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) before aspiring for a membership of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) or seeking any relaxation of rules.

Norway's stand reflects the difficulties India faces in turning around opinion in Scandinavian countries which stress a lot on non-proliferation norms.

In India on a three-day official trip, Norway PM Jens Stoltenberg, during a chat with journalists on Thursday, said, "We cannot see how one can be a member of the NSG without signing the NPT. The NSG rules are clear. You cannot join unless you sign the NPT." However, leaving room for diplomatic negotiations, Stoltenberg added, "We are open to sitting down and discussing this."

Stoltenberg also indicated that he would start free trade discussions with India by inviting New Delhi to join the European free trade association, a trade grouping of four western European countries not a part of the European Union.

Norway, he said, was also keen to tap India's desire for off-shore oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. As one of the world's acknowledged experts in energy, Norway, he said, was keen to offer its expertise to India. "Norway is a leading energy producer. Our companies have expertise in exploration of oil and gas, especially offshore. India is looking into the potential of developing oil and gas resources off-shore.

"We have world leading companies, in government and private, in electricity generation, and transportation and transmission facilities. We have world leading companies in supply and engineering in energy sector," Stoltenberg said.



Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg calls on President Abdul Kalam in Delhi

10 DEC 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Defiant Iran *Disarmament* plans second nuclear plant

SIMON FREEMAN

London, Dec. 5: Iran courted further condemnation over its nuclear ambitions today by unveiling plans for a second power-generating plant.

The announcement of a planned new reactor in the southwest of the country, bordering Iraq, is Tehran's latest push in an unpredictable game of international brinkmanship.

Tehran says it intends to use the technology for solely peaceful purposes. Almost everyone else suspects it of wanting to make bombs.

The announcement was greeted with condemnation in Israel, where party leaders jockeying for position before elections in March spoke of pre-emptive missile strikes against any nuclear installations.

In a broadcast on state-owned television, it was reported that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the hardline Iranian President, and his cabinet ministers want to build the plant — the second in a planned fleet of 20 new reactors — in oil-rich Khuzistan.

The first, Russian-built plant at Bushehr, is due to become operational next year.

Negotiations between Iran and the EU broke down in August when Tehran restarted uranium conversion — the first step in the fuel produc-

tion cycle — at a plant in Isfahan. As far as is known, it is not carrying out uranium enrichment, the critical second stage.

The main hope of any resumption of dialogue lies in compromise proposals from Russia, which is offering to enrich uranium for Iran.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Authority, warned today that there would be no victors from any escalation in the ill-feeling between the two sides.

"Everybody would hurt," he told *The Independent* newspaper in London. "You would then open a Pandora's box. There would be efforts to isolate Iran; Iran would retaliate; and at the end of the day you have to go back to the negotiating table to find the solution."

Today, Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Israeli Prime Minister and likely future Likud leader, hinted that he would consider a pre-emptive air strike against Iran's nuclear installations if he were to be re-elected.

THE TIMES, LONDON

06 DEC 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Iran Cloud Blows Over

India should be fine with Russia's enrichment proposal

By T P SREENIVASAN

A collective sigh of relief greeted the announcement by the Japanese chairman of the IAEA board that there would be no resolution on Iran in November and that time would be given to Tehran to consider other proposals. Chief among these was a Russian proposal to enrich Iranian uranium in Russia. The heaviest sigh of relief must have emanated from the Indian delegation as the matter was of crucial domestic importance to India with a bearing on the political landscape of the country.

But the announcement was no surprise, as it was known for some time that there would be no vote in November. "We are back to square one", a senior EU diplomat told me just a week before November 24, "as the Iranians have resumed conversion and no alternative proposal has been accepted. There will be no vote in November, he said, as the United States did not want to ruin the record of the September vote".

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general, IAEA, had also hinted at this possibility as early as the middle of October when he said to television channel Asianet: "I think I see some progress coming. The team that came back from Tehran over the weekend has indicated that they are moving on some of the outstanding issues. I think there is a lot of effort by many countries, Russia, China and probably India, to try to get back Iranians and the Europeans to the negotiating table, which ultimately is the only way to resolve the issue. Whether we go to the Security Council and back or not, the end result is that on security issues, the parties can only finally sit on the negotiating table, put their grievances on the table and find a solution that is acceptable to all".

India has certainly been a factor in the November outcome. Our positive vote in September, together with the earlier India-US nuclear deal, brought New Delhi from the sidelines of the negotiations to the centre-stage. The addition of a couple of ardent supporters of Iran to the board and the faint fear that India might change its vote had an effect on the United States. The quiet, but sure-footed diplomacy of our governor, Sheel Kant Sharma, also met with success. Our vote in September has already brought us dividends. But the hero of the whole episode is Russia, which came out with an innovative proposal to find a way out of the impasse. The proposal could bring some

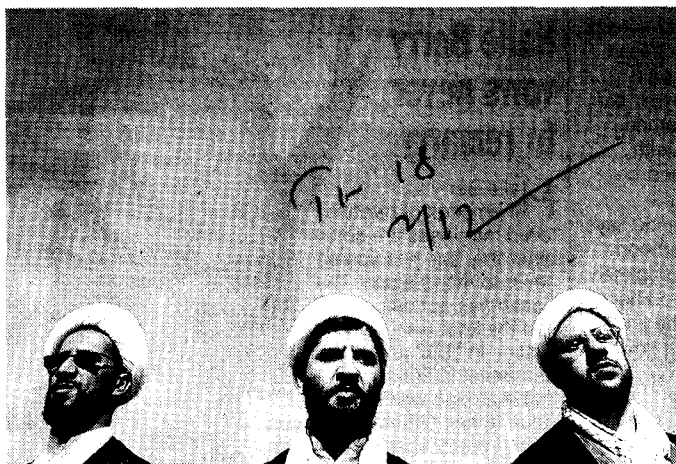
financial control of the activity. The benefits the proposal will bring to Russia will not be lost on anyone.

The Europeans seem to have responded positively to the proposal, but they were surprised when the Iranians proceeded to resume the conversion, which they had suspended. Russia had told them that the Iranians would await reactions to the Russian proposal before taking any precipitate step. Was it an indication that the Iranians had already rejected the proposal? The obvious negative point about the Russian proposal for Iran is that it flies in the face of Iranian sovereignty and its asserted right to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including enrichment of uranium.

But if the Russian proposal is part of a global regime on the lines of the proposal of the director-general, it should become more palatable to Iran. One way is to speed up the establishment of the new international regime and persuade Iran to suspend conversion and enrichment till the new facilities become available. Investments made in the new facility will serve the cause of non-proliferation, as other countries will also be compelled to abide by the new norms. The cost of inspection of individual countries will be far more than that of setting up a global facility.

India has not responded publicly to the Russian proposal, nor does it have a public position on enrichment under international supervision, though Indian scientists have participated in the studies organised by the secretariat. The new regime will not be applicable to India as we have a full fuel cycle. Although it was only in September that we demonstrated it vigorously, we have been consistently voicing support for measures that will strengthen non-proliferation and insisting that those who have subscribed to international treaties should not deviate from their obligations. India has every reason to support the current moves in that direction.

The writer was India's representative at the IAEA.



benefits to the Russians as well.

The contours of the Russian proposal are not entirely clear, but they are in line with the proposal that the director-general had made a couple of years ago to centralise enrichment for countries, which did not have the full fuel cycle, in facilities under international supervision. Since Iran already has the technology to convert uranium into gas, this part of the activity could be done in the Iranian facilities. However, the actual enrichment to the levels permissible for peaceful uses could be done in Russia, perhaps under international supervision. The new facility, it would appear, will be set up with the financial participation of Iran, giving it

02 DEC 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Practical action needed against proliferation

WMD proliferation is an actual threat, not just a potential one. Inaction is simply not an option for any nation that values its security and prosperity.

Alexander Downer

THE SPREAD of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is one of the main threats to international and regional security. As irresponsible states and terrorists seek to gain access to devastating weapons, no country is immune to this menace, even those in regions currently free of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Moreover, terrorists have shown they will stop at nothing to enhance their ability to kill. The horrific recent bombings in Bali only strengthen our resolve to keep WMD beyond their reach.

Inaction is simply not an option for any nation that values its security and prosperity. Australia is firmly committed to practical action to stop proliferation. A new paper, *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Australia's Role in Fighting Proliferation*, outlines contemporary proliferation threats and the Australian Government's multidimensional strategy for addressing them.

Since the end of the Cold War, the proliferation threat has diversified. While the risk of nuclear conflagration has receded, checks on proliferation have failed to keep pace with new global security realities. And globalisation has increased the availability of materials and technologies required to make WMD.

Certain countries and groups have violated international norms on WMD and missiles for delivering them. Earlier this year, North Korea claimed that it possessed nuclear weapons. Iran is on notice to dispel ambiguity over its nuclear programme. Some countries, or rogue elements within them, have even exported their deadly expertise. The A.Q. Khan nuclear network is a case in point.

The rise of global terrorism has further raised the proliferation stakes. Al-Qaeda has made no secret of its ambitions to acquire and use WMD. Terrorist groups in South East Asia have similar ambitions. WMD proliferation is an actual threat, not just a potential one. It needs to be urgently addressed in comprehensive and proactive ways.

In the face of the U.N. Summit's lamentable failure to deliver outcomes on non-proliferation, Australia remains committed to strengthening multilateral treaties. Put simply, countries that ignore their non-proliferation obliga-

tions must be held to account by the international community. Australia has led the way by calling on the UN Security Council to assume greater responsibility in this area and by promoting more stringent safeguards that would provide early warning of covert nuclear activities.

At the same time, the Australian Government recognises the need for innovation and flexibility by embracing new thinking to stop proliferation as it occurs.

Australia has been a pioneer in the Proliferation Security Initiative. With no overarching treaty or secretariat, PSI demonstrates what can be achieved within international and national law to disrupt WMD-related trade, drawing on the support of more than 60 countries. A good example is the successful interception of centrifuge parts bound for Libya's nuclear weapons programme before that country's welcome decision to renounce WMD.

The Australian Government has been assiduous in ensuring that Australian exports do not contribute to WMD programmes. And we continue to work with like-minded countries to harmonise export controls, especially through chairmanship of the Australia Group, which sets benchmarks in preventing chemical and biological weapons proliferation.

We have also moved to strengthen domestic measures to prevent proliferators and terrorists from gaining access to sensitive materials, such as radioactive sources, and expanded our efforts to encourage regional countries to do likewise, including through provision of technical training. Importantly, we have done so through a cooperative approach, integrating a growing role for many of the arms of government – defence, intelligence, and border protection.

Australia's commitment to fighting proliferation will not be deterred by the complexity of present-day threats. Through the Government's wide-ranging policies and measures and close cooperation with like-minded countries, we will continue to address them in comprehensive, innovative and practical ways. *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Australia's Role in Fighting Proliferation* can be accessed at www.dfat.gov.au/publications/wmd.

(The writer is Australia's Foreign Minister.)

Moscow, Teheran, and Washington

Russia has positioned itself as a trusted negotiating partner for both Iran and the United States.

Vladimir Radyuhin

IRAN MAY well prove the most interesting subject for External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh's parleys in Moscow during his four-day visit that began on Tuesday.

Until last month's vote in the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), India and Russia took very close stands on the spat over Iran's nuclear plans. Both countries spoke out against Iran acquiring nuclear weapon capability but refused to join the U.S.-led crusade to deny Iran the right to have even a civilian nuclear programme. Neither India nor Russia was prepared to jeopardise strategic interests in Iran for the sake of winning an approving nod from Washington, and conducted regular bilateral consultations to fine-tune their stands on Iran's nuclear file.

However, the IAEA vote on a U.S.-pushed resolution paving the way for referring Iran

to the U.N. Security Council for possible international sanctions put India and Russia on opposite sides of the fence. While India backed the resolution, Russia abstained, reiterating strong opposition to sending the Iran file to the Security Council and making it clear its decision not to vote against was a mere polite gesture to the U.S.

In the run-up to another crucial vote on Iran in the IAEA next month Indian diplomats in Moscow acknowledge that the External Affairs Minister will be keen to get a top-level Russian briefing on how the Iran situation is evolving, considering that Moscow has recently become the focal point of diplomatic activity around Iran.

A week after U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made an unscheduled visit to Russia to discuss Iran, U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley came to Moscow on Monday to continue talks. Simultaneously Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr

Mottaki held separate consultations with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow. Russia's Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov will go to Teheran soon. It may be interesting to know how Russia has managed to walk a thin line between holding its ground on Iran and avoiding antagonising the U.S.

Not only has Moscow staunchly opposed the U.S. push to punish Iran, it has refused to roll up the construction of a nuclear power project at Bushehr. Besides, it has got an observer status for Iran in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and has expanded its cooperation with Iran to outer space, with a Russian booster scheduled to launch Iran's first satellite on Thursday. After hearing another firm "no" in Moscow to the referral of Iran to the Security Council, the U.S. Secretary of State nevertheless accepted Russia's efforts to bring Iran back to the talks with the European Union. She, more-

over, indicated for the first time that the U.S. may lift its objections to the Bushehr power plant provided Iran agreed to return spent nuclear fuel to Russia (Teheran signed a corresponding commitment months ago).

Russia has positioned itself as a trusted negotiating partner for both Teheran and Washington and an indispensable channel of communication between the two. Moscow's latest proposals to Teheran reportedly call for Iran renouncing an independent fuel enrichment programme in favour of a joint venture with Russia to produce nuclear fuel and cutting back enrichment activities by 50 to 70 per cent in exchange for more arms supplies from Russia.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Singh's talks in Moscow will help the two countries to join forces in preventing the escalation of the stand-off over Teheran's nuclear programme and consolidating their strategic relationships with Iran.

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New IAEA members may be sympathetic to Iran cause

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's struggles with Iran and EU to get back to the negotiating table may yet be overset by another extraneous circumstance — new members on the IAEA board who Iran believes may be more sympathetic. This could result in a situation where Iran may be given a longer rope by the IAEA to continue negotiations delaying its referral to the UN Security Council.

The IAEA took 10 new members in the non-permanent category — Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Libya, Norway, Slovenia and Syria. The outgoing members are Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Tunisia and Vietnam. Cuba and Syria are markedly pro-Iran, while countries like Indonesia and Egypt may abstain. Iran has already started wooing other new members like Greece.

India is also viewing the ongoing tensions between the UK and Iran with concern. For a government that is trying to get the warring sides back to the table so it doesn't have to face Left flak at home again, the exchange of verbal fire

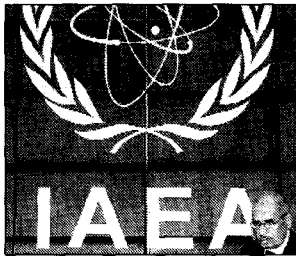
is not doing any good for the UPA government's efforts with Iran. Iran's president Ahmedinejad alleged a British hand in recent blasts in southern Iran while UK alleges Iran's hand in the recent unrest in southern Iraq.

Nevertheless, Indian government sources say India is working overtime to ensure that the Iran issue remains in the IAEA. This, say sources involved in the effort, can only work if both sides show some flexibility. Thus far there is little demonstrable flexibility from Iran, which in many ways lets India off the hook in the domestic sphere.

For Iran, say officials, the balance sheet reads like this: a US, embroiled in a war in Iraq and Afghanistan will not get the necessary international support to at-

tack Iran; the IAEA board looks favourable and Russia and China continue to oppose sending the case to the UNSC.

Iran has been given a vote of confidence by the European parliament which adopted a resolution last week approving Iran's right to a nuclear programme according to Article IV of the NPT. Most important, Iran hailed US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice's statement that Iran had a right to nuclear technology.



Director-general Mohamed ElBaradei at the IAEA Headquarters

If India had abstained...

928
19/10
IT is amazing to see the tons of newsprint devoted to the Iran issue in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this country without any focus on the real issue. One wonders whether at least some of these writers are interested in shielding Pakistan, China and the US, by diverting attention from the crux of the problem by making it an issue of bowing to US pressure.

Had India abstained from voting on the Iranian resolution, it would have had no locus standi to raise the basic issues involved on nuclear proliferation to Iran. The affirmative vote gives India the requisite standing to raise major issues with the IAEA and move amendments to any resolution that may be put forward in the November session of IAEA. The crux of the resolution was in two clauses: (1) "Finds also that the history of concealment of Iran's nuclear activities referred to in the Director General's report, the nature of these activities, issues brought to light in the course of Agency's verification of declaration made by Iran since September 2002 and the resulting absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes have given rise to questions that are within the competence of the Security Council.

(2) "In order to help the Director General to resolve outstanding questions and provide the necessary assurances, urges Iran to implement transparency measures as requested by the Director General in this report which extend beyond the formal requirements of the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol and include access to individuals, documentation relating to procurement, dual use equipment, certain military owned workshops and research and development locations."

The Iranian equipment under investigation did not fall from the skies but were supplied by what the IAEA calls an "intermediary" from another country. Therefore, in the spirit of the above provision of the



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K. SUBRAHMANYAM

resolution, the IAEA has a right to have access to documentation relating to procurement, of the supplier's side and to individuals who negotiated the deal for two instalments of supplies to Iran of 2000 and 500 centrifuges which facts have so far been established by the IAEA in its investigation.

All members of the IAEA are obligated to cooperate with its investigation. The conduct of any member who refuses to cooperate with the IAEA can be considered to give rise to questions that are within the competence of the Security Council as the organ bearing the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. While Iran, as a mem-

The resolution rightly focuses attention on the history of concealment. But this concealment was practiced not only by the receiver of centrifuges but also by the supplier

ber of the NPT, is obligated to convince IAEA that it does not intend to violate the NPT, in this case the country (Pakistan) which harbours the 'intermediary' (Dr A.Q. Khan) and is a member of IAEA has an obligation to facilitate access to Dr Khan by IAEA and all documentation in its possession on the deal. Otherwise to accept Pakistan's verbal declarations on Dr Khan but not accept Iranian statements that it does not intend to produce nuclear weapons will constitute blatant double standards.

The resolution rightly focuses attention on the history of concealment — from 1987-2003. But this concealment was practiced not only by the receiver of centrifuges but

also by the supplier. This calls into question the folk tale of authorities in Pakistan and US not being in the picture and coming to know about Dr Khan's activities only in the late '90s. Former US assistant secretaries of state, Henri Sokolski and Harry Rowen, have disclosed that they were informed by General Beg of Pakistan in '90 that if Pakistan did not get adequate support from the US, then it might be forced to share nuclear technology with Iran. Further, Dr Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch prime minister, has disclosed that the CIA had intervened to save Dr Khan from prosecution by Dutch authorities in '75 and '86, with the promise that they would be following him and watching him.

Presuming that they did so, then Dr Khan's dealings with Iran could not have come as a surprise to President George Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2003. Nor could the former CIA Director George Tenet be right in his claim that the agency came to know about Dr Khan's dealings only in late '90s.

On the other hand, Dr Khan went public with Pakistan having made the bomb in January '87 when he disclosed it to the Indian journalist, Kuldip Nayar. At that time presumably CIA had certain directives about Dr Khan and the Pakistani bomb. The CIA operative, Richard Barlow stationed in Islamabad who reported in 1987 of Pakistan having assembled the

bomb, was transferred and punished by the agency. As mentioned earlier, former assistant secretaries Rowen and Sokolski presumably did not bother with General Beg's threat to share nuclear technology with Iran. Recently, General Musharraf disclosed in an interview to the *New York Times* that Dr Khan was only a metallurgist who specialised in centrifuge technology and was not a bomb maker. This was demonstrated clearly when Pakistani nuclear tests at Chagai in '98 were conducted not by Dr Khan but Dr Samar Mubarak Mund. However, the Chinese design of the bomb was recovered from Dr Khan's supplies to Libya. If Dr Khan was operating alone and was dealing only with centrifuges, how could he supply the Chinese bomb design? That would indicate General Musharraf is being economical with the truth when he pretends that Pakistani military had nothing to do with supplies to Iran. CIA directors and Pentagon officials are practicing even greater economy with the truth when they tell the world they came to know about Pakistan-Iran proliferation only in late '90s.

India at this stage would do well to inform EU-3 and US that unless a compromise is reached with Iran and the resolution in November is adopted by consensus, India will — in all fairness — be compelled to move a resolution to ask the IAEA to seek the cooperation of Pakistan and US in investigating the extent of Dr Khan's proliferation activities in Iran as an essential part of investigation against Iran. It would at this stage be perhaps useful to solicit the cooperation of the NRI community to enlighten the US public of the known facts about Pakistani government's proliferation to Iran and the US looking away from it, including the CIA-Khan contacts going back to '75 as revealed by Dr Lubbers.

In India both our left and right should be asked to explain their stakes in shielding Dr Khan, Pakistan, CIA, China and US in respect of this issue.

MI5 names covert arms programmes

IAN Cobain and EWEN MacAskill
London, October 8

THE DETERMINATION of countries across Asia to develop nuclear arsenals and other weapons of mass destruction is laid bare by a secret British intelligence document which has been seen by The Guardian.

More than 360 private companies, university departments and government organisations in eight countries, including the Pakistan High Commission in London, are identified as having

procured goods or technology for use in weapons programmes. The length of the list, compiled by MI5, suggests that the arms trade supermarket is bigger than has so far been publicly realised. MI5 warns against exports to organisations in Iran, Pakistan, India, Israel, Syria and Egypt and to beware of front companies in the United Arab Emirates, which appears to be a hub for the trade.

The disclosure of the list comes as the Nobel peace prize was awarded to Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN watchdog responsible for combating proliferation. The Nobel committee said they had made the award because of the apparent deadlock in disarmament and the danger that nuclear weapons could spread "both to states and to terrorist groups".

The MI5 document, entitled Companies and Organisations of Proliferation Concern, has been compiled in an attempt to prevent British companies inadvertently exporting sensitive goods or expertise to organisations covertly involved in WMD programmes. Despite the large number of bod-

ies identified, the document says the list is not exhaustive.

It states: "It is not suggested that the companies and organisations on the list have committed an offence under UK legislation. However, in addition to conducting non-proliferation related business, they have procured goods and/or technology for weapons of mass destruction programmes."

The 17-page document identifies 95 Pakistani organisations and government bodies, including the Pakistan high commis-

sion in London, as having assisted in the country's nuclear programme. The list was compiled two years ago, shortly after the security service mounted a surveillance operation at the high commission which is the only diplomatic institution on the list. Abdul Basit, the deputy high commissioner, said: "It is absolute rubbish for Pak-

istan to be included. We take exception to these links."

Some 114 Iranian organisations, including chemical and pharmaceutical companies and university medical schools, are identified as having acquired nuclear, chemical, biological or missile technology. The document also attempts to shed some light on the nuclear ambitions of Egypt and Syria: a private chemical company in Egypt is identified as having procured technology for use in a nuclear weapons programme, while the Syrian atomic energy commission faces a similar charge. Eleven Israeli organisations appear on the list, along with 73 Indian bodies, which are said to have been involved in WMD programmes.

The Guardian

Indian firms on list not as worrying as Pakistani ones

VIJAY Dutt
London, October 8

THE IMMEDIATE reaction of a diplomatic source to 73 Indian bodies featuring in the MI5 proliferation list was that it could be a throwback to the Cold War years — when India was closely watched by western powers.

The concern about the Pakistan High Commission's link to proliferation is a different kettle of fish altogether because of extremists finding guidance and refuge from some quarters there and the ISI's close ties with the Taliban.

According to another source, the Indian companies on the list were put under observation after New Delhi tested the nuclear bomb in 1998. The list reportedly includes two firms headquartered in, or near, Hyderabad but not IISRO. "Although it (IISRO) faced sanctions following the 1998 testing, it is a nodule organisation devoted to space research and it should not figure in the list if MI5 has prepared it anew," an intelligence source said.

As for the Pakistan High Commission being named, there has been some concern about its possible use in the past by father of the Pakistan nuclear bomb, Dr A.Q. Khan, who is now in disgrace for supplying nuclear know-how to countries like North Korea. In fact, in its leader, The Times has specifically mentioned his name while criticising the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to the IAEA. The newspaper's grouse was that the nuclear watchdog did not anticipate the growing nuclear ambition of North Korea and Khan, until too late.



Practice makes perfect

German rescue workers watch over a 'victim' during a terrorist attack simulation at Munich's Allianz Arena stadium

Elbaradei, IAEA share Nobel peace prize

Cairo: Mohamed Elbaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that he heads on Friday won the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Elbaradei, an Egyptian lawyer, has headed the UN nuclear agency as it grappled with the crises in Iraq and the ongoing efforts to prevent North Korea and Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

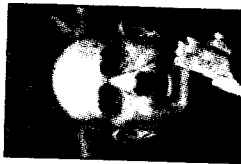
"Everyone who has contributed to the IAEA has a part in this important prize," Nobel committee chairman Geir Lundestad said as he announced the prize.

The Nobel committee was recog-

nising "their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes be used in the best possible way".

Elbaradei and the agency had been among the favourites to win the prize amid speculation that the Nobel committee would seek to honour the victims of nuclear weapons and those who try to contain their use.

A record 199 nominations were received for the prize, which includes \$1.3 million, a gold medal and



a diploma. Elbaradei and the IAEA will share the award when they receive it on December 10 in the Norwegian capital.

In Vienna, where the agency is based, IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said: "This is the most proud moment of my career at the IAEA. I never

thought we'd see this day. This is the proudest day for the IAEA. We are proud, astonished, elated. For an organisation like us there is no prouder award." The Nobel committee said Elbaradei and the agency should be recognised for addressing

one of the greatest dangers facing the world.

"At a time when the threat of nuclear arms is increasing again, the Norwegian Nobel committee wishes to underline that this threat must be met through the broadest possible international cooperation. This principle finds its clearest expression today in the work of the IAEA and its director-general."

In the nuclear non-proliferation regime, it is the IAEA which controls that nuclear energy is not misused for military purposes, and the director-general has stood out as an unafraid advocate of new measures to strengthen that regime. TNN and Agencies

IAEA, chief win Nobel Peace Prize

Associated Press

OSLO, Oct. 7. — Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency won the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday in recognition of their efforts to curb the spread of atomic weapons by using diplomacy.

Egyptian national Md ElBaradei, who has been accused by the USA of being too soft on countries such as Iran and North Korea, said the award sent a "very strong message" about the agency's emphasis on the need for negotia-

tions and inspections. UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan said he hoped the world would now take the IAEA's work more seriously. "I hope that this award wakes us all up."

Former chief UN weapons inspector Mr Hans Blix said: "I see it as an endorsement of the professional and independent role of the IAEA" he said.

Mr Blix declined to comment on whether the award should be seen as a message that the USA should have listened more to the IAEA before invading Iraq.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Ms

mitted to working with the IAEA to prevent the spread of nuclear technology".

Mr Stein Toenneson, director of the Peace Research Institute-Oslo, said it was a bold move for the committee to award the prize to the agency at a time when its members disagreed on how to handle Iran. "It stuck its finger in a wasp's nest," he said.

The Nobel Committee appeared to dismiss those concerns, recognising the pair "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for

peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way." It said: "At a time when there is a danger that nuclear arms will spread both to states and to terrorist groups... the IAEA's work is of incalculable importance." "This is a message to all the people of the world: Do what you can to get rid of nuclear weapons," said Nobel committee chairman Ole Danbolt Mjoes. A record 199 nominations were received for the prize: US\$1.3 million, a gold medal and a diploma. Md ElBaradei and the IAEA will share the award at a ceremony on 10 December in Oslo.



IAEA director general Md ElBaradei in tears during a press meet in Vienna on Friday. — AFP
Condoleezza Rice congratulated Md ElBaradei and the IAEA. She also reaffirmed that the Bush administration was "com-

Diplomacy averted IAEA confrontation

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Nov. 25. — It was a "massive" diplomatic effort that pulled back the IAEA board of governors from a confrontation, agreeing for time for talks with Iran to discuss alternate proposals.

India, obviously, was "happy and relieved" that there was no vote, providing a welcome break from taking any public stand on any resolution referring Iran to the UN Security Council.

Officials said India had been in constant contact with France, Germany and Britain, known as the EU-3, as well as China, Russia, South Africa and Iran. The foreign secretary, Mr Shyam Saran, had also

held several meetings with ambassadors of the three EU countries in Delhi.

"USA had the majority of votes, so sending Iran to UNSC would not have been difficult. But it would have precipitated consequences like Iran walking out of NPT, expelling IAEA inspectors and restarting uranium enrichment," a source said.

It would not have been in India's interest to have a "tense situation" in the neighbourhood, as it would have impacted relations with Iran, as well in the region, where over one million Indians reside. "Even a threat of sanctions against Iran would have sent oil prices soaring," the source said. This "vital diplomatic space" would be utilised for talks

to start between EU-3 and Iran under Russian aegis from 6 December.

"It (alternate proposal) concedes that Iran has right to enrichment. But, some flexibility will have to shown how to proceed with that Right," they said.

'Scan AQ Khan network'

India has sought proper scrutiny by the IAEA of clandestine nuclear proliferation network of AQ Khan, disgraced father of Pakistan's atomic programme, asserting that "greater clarity" in this area will serve the interest of the objectives of non-proliferation and enhance the credibility of the international nuclear watchdog, PTI adds from Vienna.

THE STATESMAN

26 NOV 2005

Vienna on Thursday morning

IAEA gives Iran time to clear N-mess

25/11
11:1
Vienna: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which began its meeting here on Thursday, is expected to postpone calling for a UN Security Council action over Iran's atomic programme amid hopes of new talks towards resolving the crisis.

A European diplomat said, "There is a hope that there will be resumed negotiations on winning guarantees that Iran is not developing atomic weapons." Diplomats said the US, Europe and China backed a Russian plan to allow Teheran to conduct uranium enrichment, but in Russia, not in Iran. This is aimed at keeping the Islamic Republic from obtaining nuclear technology crucial in making atom bombs. Enriched uranium can be fuel



for nuclear power reactors, but also the raw material for the bomb.

Besides, the UN nuclear watchdog's 35-nation board of governors is meeting to review the progress after calling

on Iran in September to cease all nuclear fuel work, something Iran has refused to do. Despite its denials, Iran is suspected of using its drive towards atomic energy for electricity generation as a cover

for weapons development.

Meanwhile, a diplomat said negotiators from Russia and European Union countries like Britain, France and Germany would meet with Iran on December 6, probably in Vienna or Moscow, to break the deadlock. A non-aligned diplomat close to the IAEA said the Ira-

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Disarmament
nians were keen for the talks. "There is a certain sense of relief. They want these negotiations to commence," he said. However, EU has warned Iran against making any "unilateral moves" to increase its atomic activities. British ambassador Peter Jenkins said the EU had "acceded to the request of several board members" of the IAEA to give more time for a "diplomatic dialogue on the future of Iran's nuclear programme."

He said, "Any resumption of enrichment-related activities at Natanz will seriously aggravate the situation created by the resumption of activity at Isfahan, the conversion facility. He added that Iran's failing to fully cooperate with an IAEA investigation of its past and current nuclear activities "undermines its claim that its nuclear program is peaceful in nature". Agencies

Iran and the IAEA [✓] _{NO-11 29/11 ✓}

IAEA chief's report makes an overall positive assessment of Teheran's cooperation.

R. Ramachandran

IN A report dated November 18 on the Iran nuclear issue, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, has said: "Since [the time of the September 2005 Report], Iran has been more forthcoming in providing access to additional documentation related to the 1987 offer [of centrifuge components] and permitting interviews with individuals who had been involved in discussions with the procurement network." This report will be placed at the November 24 meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors.

According to the report, among the documents that Iran voluntarily submitted to the IAEA relating to the 1987 offer "was one related to the procedural requirements for the reduction of UF₆ (uranium hexafluoride) to metal in small quantities, and on the casting and machining of enriched, natural and depleted uranium metal into hemispherical forms..."

The report itself does not make any significant remark about this particular document. But it is this part of the report that has got selectively leaked to the Western media, which have been only too quick to level the charge that this was a blueprint for a warhead design and Iran was, in fact, pursuing a weapons programme.

With respect to this document, Iran had apparently stated that it had been provided on the initiative of the procurement network and not at the request of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran. As was pointed out in an earlier report (*The Hindu*, Nov. 22), the fact that Iran had voluntarily submitted this document does not give much credence to the charge that this constituted any evidence for Iran's weapons programme.

The 1987 offer has been under investigation by the IAEA and has already been discussed in the director-general's report of January 2005. Iran had already stated that only components of one or two centrifuges were procured from the network following this 1987 offer made by a foreign intermediary. All other components were procured from other suppliers and these had been declared to the Agency in October 2003.

The new documents that Iran has submitted to the Agency after September pertain to this 1987 offer and include detailed drawings of the P-1 centrifuge components and assemblies; technical specifications supporting component manufacture and centrifuge assembly; and technical documents relating to centrifuge operational performance.

They also include cascade schematic drawings for various sizes of R&D cascades, together with the equipment needed for cascade operation. The documents also included a drawing showing a cascade layout for six cascades of 168 machines each and a small plant of 2000 centrifuges arranged in the same hall. And, of course, the one about machining small quantities of uranium in hemispherical shapes. All these documents are in the process of being assessed, the DG's report has noted.

"Very little new information has been made available regarding the events preceding the mid-1990s offer," the report notes, however. Apparently, Iran has maintained that no documentation of the offer exists apart from the shipping documents confirming the delivery of the P-1 components during the 1994-9 period. Iran has also not provided any additional information or documentation to support its statement that it did not pursue any work on the P-2 design between 1995 and 2002, one of the unresolved issues in the Iranian programme. The Agency, according to the report, is still in the process of verifying Iran's statement from other sources.

The report notes with satisfaction that Iran, as per its commitment in November 2003, has been allowing complimentary accesses to IAEA officials as if Additional Protocol was in force and access to the Parchin site has enabled drawing of environmental samples. The Agency did not observe any unusual activities in the buildings visited. Its final assessment is pending the results of the environmental sample analysis.

In the light of this overall positive assessment of Iran's cooperation and the fact that the European Union is keen to pursue negotiations with Iran on the offer for siting the enrichment facility in Russia, it would appear that the Iran issue is unlikely to be put to vote at the IAEA tomorrow.

West shelves Iran referral

Vienna, Nov. 21 (Reuters): EU powers and Washington will not refer Iran to the UN Security Council this week so that Russia can pursue an initiative to ease a crisis over Tehran's suspected nuclear arms plans, diplomats said today.

They said a meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog this week would shelve a referral resolution in favour of a statement, citing concern about what diplomats said was a document received by Iran containing partial nuclear bomb-making instructions.

"There will be no resolution for sure. The Russians and Chinese oppose this," said a diplomat from the so-called EU3 — France, Britain and Germany — ahead of Thursday's governing board session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In September, the IAEA board passed a resolution declaring that Iran had violated the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by hiding poten-

tially weapons-related atomic fuel activities from the IAEA for 18 years.

The resolution called for Iran's breaches to be reported to the Security Council, which has the power to impose economic sanctions, but did not say when the referral should take place.

Tehran denies western allegations that it has a covert atomic weapons programme and insists its nuclear ambitions are limited to the peaceful generation of electricity.

Last week, President George W. Bush said he backed an initiative by Russian President Vladimir Putin to end a months-long impasse in the EU3's drive to persuade Iran to abandon the most sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle. In exchange, Iran would get economic and political benefits.

EU diplomats said this was the main reason for holding off on the Security Council referral — to give Tehran more time to consider a Russian

proposal that would allow Iran to continue nuclear fuel production if it shifted its most critical stage, uranium enrichment, to Russia as part of a joint venture.

Without officially rejecting the Russian idea, Iran has made it clear they must enrich uranium domestically, calling this a sovereign right it would never renounce.

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow would support a referral of Iran to the Security Council if it saw a real threat that Tehran was developing weapons of mass destruction (WMD). But he said there was no such threat.

"We do not rule out that the Iranian question could be passed on to the UN Security Council, if a real threat of WMD non-proliferation — especially nuclear weapons — appears.

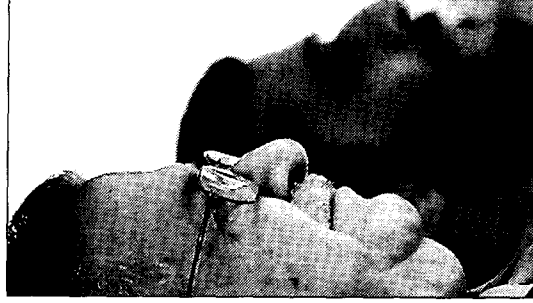
"At the moment we do not see such a threat," he was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency.

Iraq visit

Tehran, Nov. 21 (Reuters): Jalal Talabani, the first Iraqi President to visit Iran for nearly four decades, received assurances today that Tehran supported its neighbour's transition to democracy.

Shia 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.

Talabani, said his visit was aimed at strengthening political and commercial ties.



Iraq President Jalal Talabani (left) with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran. (Reuters)

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The Case Against Iran

India should expose Tehran's deal with China, Pak, A Q Khan

By K SUBRAHMANYAM

On November 24, India might once again vote on a resolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the issue being whether Iran's conduct should be referred to the UN Security Council. There are demands — from quarters that want to shield the involvement of China, Pakistan and A Q Khan in Iran's activities over the past 18 years — that India shield the proliferators for the sake of non-alignment and opposition to western hegemony.

They write lengthy articles without once referring to Khan's proliferation activities in Iran, hoping to mislead India. The arguments in support of Iran amount to legitimising the China-Pakistan proliferation axis.

These quarters hope Iran will refuse all compromise, the matter will come up for vote and then, brought to submission, India will reverse its September 24 vote and in the process lose all credibility in the international arena. But these hopes are likely to be dashed. The US does not want a vote, nor do the West Europeans. They are working strongly on the Russians — who are close to completing the Bushehr reactor — to persuade Iran to accept a compromise which will not deny it uranium enrichment technology for all time to come.

But it's not yet clear if Iran will accept a compromise. If it does not, what would its situation be in the IAEA? What is being debated in the IAEA is not Iran's right to enrich uranium up to 3-5% to make fuel for the light water reactor. Nor is it about whether Iran is likely to reach bomb-making capability in a few months. The problem before IAEA is its inability to certify that Iran does not have clandestine

sites, equipment or material, thanks to Khan's clandestine proliferation to Iran from 1987 to 2003. Pro-China ideologues seek to conceal this fact from public attention, presumably because the China-Pakistan-A Q Khan proliferation dates back to 1976.

IAEA's inspections and investigations in the past two-and-half years have been inconclusive. It has insisted on Iran being more transparent. Having established its independence by refusing to toe the US line on Iraqi WMD, the IAEA has the support of Germany and France, countries that opposed the US's WMD stand. Therefore, the IAEA vote is not US-inspired, but

the same as in the case of Bushehr. So Iran is not in immediate need of enriched fuel and will lose nothing by accepting the EU-Russia proposal.

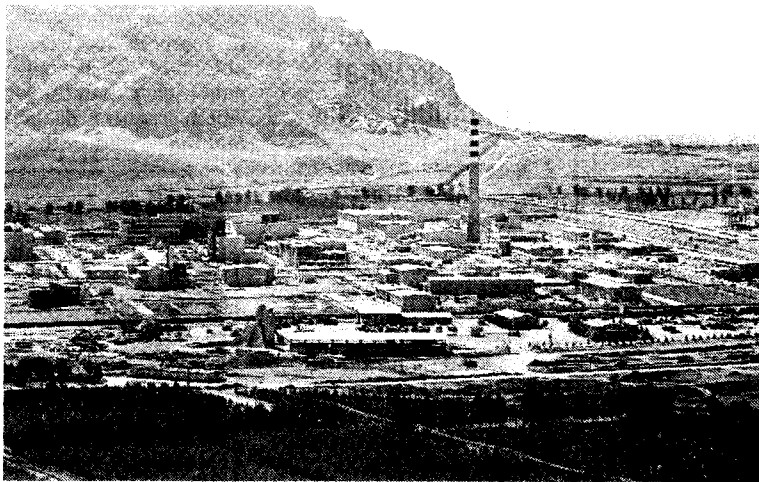
Iran should understand that its 18 years of clandestine proliferation efforts have created a credibility problem for it in Europe and the West. It needs to create confidence in other countries that it will completely fulfil its NPT obligations and satisfy the IAEA that there are no longer any clandestine sites or materials on its soil. As long as it refuses to do so it will be breaching IAEA regulations. That would need to be referred to the Security Council.

Of course, what happens at the Security Council is another matter — something the IAEA cannot influence. In the Security Council, China may well veto further action. In the IAEA, India is in a position to demand that Pakistan and China cooperate with IAEA investigations into charges that Iran was sent supplies by these countries. India can propose amendments to any resolution in the IAEA in this respect.

India would have national interest rather non-alignment on its mind when deciding on such action. As Jawaharlal Nehru once said, no foreign

minister should continue in his office unless he upholds the country's national interest. Whether it was the case of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan, the Bangladesh war or backing the Heng Samrin regime against Pol Pot in Cambodia, India decided on its vote just on the basis of national interest. In all the above cases, India's vote did not go with the non-aligned.

The ideologues who supported Pol Pot, the Afghan jihadists, and the anti-India stand during CTBT along with the US and China, have nothing to teach the present UPA government on non-alignment. The UPA government has only one obligation — to serve the national interest.



one that represents a face-off between Iran and the West Europeans who are concerned about proliferation.

West Europe and Russia have offered a compromise — Tehran can convert uranium ore into uranium hexafluoride gas in Iran if it defers the indigenous enrichment (to 3-5%) programme for now, carrying it out in Russia instead. This would facilitate IAEA inspections and develop confidence between Iran and West European countries. Russia will supply the fuel for the Bushehr reactor and take away the irradiated fuel. So, fuel is not an issue.

Iran is yet to conclude the next reactor deal, and in all probability the source will be Russia again. The terms are likely to be

N-deal with India to end its isolation: US

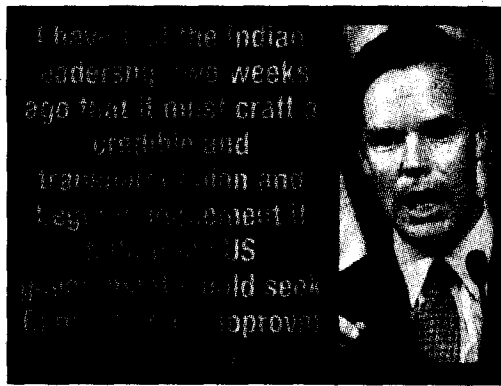
Disagreement *9/11*

Washington: Asserting that the aim of its civilian nuclear energy deal with India was to engage rather than isolate it, the Bush administration said it would seek Congressional approval as New Delhi "begins" to meet its commitments under the accord.

With Pakistan also seeking similar co-operation, the administration ruled out extending the offer to any other country. The administration believed that it was better to "wait" before it asked Congress to consider any required legislative action "until India is further along in taking the necessary steps to fulfill our agreement," under secretary of state for political affairs Nicholas Burns told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday.

"We weighed the pros and cons of whether or not to seek changes to US policy and ask Congress for authorization.... We decided that it was in American interest to bring India into compliance with the standards and practices of the international non-proliferation regime. And we decided that the only way to reach that goal was to end India's isolation and begin to engage it," he said.

Observing that "the actions India committed to undertake are difficult, complex and time-consuming," he as-



sured the lawmakers that New Delhi could be relied upon in the future with sensitive nuclear technology.

Defending the agreement signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Washington in July, Burns said, it "advances our strategic partnership and is a net gain for non-proliferation. We do not plan to offer such cooperation to any other country." Observing that New Delhi "may not be ready" to begin compliance "until April 2006," the senior administration official said "our judgement is that it would not be wise or fair to ask the Congress to make such a consequential decision without evidence that the Indian government was acting on what is arguably the most important of its commitments—the sepa-

ration of its civilian and military facilities."

Burns went on to say that he had "told the Indian leadership two weeks ago that it must craft a credible and transparent plan" and begin to implement it before the US government would seek Congressional approval." He further said that the Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran had assured him that New Delhi "will produce such a plan."

Assuring the lawmakers that India could be relied upon in the future with sensitive nuclear technology, Burns, who was accompanied by the under secretary of state for arms control and internal security Robert Joseph at the hearing, pointed out that India had demonstrated a strong commitment to protect fissile materials and nuclear technology in spite of not being part of the NPT.

He also told the Senators that India had resisted proposals for nuclear non-proliferation with nuclear aspirants that could have had adverse implications for international security.

Presenting their case for Congress approval, the officials said the administration would propose "appropriate language" that would be "India specific and would demonstrate our dedication to a robust and permanent relationship." Agencies

Iran threat to cut off trade ties

Tehran, Sept. 27 (Reuters): Iran threatened today to use trade ties to punish countries that voted against it at the UN atomic watchdog, after Tehran failed to convince the world its nuclear programme was peaceful.

"We will reconsider our economic cooperation with those countries that voted against us," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said.

weapon in a bid to prompt a change of heart among countries seeking to send Iran to the Security Council. But such a move could backfire. Oil accounts for 80 per cent of export earnings and interrupting that flow of hard cash would be politically risky.

Larijani warned about the "massive consequences" of a Security Council referral without elaborating. "I don't think any rush to refer Iran's case would be useful for America and the EU," he said.

EU "big three", France, Germany and Britain, who have drawn most of Iran's ire for drafting the IAEA resolution, also have key investment deals in Iran's energy, automotive and petrochemicals sectors.

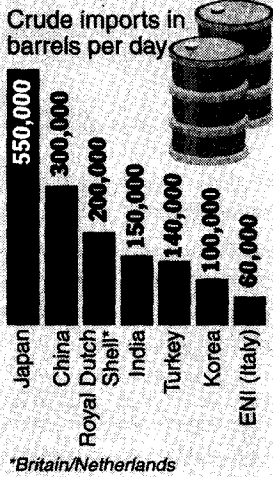
Japan, another strong advocate of the IAEA resolution against Iran, is seeking to increase its imports from the Islamic Republic through a \$2 billion development of the giant Azadegan oilfield.

Poor processing

A threat by Iran to resume uranium enrichment may have little substance behind it since Tehran has not yet mastered the technology to produce the high-quality gas required, western diplomats say.

The processing at Iran's Isfahan plant converts raw uranium "yellowcake" into uranium hexafluoride gas (UF6), which can then be enriched into fuel for power stations or nuclear bombs. Diplomats said, however, that the quality of UF6 produced at Isfahan was so poor that it could not be used at Iran's massive enrichment site at Natanz.

"The UF6 is crap," said a western diplomat, who follows Iran's nuclear case closely. Another diplomat was more diplomatic: "I wouldn't say it's garbage. But the UF6 produced at Isfahan is of such poor quality that if it were fed into centrifuges it could damage them."



Washington accuses Iran of seeking nuclear warheads, but Tehran insists it needs atomic fuel for power stations.

Angered by the IAEA resolution, Tehran has already threatened to resume uranium enrichment — a process that can be used to make bomb-grade material — and curtail short-notice UN inspections.

Analysts had predicted Iran could also roll out the oil

Iran rejects IAEA step as 'political'

Disarmament

G-1

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Teheran: Iran on Sunday rejected a UN atomic watchdog agency resolution that would refer Iran to the UN Security Council over its disputed nuclear programme as "political, illegal and illogical." Foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki said the resolution, approved by vote, removed doubts that Britain, France and Germany, the key three European countries negotiating with Iran, have violated previous agreements with Iran. "The three European countries implemented a planned scenario already determined by the US," Mottaki said on state-run television.

The 35-nation board of the UN atomic watchdog agency approved the resolution on Saturday that could lead to Iran's referral to the UN Security Council for violating a nuclear arms control treaty, unless Teheran eases suspicions about its nuclear activities.

The resolution was adopted with 22 of 35 board nations supporting it, 12 abstaining and one rejecting it. In remarks sug-



Russian-made Sam-6 missiles are seen in front of a portrait of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at a war exhibition near Teheran on Sunday

gesting increasing tension in Teheran-London relations, Mottaki said the rotating presidency of the European Union "is unable to manage the situation" and made decisions under US pressure. Britain holds the current EU presidency.

The Left parties, which provide the crucial outside support to the Manmohan Singh government, on Sunday severely criticised India's vote with the US and EU for referring Iran to the UN Security Council on its nuclear plans saying the government acted under

US pressure.

India, which voted for reporting traditional ally Iran to the UN Security Council over Teheran's nuclear plans, said on Sunday it had not bowed to American pressure. "There is no question of India having ranged itself on one side or the other," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday. It added that while New Delhi was keen for a consensus, it could not ignore the fact the resolution had majority support." Agencies

Iran's N-path cleared as Europe backs down

America Hit By Threat Of China, Russia Veto

Vienna/Washington: The European Union has backed off from its attempt to have Iran called before the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme, according to a draft UN resolution read to AFP on Thursday.

The draft resolution "requests" International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Mohamed El-Baradei to report on Iran's nuclear programme "to the IAEA board (of governors) which will address the timing and content" in its own report on Teheran that could be given to the UNSC, although the council's name is not mentioned.

The EU earlier in the week had been calling overtly for immediate referral to the Council but this was opposed by Russia, China and non-aligned nations on the IAEA's board of governors, which is meeting in Vienna this week.

A Western diplomat said the climbdown in calling this week for Iran to be taken to the Security Council for what the US charges is a secret programme to develop nuclear weapons was due to Russia's stiff opposition to the move.

"The Russians are the reason," the diplomat said, adding that the hope was that delaying referral "gets them on board".

Meanwhile, reports from the US capital say



TOUGH TALK Ali Asghar Solthaieh, Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, speaks to the media in Vienna

Iran warns enemies of 'fire, destruction'

Teheran: Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday that his country wants peace but warned that any nation considering attacking the Islamic republic faced a "destructive and fiery" response.

He was speaking at an annual parade of troops, ballistic missiles and other hardware that marks the start of "Sacred Defence Week"—the anniversary of the outbreak of an eight-year war with Iraq in 1980.

"Our enemies have understood that we are very serious in defending our security," said Ahmadinejad. The term "enemies" is usually used as a reference to the United States and Israel.

"We want the Persian Gulf to be a gulf of friendship and equality," Ahmadinejad said. But he warned that "if some want to again test what they have tested before, the flame of the Iranian nation will be very destructive and fiery." AFP

that the Bush administration is delaying a drive to pressure Iran to halt its nuclear programme through UN censure or sanctions, apparently because it lacks the votes to prevail.

A majority of the IAEA is ready to refer the issue to the Security Council, but a US resolution would have to get past the veto powers of Russia and China. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that going to the UN "will not contribute to the search for a solution to the Iranian problem through political and diplomatic means."

At a minimum, the Bush administration is playing for time. US officials say no nation supports Iran getting nuclear weapons, but the US has been unable to find a consensus to try to punish Iran to force it back into negotiations with the EU.

The threat is not being withdrawn. "It is a question of not if, but when" the contentious issue will go to the council, Ereli said. Even so, Iran's reprieve is at least a temporary setback for US diplomacy.

Two weeks ago, Condoleezza Rice urged Russia, China, India and others to join in a "unified message" to Iran to halt its programme. Russia and China demurred, and India did not seem taken with the idea of going to the UNSC. Agencies

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

Bringing North Korea around

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Disarmament
119-10



he groundbreaking six-nation agreement, under which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agreed to give up its nuclear weapons programme and reaffirmed its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in exchange for security pledges and substantial aid and energy assistance, has received a setback less than 24 hours after the ink dried. With Pyongyang declaring it will not eliminate its weapons until supplied with a civilian nuclear reactor and Washington firmly rejecting the demand, the agreement may appear to have unraveled. However, as informed observers have noted, North Korea's demand could be part of a negotiating effort. The provision of a light water reactor to North Korea was something to be discussed at the "appropriate time" and steps to implement the entire agreement were to be undertaken in a "phased manner, in line with the principle of 'commitment for commitment, action for action'." At one level, the question of whether the provision of the civilian reactor should precede nuclear disarmament is a dispute over the ambiguous word "appropriate" and also the absence of any stipulation over which "commitment" should precede which. At another level, power-starved North Korea's demand that it be first supplied with a civilian nuclear reactor must be understood in the context of its experience with the 1994 agreement, under which the Clinton administration committed itself to building two light water reactors in return for Pyongyang's promise of suspending work on nuclear facilities that could produce weapons grade plutonium as a by-product. It was the United States that preemptorily suspended work on the reactors.

The six-nation agreement, which China took the lead role in shaping constructively, offers the best hope for de-escalating the tense strategic situation in the Korean peninsula. It prohibits unilateralism and military intervention – until now the cornerstones of Bush administration policy towards North Korea – and commits the parties to abiding by the United Nations Charter and the recognised principles of international law. The global nuclear bargain anchored in the NPT is notoriously unequal: it discriminates, at one level, between the five-member nuclear weapons club and the rest; and, at another level, among developing countries with significant nuclear energy programmes, say among India, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, South Korea and North Korea. If the six-nation agreement is to work, North Korea's promise of returning to the NPT must be rewarded by the international community, and specifically by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency, with full-fledged cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear energy. The next round of talks, scheduled for early November, offers another opportunity to settle the nuclear issues relating to the Korean peninsula, one of the world's hot spots. The U.S. must be made to understand that nuclear de-weaponisation is best achieved through incentives and not intimidation.

N Korea agrees to abandon N-arms plan

2019
Disarmament
2017
Will Rejoin NPT, Accept IAEA Inspections, US Assures Of Non-Aggression

Beijing: In a major breakthrough, North Korea on Monday agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons and programmes and rejoin the Non-Proliferation Treaty, accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency after the US agreed to normalise bilateral ties and assured of non-aggression. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, a joint statement issued after six days of nerve-wracking negotiations said.

The six parties to the Korean Peninsula nuclear talks agreed to hold their fifth-round negotiations in Beijing in early November this year, at a date to be determined through consultations, the statement, issued here on Monday at the end of the fourth-round of talks, said. The six parties are committed to making joint efforts for lasting peace and stability in Northeast Asia, it said.

The directly related parties will negotiate a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum. The six parties, the US, North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia agreed to take coordinated

safeguards. "The United States affirmed that it has no nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula and has no intention to attack or invade (North Korea) with nuclear or conventional weapons."

Chief US negotiator Christopher Hill praised the deal, which capped a tough week of talks among six nations which have tried since 2003 to persuade the North to disarm. "It is a big decision for them but is absolutely the right decision for them," Hill said. "The success or prosperity of the DPRK (North Korea) does not depend on nuclear weapons. In fact, it depends on relations with the others. So this is a moment which will be very important in their history," he said.

According to the agreement, the North would renounce all nuclear weapons and programmes, return to the international Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allow UN weapons inspectors back into the country. In return the other nations agreed to "recognise" the North's demand for peaceful nuclear energy and said Pyongyang's request to have a light-water nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes would be revisited "at an appropriate time." Agencies



US assistant secretary of state Christopher Hill (left) shakes hands with North Korea's chief negotiator Kim Gye Gwan (right) as South Korean deputy foreign minister Song Min-Soon looks on at the Diaoyutai state guest house in Beijing on Monday steps to implement their consensus in a phased manner in line with the principle of "commitment for commitment, action for action."

The DPRK also pledged in the statement to return, at an early date, to the NPT and to IAEA

N Korea gives up nukes, India to benefit

PRAMIT PAL Chaudhuri
New Delhi, September 19

NORTH KOREA has agreed to end its nuclear weapons programme in return for a benefit package, a decision that could mean closure on Asia's most dangerous nuclear flashpoint. The timing of this breakthrough deal could also help India by easing US congressional opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal.

Pyongyang's decision came at the last minute. The latest round of six-nation negotiations had otherwise been deadlocked and the US delegation had been preparing to go home.

North Korea agreed to give up trying to make nuclear weapons and to open all its nuclear facilities to United Nations inspectors. Besides economic benefits, Pyongyang will re-

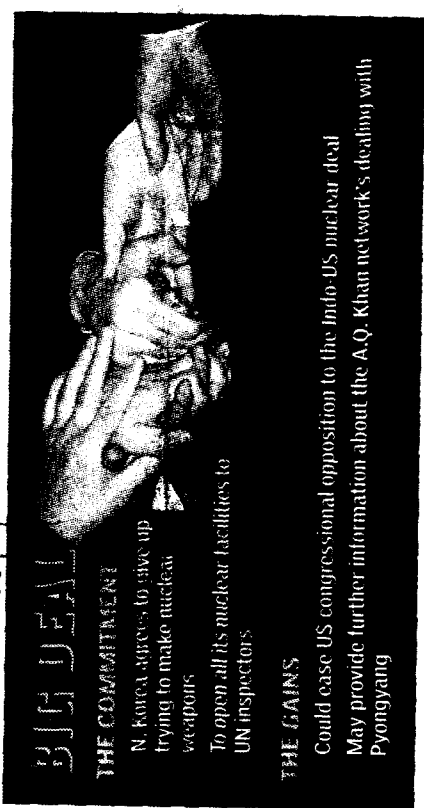
ceive a security guarantee against US attack — a major fear of dictator Kim Jong-il since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. South Korean sources say Kim hid in a bunker for a week after Baghdad fell, fearing the US would target him next.

The North Korean breakthrough comes at an opportune moment for India. US critics of the Indo-US nuclear deal have argued that it would encourage nuclear rogue states. Iran has unabashedly begun pushing this parallel. It was noticeable that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad used the catchphrase, "nuclear apartheid", when arguing his country's atomic case before the UN. India has for years used this phrase while demanding entry into the nuclear club.

The North Korean deal strengthens

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Diagrams



tations. The only regret New Delhi may have is that it was not part of the North Korean deal. As *The New York Times* has already noted "the accord appears to be a significant victory for China".

South Korea had informally sounded out India last year if it was interested in participating in the six-nation talks. India declined, even though it had two clear interests. One, its status as an Asian power would have been enhanced and, two, it needs leverage to uncover more about North Korea's "ballistic missiles-for-nuclear centrifuges" deals with Pakistan.

With any luck, the opening of North Korea's nuclear programme will still provide further information about the A.Q. Khan network's dealing with Pyongyang at some point.

whether or not India becomes a member of the nuclear club. Pyongyang is not known to have raised India's nuclear deal during its nego-

clear rogues don't care two pennies about the Indo-US nuclear agreement. They will do as they please

Could ease US congressional opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal
May provide further information about the A.Q. Khan network's dealings with
Pyongyang

20 SEP 2006 THE NEW YORK TIMES

Iran won't give in to US bullying, says President

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, September 18

DEFYING THE US's all-out bid to bring it to heel, Iran has told the United Nations that it has an "inalienable right" to nuclear energy and will not give up its uranium enrichment programme.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, addressing the UN General Assembly immediately after US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, made it clear that his country was "not going to cave in to the excessive demands of certain powers".

He launched a blistering attack on Washington, saying: "If some try to impose their will on the Iranian people through resorting to the language of force and threats, we will reconsider our entire approach to the nuclear issue."

Stating that Iran will not accept "nuclear apartheid" that permitted some countries to

NUCLEAR CONTROVERSY

enrich fuel, but not others, Ahmadinejad commented that it was the US that was violating global nuclear treaties. He went on to offer other countries a partnership in Iran's uranium enrichment programme.

"We believe we should not give in to bullying in international relations," the Iranian leader told a subsequent news conference while replying to a question on the possibility of sanctions.

Earlier, Rice told the UN General Assembly that it was high time that pressure was intensified to deal with Iran's nuclear pursuit. She was emphatic that the country should be referred to the UN Security Council for sanctions once diplomacy is exhausted.

As she put it, the world body "must be able to deal with great challenges like terrorism and nuclear proliferation, especially when countries like Iran threaten the effectiveness of the global non-proliferation regime".

India, Russia and China — the three nations approached lately by the Bush administration for a "unified message" on the subject — have over the past week counselled the diplomatic route to resolve the controversy.

Against that backdrop, Rice came up with the formulation that Iran should resume the dialogue that broke down with the EU 3 (France, Britain and Germany), failing which the Security Council should intervene.

The US was still to react to Ahmadinejad's address but French foreign minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said: "What I heard today makes me predict that the option of reporting Iran to the UNSC stays on the agenda."

THE HINDU TIMES

Iran N-dispute snowballing

After months of tough bargaining, Iranian and European negotiators have reached the end of the line. The Western effort to prevent Iran from reprocessing nuclear fuel may now cause a bigger split with the developing world.

To the disappointment of the USA and the European Union troika (EU3) – Britain, France, and Germany – the latest International Atomic Energy Agency report on Iran's nuclear programme fell short of the critical declaration for which the Western nations were hoping.

The document said the IAEA tests vindicated Teheran's claims that traces of enriched uranium found two years earlier at the Iranian nuclear facilities were from the imported equipment, believed to be of Pakistani origin. Unsurprisingly, Washington immediately dismissed this IAEA finding as meaningless.

Equally disappointing to the Europeans and the USA was the report by the prestigious London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies that followed soon thereafter. The report revealed that Iran would need more than 10 years to build an industrial-scale centrifugal plant at Natanz, where a relatively small pilot centrifugal plant currently exists.

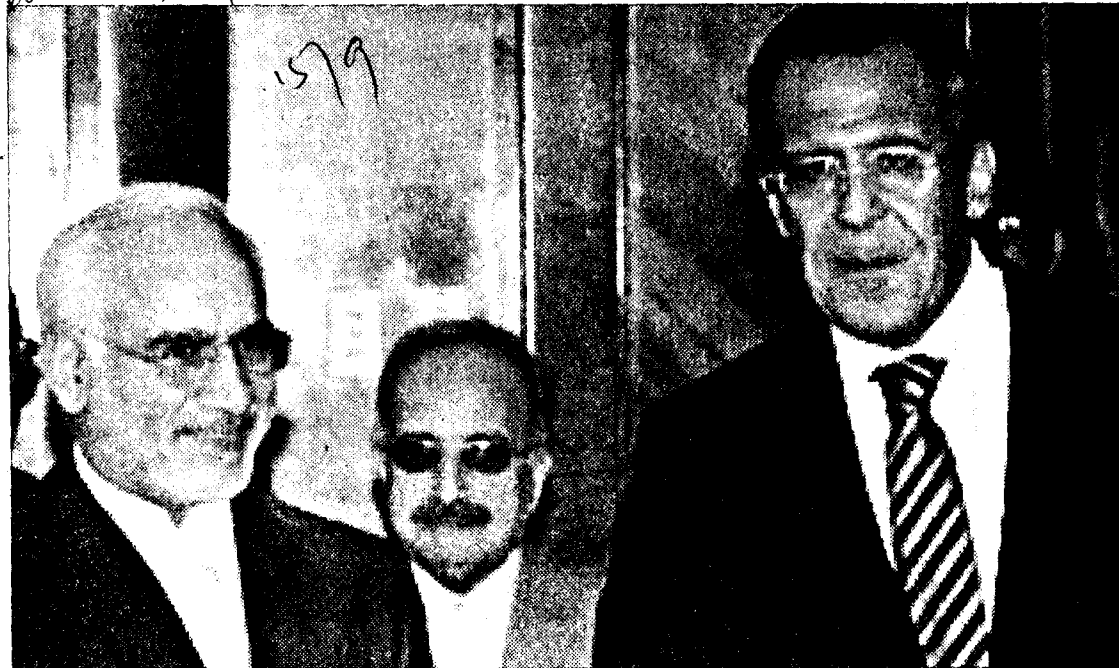
By now, the European frustration with Iran is palpable – and is shared by Washington. Such a convergence should easily gain them a majority at the 15-strong UN Security Council – where four of the five permanent members are European or American – to punish Teheran for its refusal to permanently abdicate its right to enrich uranium.

Unfortunately for the Western powers, the nuclear matter may be referred to the Security Council only by the IAEA's board of governors, and the composition of the 35-member board is not as iniquitous as the UN Security Council. Fifteen of the IAEA governors belong to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which represents 116 of the 191 members of the UN.

The principle underlying the current spat over uranium enrichment is this: Does the developing world have the right to develop and use all nuclear technology, including uranium enrichment?

Teheran's answer is an unequivocal

Non-Aligned Movement member-states' support for Teheran's right to have a nuclear programme pits them against the West, writes DILIP HIRO



The head of Iran's nuclear programme, Gholamreza Aghazadeh (left), in Moscow with Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov.

“Yes”, and NAM agrees. The Europeans do not deny that right: they want Iran to permanently cede its prerogative in exchange for an EU commitment to construct nuclear power plants in the Islamic republic and strengthen commercial links with Iran.

Signing such a deal would render Iran dependent on the EU for its civilian nuclear power plants and the fuel needed to run them – a fundamental negation of aims of the 1979 revolution in Iran: regaining Iranian independence and sovereignty.

“For Iran, nuclear technology is a source of national pride and a demonstration of its political and technological independence from its former colonial masters,” says Daryl Kimball, executive director of Arms Control Association, a non-partisan organisation that researches nuclear issues. Mr Kimball adds, “This is much more complicated than a simple economic and energy calculation.”

For their part, the Iranians have concentrated on fulfilling the European demands for a nuclear

programme geared towards civilian, not military, operations. In March, they submitted to European negotiators detailed proposals for strict IAEA monitoring of their nuclear programme.

The outlined regime extended far beyond the provisions of the Additional Protocol on the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, which they signed in December 2003. But Iran also repeatedly ruled out the prospect of permanently renouncing their right to develop nuclear technology. The framework that the EU3 proposed to Teheran in early August made commercial incentives and building of nuclear electric generating plants conditional on Iran's permanent renunciation of its rights under the NPT. The framework also included the demand that Iran sign a legal agreement not to quit the NPT – as North Korea had – under any circumstances.

Teheran rejected the package. In a clear breach of its agreement to suspend all uranium enrichment-related activities, Iran resumed its work at the plant near Isfahan, where urani-

um oxide is converted to uranium hexafluoride gas – but only under the watchful eyes of IAEA inspectors. This gas is the feedstock for centrifuges that enrich uranium to varying degrees: four per cent for power plants, 20 per cent for research reactors, and 90 per cent-plus for weapons. In response to the rejection, the Europeans threatened to take Iran to the UN Security Council. It was an empty threat.

At the IAEA governors' emergency meeting in Vienna, the EU3 and the USA discovered that they actually lacked the wide majority they had sought. So they settled for asking Iran to suspend its activities related to uranium enrichment, and for the IAEA secretary-general, Muhammad El Baradei, to report on the issue by 3 September.

Mr El Baradei's 15-page document proved to be a mixed bag. While insisting that Iran maintain transparency, the report did not invalidate the IAEA's earlier conclusion that it had not found evidence that Iran was engaged in a banned nuclear weapons programme.

The plain fact is that the only valid basis for hauling Iran before the UN Security Council is its breach of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as enshrined in the NPT. Following the IAEA emergency meeting, Russia – which is about to finish constructing a civilian nuclear power plant near Bushehr – said that it saw no evidence that Teheran was violating the non-proliferation regime.

At the IAEA emergency session, among those who remained coolly cognizant of the facts on the ground were the IAEA governors belonging to NAM, including such heavyweights as Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa.

Rajmah Hussein of Malaysia, the current NAM chairman, reiterated NAM's position that all countries have “a basic and inalienable right” to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

NAM members note that while Western nations repeatedly ask why Iran is so insistent on building nuclear power plants when the country has vast reserves of oil and natural gas, they never pose the same question to the Russians, who have built a large number of nuclear power plants despite having the largest natural gas reserves in the world. In any event, according to a recent estimate by British Petroleum, oil consumption in Iran was rising so fast that the country would become a net oil importer by 2024.

By design or accident, Iran has positioned itself as a champion of the developing world, with the courage and conviction to stand up to the Western powers. This has won it quiet admiration from many NAM governors, who fear that the limitations imposed on Iran could eventually extend to them.

The experience of the past few months has made it clear that any further pressure on Iran to relinquish its right to uranium enrichment at the forthcoming quarterly meeting of the IAEA governors is likely to cause an open fissure with the developing world. The double standard applied in implementing nonproliferation is coming home to roost.

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N Korea, US far apart as N-talks reopen

TERUAKI UENO & JACK KIM

BELJING, SEPTEMBER 13

CRISIS talks on ending North Korea's nuclear arms programme reopened under a cloud of uncertainty on Tuesday as Pyongyang insisted on its right to atomic energy in the face of US opposition.

Chief United States negotiator Christopher Hill said North Korea's position did "seem to be evolving a little", but there had been no real progress since the six countries involved in the negotiations last met in Beijing five weeks ago.

North Korea again denied on Tuesday that it had pursued the enrichment of uranium.

"Its (the United States') false propaganda, launched just before the second phase of the fourth round of the six-party talks, cannot be con-

strued otherwise than a very insolent act seeking a sinister political purpose," its state mouthpiece said.

Hill said after a first meeting of the negotiators on Tuesday that no "hard deadline" had been set for the end of this, the fourth round of talks since 2003, but voiced confidence that it could be wrapped up in days rather than weeks.

North Korea has been playing the nuclear card to win diplomatic and economic aid after famines that have killed one million people in the past decade. Analysts say that its insistence on a peaceful nuclear programme could drive a wedge between the five other countries in the talks because China, South Korea and Russia have not lined up behind Washington's absolute refusal, although Japan has. —Reuters

অস্ত্রপ্রসার রোধেই পরমাণু চুক্তি ভারতের সঙ্গে, বলছে আমেরিকা

ওয়াশিংটন, ৯ সেপ্টেম্বর: অসামরিক ক্ষেত্রে পরমাণু প্রযুক্তি দিয়ে কার্যত ভারতকে পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রসাররোধে বাধ্য করতে চায় আমেরিকা। বৃশ প্রশাসনের এই সিদ্ধান্ত ব্যাখ্যা করতে গিয়ে মার্কিন বিদেশ দফতরের দুই আন্তার সেক্রেটারি নিকোলাস বার্নস ও রবার্ট জোসেফ বলেই ফেললেন, পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রসাররোধ চুক্তিতে ভারতকে রাজি করতে না পারলেও বর্তমান চুক্তির মাধ্যমে কার্যত ভারতকে প্রসাররোধের আওতাই এনে ফেলা হবে। তাই এই সুযোগ পেয়েও তা 'হাতছাড়া' করতে চায়নি বৃশ প্রশাসন।

হাউস অফ রিপ্রেজেন্টেটিভ-এর বৈদেশিক সম্পর্ক সংক্রান্ত কমিটিকে জোসেফ আরও জানিয়ে দিয়েছেন, পাকিস্তান বা ইজরায়েলের ক্ষেত্রে এই 'কৌশল' খাটবে না। বিশেষত আব্দুল কাদির খানের প্রসঙ্গ উল্লেখ করে জোসেফের বক্তব্য, পরমাণু শক্তি প্রসাররোধের ব্যাপারে পাকিস্তানের অতীত ইতিহাস খুব খারাপ। তাই পাকিস্তানের সঙ্গে অসামরিক ক্ষেত্রে এ ধরনের চুক্তি করে ঝুঁকি নিতে চায় না মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র। সে জন্য পৃথক কৌশলের কথা ভাবছে বৃশ প্রশাসন। তবে ভারতের সঙ্গে চুক্তির ক্ষেত্রেও সাবধানেই এগনোর পক্ষপাতী বৃশ প্রশাসনের এই দুই শীর্ষ কর্তা। জোসেফ সাফ জানিয়েছেন, আমেরিকা তার সহযোগী দেশগুলির সঙ্গে কথাবার্তা বলে 'পরমাণু প্রযুক্তি সরবরাহকারী গোষ্ঠী' গড়ে তুলবে ঠিকই—কিন্তু তার আগে খতিয়ে দেখা হবে ভারত পরমাণু প্রযুক্তির সামরিক ও অসামরিক ব্যবহারের মধ্যে বিশ্বাসযোগ্য একটি সীমারেখা টানতে পেরেছে কি না।

ঠিক এই আশঙ্কা থেকেই প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংহকে দুঃখিত বিজেপি। তারা বলেছিল, এই বিভাজন কতটা নিপুণ হয়েছে তা সমীক্ষা করার অছিলায় কার্যত ভারতের পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রকল্পের উপরেও নজরদারি চালানোর সুযোগ পেয়ে যাবে আমেরিকা। জুলাইয়ে আমেরিকা সফর থেকে ফেরার পরে বিজেপি নেত্রী সুষমা স্বরাজের সঙ্গে এ বিষয়ে মনমোহনের তুমুল বাদানুবাদ হয় রাজ্যসভায়। বামদেদের তখন বক্তব্য ছিল, পরমাণু প্রযুক্তি পাওয়ার জন্য মার্কিন নীতির

অন্ধ সমর্থক হয়ে উঠেছেন মনমোহন। হাউস কমিটির কিছু ডেমোক্রেট সদস্য দাবিও তুলেছেন, এই চুক্তির পরিবর্তে নয়াদিল্লির কাছে আন্তর্জাতিক ক্ষেত্রে পূর্ণ কৌশলগত সমর্থন আদায় করে নিক ওয়াশিংটন। তেহরানের পরমাণু প্রকল্পের বিষয়টি নিরাপত্তা পরিষদে তোলা সমীচীন হবে না বলে বিদেশমন্ত্রী নটবর সিংহ যে মন্তব্য করেছিলেন, সে বিষয়ে উল্লেখ করে এক ডেমোক্রেট সদস্য হুঁশিয়ারিও দেন, "ইরানের বিপজ্জনক পরমাণু প্রকল্প বন্ধ করার ব্যাপারে মার্কিন প্রচেষ্টায় ভারতের সহযোগিতা যে কতটা জরুরি, দিল্লির তা বোঝা উচিত।" নটবরের মন্তব্যের বিষয়টি তিনি জানেন না বলে বার্নস সেই দাবি খারিজ করে দেন। কিন্তু এই চুক্তির পিছনে আমেরিকার আগ্রহের যে কারণ তিনি ব্যাখ্যা করেছেন, তাতে ভারতে বিরোধীরা ফের অস্ত্র পেয়ে গেলেন বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে।

রাজনীতি বিষয়ক আন্তার সেক্রেটারি বার্নস হাউস কমিটিকে জানান, ভারতের সঙ্গে এই চুক্তিকে অগ্রাধিকারের তালিকায় রেখেছে বৃশ প্রশাসন। দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্ক গভীরতর করে তুলতে তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ এই উদ্যোগ নিয়েছেন খোদ বৃশই। কিন্তু বার্নস যে তাৎপর্য ব্যাখ্যা করেছেন, তাতে ভারতে এ নিয়ে ফের সরগরম হয়ে উঠতে পারে। এই চুক্তি শক্তিক্ষেত্রে ভারতের ঘাটতি যেমন পূরণ করবে, তেমনই এর মাধ্যমে পরমাণু শক্তির অন্য কিছু রাষ্ট্রের মতো ভারতের উপরেও বেশ কিছু দায়দায়িত্ব চাপিয়ে দেওয়া যাবে। ফলে কার্যত ভারতকে প্রসাররোধের আওতায় এনে ফেলতে আমেরিকাকে আর বেগ পেতে হবে না।

১৯৬৭ সাল থেকে ভারতকে প্রসাররোধের আওতায় আনতে না পারাকে বড় রকমের ব্যর্থতা বলেই মনে করে আমেরিকা। দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্পর্কের ক্ষেত্রেও এটা এক বাধা বলে তাদের ধারণা। হাউস কমিটির সামনে বার্নসের অনুরণ, "অনেকেই বুঝতে পারছেন না পরমাণু প্রযুক্তির কত রকম ব্যবহারে হাত পাকিয়েছে ভারত। তাই পরমাণু শক্তি প্রসাররোধের বিশ্বব্যাপী প্রচেষ্টা থেকে তাকে আর দূরে থাকতে দেওয়া চলে না। ভারত ও আমেরিকা উভয়ের স্বার্থেই এতে ইতি টানা প্রয়োজন। এই চুক্তি সেই কাজই করবে।"

A.Q. Khan gave North Korea centrifuges, confirms Musharraf

Pakistan is self-reliant in nuclear and missile development, says President

TOKYO: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has confirmed that disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan provided North Korea with centrifuge machines and their designs, Kyodo news agency said on Wednesday.

Mr. Khan, revered in Pakistan as the man who gave his country the weapons capability to balance that of the nuclear-armed neighbour India, admitted last year to leaking nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

In an interview with Kyodo on Tuesday, Gen. Musharraf spoke in public for the first time about Mr. Khan's clandestine transfer of nuclear technology, the Japanese agency reported from Islamabad.

Asked about reports that Pa-

kistan told Japanese Government officials that Mr. Khan had given North Korea about 20 centrifuges, Gen. Musharraf was quoted as saying: "Yes, he passed centrifuges — parts and complete. I do not exactly remember the number."

Limited help

He, however, said Mr. Khan could not have been of immense help to North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes because, while his laboratory was engaged in uranium enrichment, it was not involved in other steps needed to make a nuclear bomb such as conversion of uranium into gas, or the development of the trigger mechanism and delivery systems.

"So if North Korea has made a

bomb, Dr A. Q. Khan's part is only enriching the uranium to weapons grade. He does not know about making the bomb, he does not know about the trigger mechanism, he does not know about the delivery system," Kyodo quoted Gen. Musharraf as saying.

Regarding such additional technology, Gen. Musharraf said the North Koreans "must have got it themselves or somewhere else — not from Pakistan".

Gen. Musharraf pardoned Mr. Khan after he confessed to leaking nuclear secrets, but he has been under virtual house arrest since at his home in Islamabad.

The General also rejected media reports that Mr. Khan had bartered uranium enrichment secrets for North Korean help in

Pakistan's programme to develop the medium-range Ghauri missile, believed to be an improved version of Pyongyang's Rodong missile.

He said Pakistan had cooperated with North Korea in the production of conventional weapons when it developed the shoulder-fired Anza missile. But there was never any bilateral cooperation in the "strategic" or nuclear field. "We paid for each and every item that we got from North Korea. There was no exchange of knowledge or equipment. That is absolutely wrong," Gen. Musharraf said.

Mr. Khan made three trips to Mali between 1998 and 2000 to meet Libyan officials interested in procuring uranium technology from Pakistan, the President



Abdul Qadeer Khan

said. Pakistan was now "totally self-contained, in all the facets of nuclear development, in all the facets of missile development. We do not borrow, we do not get from anyone." — Reuters, PTI

25 AUG 2006

THE HINDU

Engage positively with Iran

The resumption of Iran's uranium conversion and enrichment activity, with the potential to produce nuclear weapons, after a nine-month freeze and the consequent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution urging continuation of the suspension brokered by the European Union (EU) last November have again turned the spotlight on the credibility of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Teheran, whose nuclear ambitions have become suspicious since its hidden uranium processing programme of 18 years was exposed by an opposition group in 2003, broke the November deal with the EU, describing the latter's incentives in trade and energy cooperation as doing little to address the negation of the country's right under the NPT to develop an indigenous nuclear programme for civilian purposes. The EU, which is engaged in a diplomatic initiative with Iran over the imbroglio, and the United States have consistently demanded a complete and permanent halt to the country's uranium enrichment, although the nuclear-weapons states have an obligation under the NPT to cooperate with non-nuclear-weapons states in the development of this technology for the generation of nuclear fuel. The EU's engagement has led Iran to accept intrusive inspection of installations hitherto unknown to the nuclear watchdog, as well as sign the 1997 Additional Protocol on its IAEA safeguards agreement pending ratification. By contrast, the U.S. sabre-rattling, with threats of referral to the United Nations Security Council and refusal to rule out the military option, has pushed the nationalist elements in Iran to adopt an even tougher posture. It is not surprising, therefore, that Iran's newly-elected hard-line government, which has reopened the Isfahan nuclear plant, has rebuffed the EU's recent proposals even as it has left the doors open for negotiations.

Apprehensions about Iran's covert development of nuclear weapons, legitimate as they are, do not detract from the basic inequity of the global non-proliferation regime — accentuated by the failure of the nuclear powers to honour their disarmament obligations — or the further arbitrariness of the demand that Iran should relinquish its rights under the NPT. Moreover, the refusal to acknowledge the *de facto* nuclear status of Israel and the provocative and destabilising role of Western countries led by the U.S. in the geopolitics of West Asia will only further drag the region down the road of defiant nuclear ambitions to a nuclear catastrophe. In the wake of the renewal of Iran's nuclear programme, everything must be done to ensure that the Iranian leadership continues to engage the international community by guaranteeing the IAEA inspectors access to its nuclear sites, which is possible only as long as the country remains within the NPT. The world cannot afford to let Iran go North Korea's way; and the responsibility to ensure that it does not rests squarely with the United States and Europe.

It's not easy for US, EU to shut Iran's N-reactor

11/8 By Jai Taraporevala/TNN

The confidence expressed by the Bush administration officials notwithstanding, the US and the EU3 (Britain, France and Germany) will not find it easy to refer Iran's nuclear programme to the Security Council for the imposition of sanctions. After all, as a signatory to the NPT, Iran is legally entitled, under strict IAEA supervision, to develop a uranium conversion and enrichment capability to the extent required for producing fuel for civilian nuclear power.

Although Iran had a secret N-programme in the 1990s, its current move to resume uranium conversion at its Isfahan plant was made after following the procedures prescribed by the IAEA. The increasing US and EU3 pressure on it should therefore be interpreted not as a reflection of a breach of NPT rules but rather as the West's suspicion that Teheran could try and develop nuclear weapons. Even if the nuclear issue is brought before the Security Council, imposing sanctions against Iran will prove a difficult task. In part as Iran is the second largest oil exporter in OPEC, with a daily production of nearly four million barrels.

A number of Security Council members

will therefore be reluctant to impose comprehensive sanctions against Teheran since that will lead to a further sharp rise in oil prices. Moreover, veto-holding members of the Security Council like China and Russia remain opposed to the sanctions. This is because both nations have a geostrategic interest in countering the assertive unilateralism underlying US foreign policy. Besides, China is a large importer of Iranian oil and Russia has close links with Teheran in the nuclear field.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Even if the US and EU3 decide in the coming months to impose sanctions of their own, Iran is unlikely to substantially soften its present stand. Iran's conservative leadership will calculate

that limited sanctions are an unavoidable price to pay to develop the all-important independent fuel cycle. It is the sustained US criticism of Iran on a wide range of issues that has unwittingly contributed to a toughening in Teheran's nuclear stance. Iran's current position has also been shaped by what it perceives as the inadequate proposals recently unveiled by the EU3 in addressing its key concerns of security guarantees and uninterrupted nuclear fuel deliveries. This being so, the impasse is unlikely to be resolved in the near future.

TEHRAN ■ Nuclear watchdog decides to back off, negotiated settlement hopes on

IAEA to remove seals at Isfahan

disarmament

98-9

W9

REUTERS

TEHRAN, AUGUST 9

THE UN'S nuclear watchdog will remove seals at Iran's Isfahan nuclear facility before Wednesday afternoon, Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, said on Tuesday.

"The agency has promised us it will remove the seals by noon on Wednesday because the installation of (surveillance) cameras has been completed," Saeedi said in a telephone interview.

Iran resumed uranium conversion at Isfahan on Monday without breaking any UN seals at the plant. But in order to run the whole plant—which turns uranium concentrate into a gas which is enriched into reactor or bomb fuel—some seals must be broken. The seals were put in place after Iran agreed to suspend all nuclear fuel work last November as part of an agreement with Britain, Germany and France.

Meanwhile, French Foreign



Technicians alongside a box containing uranium ore concentrate, known as yellowcake, at Iran's uranium conversion facility in Isfahan. Reuters

Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said it was still possible to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear programme.

"We think that it is still possible to negotiate. Our hands are outstretched. We think the

Paris accords can still be saved," Douste-Blazy told reporters after meeting Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos in southwestern France.

Asked whether the UN Security Council should deal with

the issue, Douste-Blazy said: "It's the council of IAEA governments who has to do it first. The council of governments will issue their position.... We think that just until the last minute, it is possible to negotiate."

Ahmadinejad has new N-proposals

TEHRAN: Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday he had new ideas to resolve its nuclear standoff with the West and was ready to continue nuclear talks with the EU, the semi-official ISNA students news agency reported.

"I have new initiatives and proposals which I will present after my government takes office," he said in a telephone conversation with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, ISNA said.

He added that Iran had done nothing unlawful by resuming uranium conversion at a nuclear facility near Isfahan on Monday.

—Reuters

Stalled nuke talks head for recess

Reuters

Beijing, August 6

SIX-PARTY TALKS to defuse the North Korean nuclear crisis will continue into the 13th day on Sunday but weary negotiators said they were preparing for a recess that will allow them to return home for consultations.

China's Xinhua news agency quoted Russia's chief negotiator, Alexander Alexeyev, as saying the talks would break for a recess of about two weeks after a plenary session on Sunday morning.

Negotiations between the two Koreas, the US, Russia, Japan and host China were deadlocked after 12 full days, with Pyongyang's demand to the right to peaceful nu-

clear capability turning into a crucial sticking point.

Japan's chief negotiator Kenichiro Sasae told reporters the talks would continue on Sunday, but added: "We are having discussions in the direction of recessing". Chinese state radio reported earlier on Saturday that host China had suggested a recess, but that Christopher Hill, the chief US delegate, had demurred.

The six parties have struggled to agree on a joint statement that would provide for the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear programmes in return for energy aid and security guarantees, at best. At worst, there could be no statement at all.

Still, Russia's negotiator described the talks as "fruitful" and

treaty (NPT), a diplomatic source said. Pyongyang rejected the proposal because of the strings attached. US officials have not confirmed the report of the offer, which would mark a softening in Washington's position.

This is the fourth round of a process that has lasted nearly three years, during which North Korea and the US have traded barbs.

China has said the depth and breadth of discussions after dozens of bilateral meetings was a sign of progress and has been playing down the need for a joint statement. After a break, failure to reach some form of acceptable resolution in Beijing could prompt the US to take the issue to the UN, a move opposed by China for fear the crisis might escalate.

KOREAN PROBLEM

insisted there had been progress, "since all sides reached unprecedented understanding and consensus on many issues", Xinhua said.

The talks have bogged down over North Korea's insistence that it be allowed to keep programmes to generate electricity. Washington has demanded a complete, verifiable dismantling of all of its nuclear programmes. To bridge the gap, the US had offered Pyongyang the right to pursue peaceful nuclear activities if it agreed to the strict terms of the non-proliferation

07 AUG 1994 THE HONGKONG TIMES

Iran calls EU's nuclear proposals unacceptable

Teheran Won't Accept Tyranny: Ahmadinejad

Teheran: An international crisis loomed on Saturday after Iran rejected an EU deal to abandon its sensitive nuclear work as hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned at his swearing in ceremony that Teheran would not accept "tyranny".

"Why is it that some countries don't understand that the Iranian nation won't accept tyranny?" Ahmadinejad asked after Iran rejected as "unacceptable" an EU package of incentives aimed at convincing Teheran to give up its nuclear ambitions.

The offer, made to Iran on Friday by the European Union and backed by the United States, would allow the Islamic republic to pursue peaceful nuclear energy activities as long as it refrains from fuel-cycle work that could help it make atomic weapons.

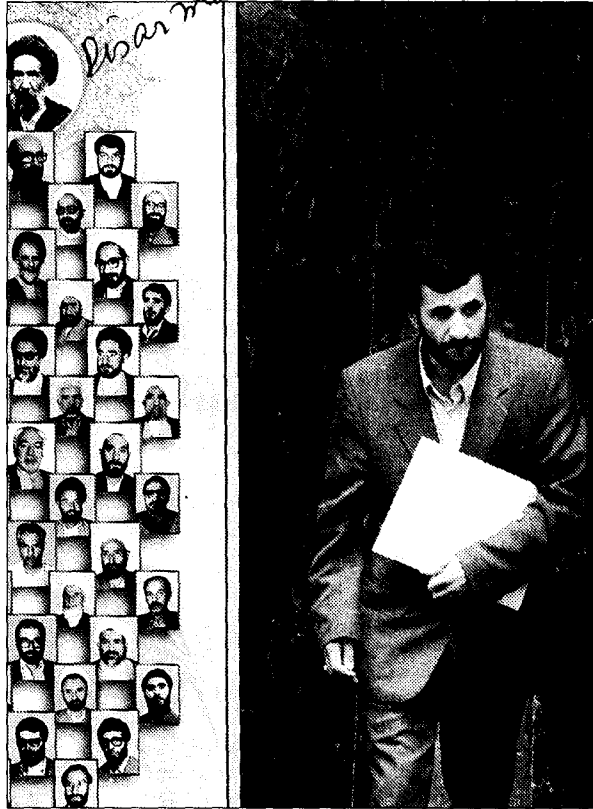
The Iranians were told they had no choice but to call for a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-nation board of governor—a move that could send Iran before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

But foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said: "The European proposals are unacceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran, they provide no guarantees for Iran's interests and are contrary to the (nuclear) Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Paris agreement".

He was referring to a November deal with the EU under which Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and conversion for the duration of talks with the bloc.

"We will give our full response to these proposals today or tomorrow, but we can say right away that the Europeans have failed to honour their undertakings," Asefi told state media after Ahmadinejad took the oath of office before parliament on Saturday.

The UN nuclear watch-



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad walks pass photos of members of Iranian parliament martyrs after he was sworn in as president in in Tehran on Saturday

dog said meanwhile an inspection team was set to leave for Iran to install cameras to monitor the Isfahan uranium conversion plant that Tehran wants to restart. "A safeguards team is travelling in the next couple of days to deliver and install remote camera equipment and an inspection system will be in place in the middle of next week," an IAEA spokeswoman in Vienna said.

The indication that British, French and German foreign ministers told Iran it could be referred to the IAEA's board was seen in a summary of the 34-page package made available to reporters on Friday.

In an apparent compromise with its European allies, the United States backed the bloc's proposal which covers nuclear issues, political and security concerns and offers economic and technological

cooperation. The package of incentives was presented to Iran after nine months of tortuous negotiations between the so-called EU-3 and Iran, which in November agreed to suspend both uranium enrichment and the precursor process of conversion.

The EU said it reaffirmed "Iran's inalienable rights to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, exercised in conformity with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" but also demanded it drop sensitive fuel-cycle activities. An EU letter "offered to supply nuclear reactor fuel as well as security, technology and trade guarantees in return for Iran dropping parts of its nuclear programme that could be used to build atomic bombs". Iran has repeatedly said its suspension of uranium conversion and enrichment is temporary and voluntary. Agencies

19-10 Sidelining the disarmament agenda

The deadlocked negotiations at the seventh Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) bring into sharp focus the lack of progress in global nuclear disarmament, in the context of an increased threat of nuclear proliferation. In the May 2005 conference, the Bush administration pursued identically the far-Right rhetoric on proliferation by 'rogue states' – an obvious reference to the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea – to camouflage its own obduracy in ignoring its disarmament obligations. Since the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the United States, one of the two largest stockpilers of nuclear weapons, has rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and refused to agree to a moratorium on further weapons tests and explosions. Even the minimal assurance to non-nuclear-weapons states of immunity from nuclear threats, as provided in the 1995 United Nations resolution, stands jettisoned; the U.S. and the United Kingdom regard this as incompatible with the doctrine of deterrence. The other commitment was to ensure a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in a country's defence programmes. But only last year the two allies renewed the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement to enable the production of a new generation of nuclear warheads. The U.S. and Russia have, no doubt, agreed under the Moscow Treaty of 2002 to pull back two-thirds of their warheads from deployment by 2012, but they have not bound themselves to destroying them. Washington's initiation of the National Missile Defence programme, ostensibly to counter threats to its national security, is in violation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty that seeks to prevent a qualitatively different arms race.

Global disarmament commitments thus stand dishonoured. The only country that has so far used nuclear weapons in war, killing hundreds of thousands of people in the process, and other nuclear weapon states have done little to reduce their arsenals more than a decade after the end of the 'Cold War'. The double standards and inequities built into the unequal global nuclear bargain that is the NPT, and the one-sided anti-proliferation drive of the nuclear haves, are paving the way for a risky nuclear nationalism in some threshold nuclear states. The question of genuine movement towards global nuclear disarmament assumes greater urgency given the real possibility of extremist movements and terrorists getting their hands on nuclear weapons, which is technically no big deal. As the world observes the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is obvious that nuclear weapon states have turned their back on the lessons of history. The U.S. has extracted from Japan an apology for the sneak attack on Pearl Harbour but has itself refused to express regret for its anti-human nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. India will be betraying both its people and its international affairs heritage if it follows the nuclear weapons club in sidelining the disarmament agenda.

US threatens to pull out of N Korea nuke talks

1917 13-2
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

TOKYO, JULY 18

THE US has warned that it may pull out of talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programme if there is a lack of progress in the upcoming negotiations, a report said today. *Diagram*

Washington issued the warning during a meeting with South Korea and Japan in Seoul last week, the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper said, quoting Japanese government sources.

"If there is no progress at this time, (the US) will not allow talks to continue," a Japanese official was quoted as saying in the daily.

President George W Bush's administration was likely to adopt a stronger stance against North Korea if the US withdraws from the six-party talks due to start in the final week of July, the daily said.

"The Bush administration has no plans to stay in a round of marathon talks that produce no achievement," the Japanese official was quoted as saying.

"If no end result is seen by the end of the year, the US is likely to ask concerned parties to join in taking tougher measures" against North Korea.

After more than a year of stalemate, North Korea agreed earlier this month to return to the six-way talks, which also involve South Korea, Japan, Russia and China, Pyongyang's closest ally.

The first round of talks was held in Beijing in August 2003, nearly a year after North Korea allegedly told US officials in October 2002 that it was running a uranium enrichment programme. —PTI/

19 JUL 2004

INDIAN EXPRESS

IAEA pushes for EU-Iran dialogue

UN HQ, Aug. 2. — The UN's nuclear watchdog has urged Iran to continue the negotiations with the EU and not take any action that could undermine the agency's inspections on its facilities even as Teheran agreed to a two-day delay in reopening its processing plant after receiving the International Atomic Energy Agency's request.

In order to implement effective safeguards, the agency said, it would need to install additional surveillance equipment at the nuclear facility in Esfahan, where the resumption is planned, and would not be able to do so until some time next week.

"To ensure continuity of knowledge, it's essential that Iran refrain from removing the IAEA's seals and from moving any nuclear material at Esfahan until that time as the surveillance equipment is installed and the Agency has verified the material," the IAEA chief, Md ElBaradei told Iran today. — PTI

North, South Korea ministers hold talks on nuclear standoff

AGENCIES

VIENTIANE/BEIJING, JULY 28

NORTH and South Korean Foreign Ministers met for only the third time on Thursday and agreed on the need for substantial developments in the Beijing multilateral talks to resolve Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions.

The 50-minute meeting between South Korea's Ban Ki-Moon and the North's Paek Nam-Sun was held on the sidelines of a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers in Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Ban said Seoul was waiting for North Korea to respond to an offer to supply it with 2,000 MW of electricity, conditional to its scrapping its nuclear plans.

In Beijing, negotiations aimed at defusing the North Korean nuclear crisis crept into a third day with Washington and Pyongyang still far apart on proposals for disarming the



Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei (R) meets North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan (2nd-L), as South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon (2nd-R) looks on, in Beijing on Thursday. Reuters

reclusive North.

After a two-hour bilateral meeting with his North Korean counterpart, American delegate Christo-

pher Hill said differences remained and it "was not an easy process". South Korean delegates were not optimistic over the fate of the talks.

29 JUL 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

Identify horrors of n-arms race

Programme of action to create awareness
on the persisting danger n-weapons pose

R. Gopalakrishnan

PANAJI: The Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP), an umbrella organisation of more than 200 civil society organisations, on Sunday issued a call for a nation-wide observance of one-minute silence on August 6 and 9 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dropping of nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which resulted in the immediate death of more than two lakh people.

The CNDP is aimed at "sensitising governments and policymakers" to the dangers of the nuclear arms race in the world as also in the Indian sub-continent. It concluded a two-day meeting of its National Coordination Committee (NCC) here on Sunday. It also chalked out a programme of action by its State chapters and member-organisations to create awareness among all sections of people, especially women and the youth, on the persisting danger that nuclear weapons posed to humanity and its environment and habitat.

Addressing a press conference, leaders of the CNDP noted the failure of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held in May to make any progress on the implementation of the nuclear powers' obligation for time-bound global nuclear disarmament, as a result of the stance adopted by the United States.

Achin Vanaik, academician and activist, said the U.S. had demanded and obtained an apology from Japan for bombing Pearl Harbour (U.S. base in the Far East) which triggered U.S. participation in World War-II but the U.S. itself has refused to apologise for dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Neither Japan, whose foreign policy was dependent on the U.S., nor governments of countries such as India had cared to put pressure on the U.S. to apologise for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"Unless we recognise the hor-

• **Nation-wide observance of one-minute silence on August 6 and 9**

• **Right to Information Act excluded the DAE from the provisions of law**

• **Nuclear danger "is not far out there [in history] but here on our doorsteps"**

rors and wrongfulness of what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world cannot rid itself of nuclear weapons," Mr. Vanaik said.

No concern for victims

He said the erstwhile NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government had unilaterally called for mourning for the 2,500 victims of the terrorist attack on the U.S. on September 11, 2001, but it had not shown a similar concern for victims of nuclear bombing which killed a hundred times more non-combatants, women and children, in the name of protecting American soldiers.

Mr. Vanaik said it was "extremely disturbing" that India's Right to Information Act had excluded the Department of Atomic Energy from the provisions of the law. Christopher Fonseca, head of the Goa Coalition for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament and General Secretary of the State unit of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), appealing to the media to support the awareness programmes, related to August 6 and 9, said nuclear danger "is not far out there [in history] but here on our doorsteps," in the background of nuclearisation of India and Pakistan.

Sabsayachi Chatterjee, scientist, said this year was also the International Year of Physics, and nuclear bombing of Japan was the worst misuse of physics.

Iliina Sen, Admiral (Retd) L. Ramdas, Sukla Sen and Garimella Subramaniam also addressed the media conference.

ElBaradei gets third term as U.S. drops objection

European diplomats are impressed by the IAEA chief's record

Jonathan Steele

VIENNA: The U.S. formally dropped its objections on Monday to the appointment of Mohamed ElBaradei to a third term as head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

The 35-member board of the International Atomic Energy Agency unanimously endorsed a third four-year term for the 62-year-old Egyptian, who angered Washington in 2003 by contradicting U.S. intelligence before the Iraq war and saying that Saddam Hussein's regime did not have nuclear weapons or a nuclear programme.

No challenger

Although U.N. agency heads normally serve a maximum of two terms, there was no serious alternative candidate. European diplomats have been impressed with Mr ElBaradei's record since he took over in 1997 and the U.S. would have been in a minority of one had it tried to veto his candidacy.

"The U.S. probably decided it wasn't worth the candle to put up a robust resistance," a European diplomat said.

Washington had already angered many non-nuclear states with its refusal to discuss disarmament options for the nuclear powers during last month's conference to review the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. "The non-aligned states signalled they would react very strongly if the U.S. wouldn't support ElBa-



NEW INNINGS: International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei (left), shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador to Austria Yukio Takasu in Vienna on Tuesday. - PHOTO: AFP

radei," said another European diplomat.

The IAEA chief is heavily engaged in leading the inspections of Iran's controversial nuclear energy programme.

With the Iranian case still unresolved, diplomats argued that this was not the right time to appoint a different head. Mr El-

Baradei also seems to have been helped by the job-switching of John Bolton, who used to manage the nuclear file at the State Department.

The Bolton factor

He is still struggling to win Senate approval as President George Bush's nominee to rep-

resent the U.S. at the U.N. He was Mr ElBaradei's severest U.S. critic, accusing him among other things of being weak on Iran.

In spite of U.S. charges of softness, the IAEA head has repeatedly criticised Iran for its lack of openness with the agency's inspectors. - ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

15 JUN 2005 THE HINDU

UN N-watchdog follows Iran, North Korea, Saudi

Vienna: Iran will get off with a mild scolding for not fully cooperating with a UN probe of its nuclear activities on Monday when the International Atomic Energy Agency meets to pass judgment on Tehran's recent record. Diplomats say the Islamic republic will also come in for some praise, with a senior IAEA official planning to tell the agency's board that Iran has kept its promise of freezing a key program that could be used to make nuclear arms.

Speaking on the eve of Monday's start of the 35-nation IAEA board meeting, the diplomats described a report on Iran — likely to be delivered by IAEA deputy director general Pierre Goldschmidt — as relatively mild compared with previous summaries since that nation's nuclear program became a matter of international concern three years ago.

Tehran has been under agency review since revelations in 2003 of nearly two decades of secret nuclear

activities, including work on enriching uranium — a technology that can make weapons-grade material for nuclear warheads.

Iran insists it wants to enrich only to generate nuclear power, but froze that program and linked activities late last year as it focused on talks with France, Britain and Germany meant to reduce international concerns about Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

The report is confidential until delivery and diplomats close to the agency who saw copies at the weekend spoke to AP only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to divulge its contents ahead of Monday's opening session.

Other diplomats accredited to the Vienna-based IAEA also demanded they not be named, saying, they too were not supposed to talk on the record about what would happen at the closed meeting.

North Korea, the other key international prolifera-

tion concern, would be urged to return to six-nation talks meant to entice it to move away from nuclear threats in exchange for economic and political concessions, the diplomats said.

Saudi Arabia is a relatively recent issue for the agency. The country has negotiated a now-outmoded deal with the IAEA that effectively excludes it from nuclear inspections in exchange for its word of honor that it does not have anything worth inspecting.

After formal requests from the European Union, the United States and Australia to agree to an outside probe by agency inspectors, the Saudis will be under pressure to show some compromise at the board meeting, said the diplomats.

A foreign ministry official in Riyadh said Sunday that Saudi Arabia is willing to cooperate with the IAEA.

Saudi Arabia "does not own any nuclear facilities or reactors," said the official reported by the Saudi Press Agency. AP

14 JUN 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Missing N-plans have UN worried

IAN Traynor
Vienna, June 9

ELECTRONIC DRAWINGS that give comprehensive details of how to build and test equipment essential for making nuclear bombs have vanished and could be put up for sale on the international black market, according to UN investigators.

The blueprints, running to hundreds of pages, show how to make centrifuges for enriching uranium. In addition, the investigators have been unable to trace key components for uranium centrifuge rigs and fear that drawings for a nuclear warhead have been secreted away.

Inspectors at the UN's nuclear authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency, have been investigating the worst nuclear smuggling racket ever uncovered, headed by the Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. The operation was discovered two years ago to be selling sensitive nuclear technology to Libya and Iran.

A senior official said several sets of blueprints for uranium centrifuges — the so-called P-1 and more advanced P-2 systems, which were peddled by the Khan network — have gone missing.

"We know there were several sets of them prepared," said the official. "So who got those elec-

tronic drawings? We have only actually got to the one full set from Libya. So who got the rest, the copies? We have no evidence they were destroyed. One possibility is another client. We just don't know where they are."

A European diplomat privy to western intelligence on the Khan network added: "This is what keeps people awake at night. It's very sensitive. The fact that there are [nuclear] proliferation manuals kicking around is deeply disturbing."

The blueprints detail how to manufacture the components for a uranium centrifuge, what materials are needed, how to assemble the machines, and how

PAK SCANDAL



A.Q. Khan: *Fallen hero*

to test them. The centrifuges are the main route to producing bomb-grade uranium. Uranium concentrate is converted into uranium hexafluoride gas,

which can be spun through cascades of centrifuges at super-high speeds to be enriched to weapons grade.

"The big question is who else got this stuff [apart from Iran and Libya]," the European diplomat said. Another diplomat pointed out that the Khan network was based in West Asia and that Khan was known as the father of the Islamic bomb. He suggested that Syria and Egypt could be potential customers for the materials if they were still being offered.

Khan is a national hero for creating the Pakistani nuclear bomb but is under house arrest in Islamabad since confessing

to heading the network and being pardoned in February last year. Although the network's operations extended to Europe, Africa, West Asia and the Southeast Asia, its headquarters were in Dubai. Khan maintained a luxury apartment in Dubai. Following the uncovering of the network in October 2003, investigators went to the Dubai apartment only to find that it had been emptied.

The Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, confessed to his secret nuclear bomb programme and gave it up in December 2003. Three months later in Tripoli, the UN inspectors were given two CD-roms and one

computer hard drive. One CD contained a set of drawings and manuals for the P-1 centrifuge system, the other for the more advanced P-2. The instructions are in English, Dutch and German, and the designs are from Urenco, the Dutch-British-German consortium which is a leader in centrifuge technology and is the source of Khan's know-how from his time working there in the 1970s. The CDs and hard drive are at IAEA headquarters in Vienna, where they have been analysed. The investigators now know that the scanning of the original blueprints was done in Dubai and when.

Guardian News Service

27
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Nothing new at NPT meet

UNHQ, May 27

NUKE TALKS

A GLOBAL conference to tighten controls on the spread of nuclear arms gave preliminary approval on Friday to a report offering no new action plan at a time of mounting nuclear tension in the world. The 188-nation meeting, reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, produced weeks of divisive debate over issues ranging from Iran's uranium centrifuges, to Israel's nuclear capabilities, to US weapons plans. But it yielded no consensus recommendations for concrete steps to rein in atomic arms.

The disagreements even kept conference president, Brazil's Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, from issuing a summary statement endorsing nonproliferation principles.

Dispirited diplomats and disar-

mament campaigners lamented a lack of political will.

"We have witnessed intransigence from more than one state on pressing issues of the day," Canadian Ambassador Paul Meyer told conference delegates.

"It's a tragic lost opportunity," British arms-control advocate Ian Davis told reporters.

The conference approved the key sections of the final report on Friday morning but deferred overall adoption until later in the day, when it would approve a financial section.

The members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty convene only once every five years to assess the workings of the 1970

treaty and find ways to make it work better — political commitments that give a boost to nonproliferation initiatives.

Under the nuclear pact, states without atomic arms pledged not to develop them, and five with the weapons — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — undertook to eventually eliminate their arsenals. The non-weapons states, meanwhile, were guaranteed access to peaceful nuclear technology.

Citing that guarantee, Iran has obtained uranium-enrichment centrifuges, which can produce both fuel for nuclear power plants and material for bombs. Washington contends Tehran plans to build weapons, but the Iranians say they're interested only in peaceful energy.

AP

8 MAY 75 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

মৃতভেদের জেরে ব্যর্থ বিশ্ব পরমাণু সম্মেলন

রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জ, ২৮ মে: কথা ছিল, পরমাণু অস্ত্রপ্রসার রোধ চুক্তি বা এনপিটিকে আরও কার্যকর করে তোলার জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হবে। কিন্তু বাস্তবে নিষ্ফল আলোচনা আর পারস্পরিক দোষারোপের মধ্যেই শেষ হল রাষ্ট্রপুঞ্জের এক মাসব্যাপী বিশ্ব পরমাণু সম্মেলন। পরমাণু অস্ত্রপ্রসার রোধে কী কী নতুন ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া যেতে পারে, তা নিয়ে সে ভাবে কোনও আলোচনাই হয়নি। ফলে এনপিটি স্বাক্ষরকারী ১৮৮টি দেশের এই সম্মেলন কার্যত ব্যর্থ হয়েছে। ব্যর্থতার কারণ? সম্মেলনের সভাপতি, ব্রাজিলের সার্গিও দুয়ার্তে বলেছেন, “তা নিয়ে অনেক বই লেখা যায়।” সম্মেলন ভেঙে যাওয়ার জন্য অংশগ্রহণকারী অধিকাংশ দেশই আমেরিকাকে দায়ী করছে। তাদের

অভিযোগ, আমেরিকা-সহ পাঁচটি পরমাণু শক্তিধর দেশ মুখে নিজেদের পারমাণবিক অস্ত্রসজ্জার ধ্বংসের কথা বললেও কাজে তার কিছুই করছে না। অথচ অন্য দেশগুলিকে একই অস্ত্র তৈরি করতে বাধা দিচ্ছে। ইরান ও মিশরের নেতৃত্বে বেশ কয়েকটি দেশ সম্মেলনে দাবি জানায়, এই পরিস্থিতিতে পরমাণু শক্তিধর দেশগুলিকে কথা দিতে হবে, তারা অন্য দেশগুলির উপরে আক্রমণ চালাবে না। জবাবে মার্কিন প্রতিনিধিরা বলেন, গত পাঁচ বছরে বিশ্ব রাজনীতির হালচাল অনেকটাই বদলে গিয়েছে। মার্কিন দূত জ্যাকি স্যাডার্স দাবি করেন, নিরস্ত্রীকরণের থেকে এখন অনেক বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কাজ হল পরমাণু অস্ত্র প্রযুক্তি যাতে জঙ্গিদের হাতে না যায়, তার ব্যবস্থা করা। —পি টি আই

29 MAY 2005 ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

America's broken nuclear promises

George W. Bush has done his utmost to frustrate talks on the non-proliferation treaty.

Robin Cook

NOT A day goes by without a member of Team Bush lecturing us on the threat from weapons of mass destruction and assuring us of the absolute primacy they give to halting proliferation. How odd then that the review conference on the non-proliferation treaty will break up on the evening of May 27, barring an 11th-hour miracle, with no agreed conclusions. And how strange that no delegation should have worked harder to frustrate agreement on what needs to be done than the representatives of George W. Bush.

The tragedy is that, for all its faults, the non-proliferation treaty has hitherto been the best barrier put up by the international community against the spread of nuclear weapons. With the support of all but a handful of nations, the treaty provided a robust declaration that the development of nuclear weapons is taboo. That peer-group pressure has since resulted in more countries abandoning nuclear weapons than acquiring them.

Disowning n-weapons

South Africa disowned and dismantled its nuclear weapons after the collapse of the apartheid regime. New states to emerge from the Soviet Union, such as Ukraine, renounced the nuclear systems they inherited on their territory. Argentina and Brazil dropped the nuclear capability they were developing after negotiating a non-nuclear pact between themselves. Even Iraq turned out to have abandoned its nuclear weapons programme, although in that particular case the success of the non-proliferation regime was more of an embarrassment to Mr. Bush.

Previous review conferences, which come round every five years, have been used as an important opportunity to regenerate support for the treaty. Not this time. The full

weight of Washington diplomacy was focussed on preventing any reference in the agenda to the commitments the Clinton administration gave to the last review conference. As a result, the first two weeks of negotiation were taken up with arguing over the agenda, leaving barely one week for substantive talks. Robert McNamara, the former U.S. Defence Secretary and no peacenik, has observed that if the people of the world knew "they would not tolerate what's going on in the NPT conference."

Observance of the non-proliferation treaty rested on a bargain between those states without nuclear weapons, who agreed to renounce any ambition to acquire them, and the nuclear-weapons powers, who undertook in return to proceed in good faith to disarmament. It suits the Bush administration now to present the purpose of the treaty as halting proliferation, but its original intention was the much broader ambition of a nuclear-weapons-free world. The acrimonious exchanges inside the present review conference reflect the frustration of the vast majority of states, who believe they have kept their side of the deal by not developing nuclear weapons but have seen no sign that the privileged elite with nuclear weapons have any intention of giving them up.

Widening gulf

It was to bridge the growing gulf between the two sides that the British delegation at the last review conference in 2000 helped broker agreement to 13 specific steps that the nuclear-weapons powers could take towards disarming themselves. Labour scores reasonably well against those benchmarks. Britain has taken out of service all non-strategic nuclear weapons and as a result has disarmed 70 per cent of its total nuclear explosive power. It has also halted production of weapons-grade material and placed all fissile material not actually in warheads

under international safeguards. This positive progress will be comprehensively reversed if Tony Blair does proceed as threatened to authorise construction of a new weapons system to replace Trident, but until then Britain has a good story to tell.

Not that it gets heard in the negotiating chambers, where it is obscured by the U.K.'s close identification with the Bush administration and British willingness in the review conference to lobby for understanding of their position. Their position is simply stated: obligations under the non-proliferation treaty are mandatory on other nations and voluntary on the U.S. Even while the review conference was sitting, the White House asked Congress for funds to research a bunker-busting nuclear bomb, although to develop new nuclear weapons, especially ones designed not to deter but to wage war, is to travel in the opposite direction to the undertakings the U.S. gave to the last review conference.

The rationale for the bunker-buster is revealing. Its objective is to penetrate and destroy deeply buried arsenals of weapons of mass destruction. Perversely, the current regime in Washington does not perceive its development of nuclear weapons as an obstacle to multilateral agreement on proliferation but as the unilateral means of stopping proliferation. Whatever may be said for this muscular approach to proliferation, there is for sure no prospect of negotiating an agreed text with the rest of the world legitimating it.

Any progress within the non-proliferation treaty is therefore likely to be on hold until Mr. Bush is replaced by a President willing to return to multilateral diplomacy. This is worrying as there are other pressing problems that should not be left waiting.

One of the design flaws of the treaty dates from its negotiation in the pre-Chernobyl era of rosy optimism about nuclear energy. As a result it turned on a deal in which the

nuclear powers undertook to transfer peaceful nuclear know-how in return for other nations forswearing the military applications of nuclear technology. At the time many of us warned that it was inconsistent to enshrine the spread of nuclear energy in a treaty trying to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

It therefore is no surprise that we now have a crisis over the advanced nuclear ambitions of Iran. One of the weaknesses in the West's negotiating position is that there is nothing in the non-proliferation treaty to prohibit Iran from acquiring a declared nuclear energy programme, although it seems implausible that the country has any urgent need for one, as it practically floats on a lake of oil.

Desirable solution

The desirable solution is for an addition to the treaty banning countries without nuclear weapons from developing a closed fuel cycle for nuclear energy, which would stop them acquiring the fissile material for bombs. But this would deepen the present asymmetry between the nuclear powers and everyone else, and is only going to be negotiable if there is some evidence that we are serious about disarmament.

If the review conference breaks up in failure to agree, I suspect there will be some in Washington celebrating. Within their own narrow terms they will have succeeded. They will have stopped another multilateral agreement and will have escaped criticism for not fulfilling their commitments under the last one. But in the process they will have weakened the non-proliferation regime and made the world a more dangerous place. The next time they lecture us on their worries about weapons of mass destruction, they do not deserve to be taken seriously. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

Pressured Iran agrees to freeze N-programme

Geneva: The foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany persuaded Iran on Wednesday to continue its freeze on nuclear activities, averting a diplomatic crisis that could have led to punitive international measures against Iran.

In exchange, the Europeans offered to present Iran with detailed, step-by-step proposals by early August at the latest on how to move toward consensus on the shape of Iran's nuclear program. Last November in Paris, Iran agreed to suspend all of its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities while it negotiated the economic, nuclear, political and security benefits it would receive.

Despite the progress on Wednesday, the Europeans and the Iranians remain far apart on their ultimate goals. The Europeans want to prolong the freeze in Iran's enrichment activities until it becomes permanent, doling out trade, political, economic and security rewards, including access to nuclear energy, along the way.

The Iranians, by contrast, insist the freeze is only temporary. Iranian officials have pointed out that they are not required under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to freeze these activities and are doing so on a voluntary basis to show good will.

The Bush administration, which accuses Iran of secretly using its nuclear program to develop weapons, reacted with caution to the developments on



From left to right, German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, Britain's foreign secretary Jack Straw and Iran's top nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani, attend a press briefing after the nuclear talks between three European Union countries and Iran, in Geneva on Wednesday

Wednesday, reaffirming its support for the European effort, but reiterating its suspicion of Iran's motives.

"Iran hid its nuclear activity from the international community for two decades," said Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman.

"That is why we are sceptical about their activities."

If Iran accepts the European propos-

al, as expected, both sides will have bought some time, and the freeze on Iran's uranium conversion and enrichment activities will still be in place when Iranians go to the polls to elect a new president on June 17.

After three hours of negotiations that the Europeans and the Iranians described as very difficult, both sides claimed success. Agencies

27 MAY 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Emergency IAEA meet likely on Iran

Major powers unsure of steps

Agencies

New York, May 12

DIPLOMATS AND officials of major member countries at the UN said an emergency meeting of the IAEA was expected if Iran declared that it intended to resume activities related to uranium enrichment.

They said an emergency meeting of the IAEA was expected as early as next week if Iran did declare its intention to hold such activities even if they did not involve actual enrichment, but the major powers were not sure what action exactly should be taken.

However, that would certainly signal the end of the talks that Iran is having with the European Union. The Europeans have reportedly warned Teheran about that and threatened to support the Bush administration's punitive measures.

The IAEA could refer the issue to the Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions - but then all five permanent members, including the US, Britain, Russia, France and China, must agree to impose an embargo. Even if sanctions are imposed, diplomats doubt that the embargo will be effective against Iran. Currently, Russia and China definitely do not favour imposing sanctions.

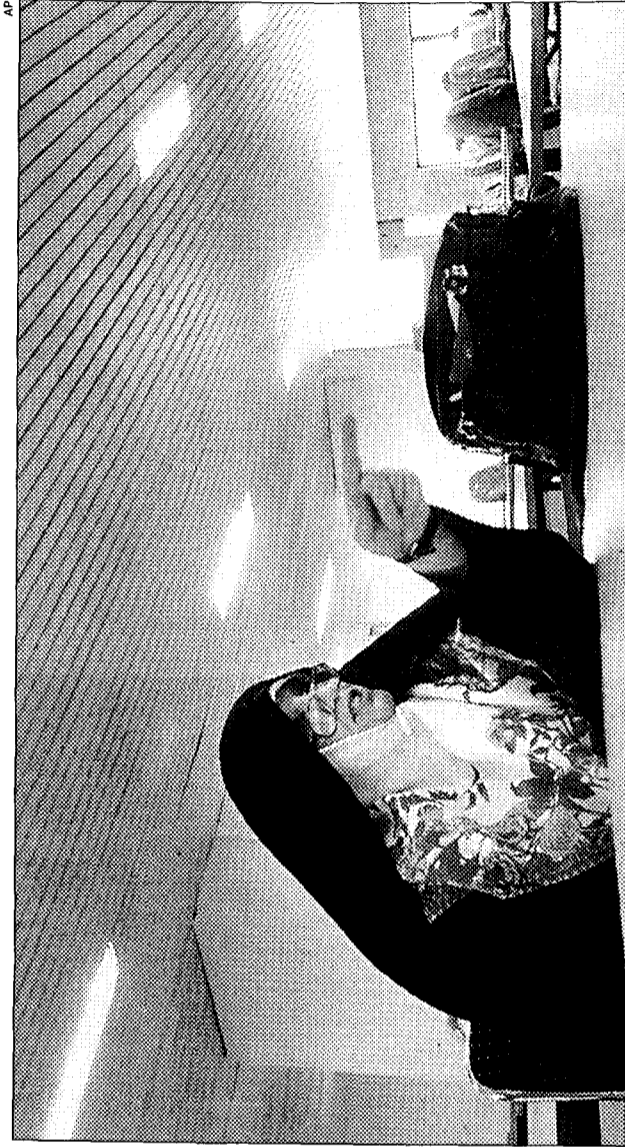
"There's a lot of pessimism at the moment", the *New York Times* quoted a European diplomat as saying. He was referring to the growing sense that Iran would effectively walk away from talks on its sus-

pected nuclear arms programme. European officials, the *Washington Post* said, notified Iran for the first time on Wednesday that they would walk away from two years of talks and sign on to a Bush administration strategy for punitive measures against Teheran if it made good on threats to resume nuclear work in coming days.

In a sharply worded letter to Hassan Rouhani, head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany warned that such work "would bring the negotiating process to an end". The letter added: "The consequences could only be negative for Iran". Iran, diplomats said, would need to remove IAEA seal, to resume uranium processing facility in Isfahan and they expect Teheran to inform the IAEA about its intention to do so.

Conversion of uranium tetrafluoride to uranium hexafluoride, which Iran might undertake, is the part of the process of enriching uranium for use as fuel for nuclear power reactors. But the US and other Western nations worried what Iran does next and whether it processes it to weapons grade material.

Iran, the *Times* noted, had confirmed earlier in the week that it had converted 37 tons of uranium ore concentrate into uranium tetrafluoride, and Western experts said it may take only a few weeks to convert that material into uranium hexafluoride, which can then be fed into centrifuges for enrichment.



Secretary of the Islamic Revolutions Women Society Azam Taleqani, as she registers as a presidential candidate at the Interior Ministry in Tehran. Iran's presidential election will take place on June 17.

Blair backs UN intervention on Iraq

London, May 12

PRIME MINISTER

Tony Blair said on Thursday that Iran should be referred to the UN Security Council if it breaches its nuclear obligations, while Teheran vowed to resume some activities that can be part of the process of making nuclear weapons.

Hasan Rowhani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, said negotiations with key European powers were

not balanced and were costly for Tehran.

"Continuation of negotiations in their present format is not possible for us," Rowhani told Iranian state-run television. "The basic point that the Islamic Republic of Iran will resume part of its nuclear activities in the near future is definite."

Blair stepped up the pressure, warning that he would support Iran being referred to the UN Se-

curity Council, which could impose sanctions, if it breached its nuclear obligations.

"We certainly will support referral to the U.N. Security Council if Iran breaches it undertaking and obligations," Blair said at the first news conference since his Labour Party won a historic third term in last week's elections. Blair stressed that Britain was committed to the diplomatic process.

AP

Korea raises nuclear stakes

M/S
Gr B
Seoul, May 11 (Reuters): North Korea sharply raised the stakes in its nuclear stand-off with regional powers today, announcing it had finished extracting nuclear fuel rods at its Yongbyon plant and taken steps to expand its atomic arsenal.

It was the first time North Korea had effectively confirmed it had been working on its reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear complex north of the capital Pyongyang. Regional powers, notably South Korea, voiced concern and urged it to return to talks designed to end its nuclear ambitions.

The north said in February it was pulling out of the six-

country talks and confirmed for the first time it had nuclear weapons. It has since said it would enhance its deterrent force, and Washington fears Pyongyang could be preparing a nuclear test.

"The relevant field of the DPRK has successfully finished the unloading of 8,000 spent fuel rods from the 5 MW (megawatt) pilot nuclear plant in the shortest period recently", the north's foreign ministry spokesman said in a English-language version carried by the official KCNA news agency. DPRK is short for the state's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Officials in Seoul said in April the north had suspended the operation of its reactor in Yongbyon. Analysts said this would allow it to extract spent fuel rods, which could be turned into weapons-grade plutonium. Outside experts say the north could already have up to eight nuclear

weapons. "The DPRK had already declared in December 2002 that it would re-operate the above-said plant and resume the construction of two other nuclear plants", the north's spokesman added.

The North did not say whether reprocessing of fuel rods — necessary to make material for nuclear weapons — had started.

South Korean officials have said they are more concerned about the possibility of reprocessing than a nuclear test.

Pyongyang and Washington signed the Agreed Framework agreement in 1994 in Geneva to mothball the north's plutonium-based nuclear programme in return for energy aid, including two proliferation-proof nuclear reactors.

The agreement was effectively broken in late 2002, igniting a new crisis. The US accused the north of running a covert uranium-based pro-

gramme, a charge Pyongyang denies.

The north's spokesman said it had resumed operations at the plants frozen under the deal because "the Bush administration threatened the DPRK with nuclear weapons in violation of the agreed framework".

"Accordingly, the DPRK keeps taking necessary measures to bolster its nuclear arsenal for the defensive purpose of coping with the prevailing situation, with a main emphasis on developing the self-reliant nuclear power industry," the spokesman said.

He added that construction of two other nuclear power plants had also resumed.

Three rounds of talks involving the two Koreas, the US, Japan, Russia and China aimed at dismantling the impoverished north's nuclear programmes made little progress, and the process has stalled since the last meeting in June 2004.

12 MAY 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

05 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

Nuclear double standards

Non-weapons states accuse nuclear powers of double standards.

Simon Tisdall

MANY DAMAGING accusations have been levelled at John Bolton, President George Bush's controversial nominee as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

But perhaps the most serious is that Mr. Bolton, as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security since 2001, bungled efforts to dissuade North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. He helped to scrap the Clinton administration's 1994 "agreed framework" that froze North

Korea's weapons-related plutonium reprocessing programme. The framework was imperfect — but nothing remotely adequate replaced it.

In 2002, President Bush denounced North Korea as part of the "axis of evil." In 2003, Pyongyang withdrew from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and traded insults with Mr. Bolton. In February, it declared itself a nuclear weapons state. And at the weekend, on the eve of the treaty review conference in New York, North Korea said stalled regional talks were effectively dead.

The Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency conceded last week that North Korea probably now has nuclear-armed missiles capable of hitting U.S. soil.

This signal policy failure risks being repeated in Iran, with which Mr. Bolton has also refused to deal directly. Western countries suspect Iran is secretly developing nuclear weapons. It says it is interested only in generating nuclear-powered electricity.

Unlike Pyongyang, Teheran still belongs to the treaty and has signed the "additional protocol" allowing intrusive U.N. inspections. But as the conference met this week, E.U.-led efforts to persuade Iran to suspend uranium enrichment were on the verge of breakdown.

Mr. Bush proposed last year to "cap" the number of states possessing fuel enrichment capabilities. The International Atomic Energy Agency has suggested a five-year moratorium on new facilities in return for guar-

anteed fuel supplies for certified users.

But as the independent British-American Security Information Council points out: "There is no international consensus on how to deal with the problem."

"The big loophole in the treaty is legal acquisition [of dual-use technology]," a British official said. "We want to try and address it as much as possible, but it's fiendishly difficult."

Such pessimism appears well-founded. Non-weapons states accuse nuclear powers of double standards.

The Bush administration's weapons modernisation and development plans, and its overall disdain for arms treaties, are said to undermine the treaty. So, too, is Britain's refusal to relinquish theoretical "first use" of nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear armed state.

— ©Guardian Newspapers Limited
2005

US wants India, Pak to join NPT

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, May 3

NUKE TALKS

THE US'S focus at the current review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) may well be on Iran and North Korea, but it will also urge its non-signatory friends — India, Pakistan and Israel — to come on board the 35-year-old treaty.

"I think one thing that will be re-emphasised or reiterated...will be that we believe in universal adherence to the NPT," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said on Monday even as the month-long NPT review meet got under way in New York.

The State Department went a step further, suggesting that falling in line on NPT will be important to all countries that want to have "full relationship" with the rest of the world.

All countries, except India, Pakistan and Israel, have signed the NPT, a treaty which New Delhi regards as highly discriminatory. North Korea, which had signed the treaty, pulled out of it in January 2003 and declared itself free from the obligations set out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"We have advocated universal adherence. We had even advocated universal application of Additional Protocols, giving the International Atomic Energy Agency the authority to inspect any nuclear facility in any non-permanent member of the Security Council...without advance notice," state department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Ahead of the review conference, the US had made known its rigid stand vis-a-vis India, Pakistan and Israel, saying these countries could join the NPT only as non-nuclear states.

Setting out Washington's position, US Ambassador for Disarmament Jackie Walcott Sanders even stated that the three countries would have to forswear nuclear weapons and accept IAEA

safeguards on all nuclear activities in order to join the treaty.

But in strong evidence that the US spotlight at the New York meet will be on Iran and North Korea, US representative Stephen Rademaker lashed out at both countries on Monday. He demanded Tehran dismantle its uranium enrichment facilities.

Countries like North Korea and Iran must be prevented from exploiting loopholes in NPT to divert civilian nuclear energy programmes into illegal weapons facilities, he said.

"Some countries, such as Iran, are seeking these facilities, either secretly or with explanations that cannot withstand scrutiny. We dare not look the other way," Rademaker told the conference.

Rice warns N Korea

US SECRETARY of state Condoleezza Rice has issued a warning to North Korea that the US is well able to defend itself and its allies against nuclear threats.

And South Korea on Tuesday dismissed claims that North Korea is preparing to conduct an underground nuclear test, Yonhap news agency reported. South Korea's defence minister Yoon Kwang-ung told reporters in Seoul: "We've not yet seen any signs (of a nuclear test)."

He was responding to a report in the *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper that claimed the US had told South Korea that US intelligence detected signs North Korea was preparing for an underground test. Earlier, deputy foreign minister Song Min-soon had dismissed the possibility of North Korea conducting a nuclear weapons test in the near future.

Rice said in Washington: "I think there should be no doubt about our ability to deter whatever the North Koreans are up to."

U.S. demands Iran dismantle all nuclear facilities

NPT meet fears Teheran may circumvent obligations

David E. Sanger

UNITED NATIONS: The gulf between Iran and the United States widened considerably on Monday when the Bush administration, at the opening of a conference on the future of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, demanded that Iran dismantle all the "equipment and facilities" it has built over the past two decades to manufacture nuclear material.

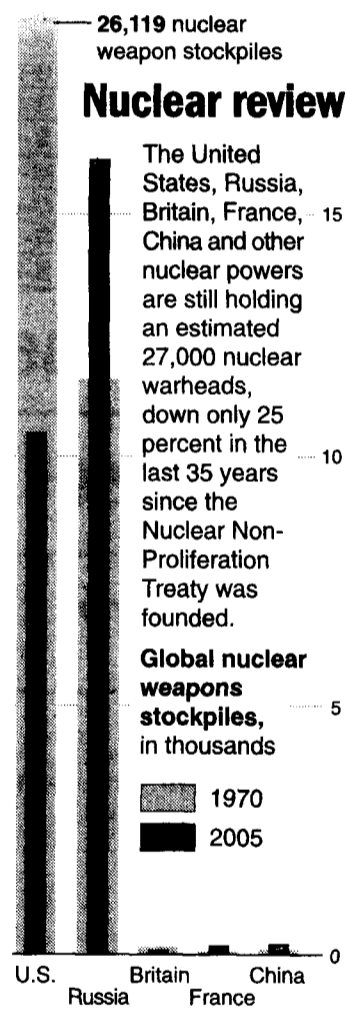
The demand, made by Stephen Rademaker, Assistant Secretary of State who spoke at the opening of the conference in the chamber of the General Assembly on Monday afternoon, has been made before by the United States. But it came only two days after Iran threatened to resume some production activities in coming weeks.

As part of Iran's negotiations with the European Union over the future of its nuclear programme — which it insists is solely intended for electricity production — Iran has demanded that it must be allowed to install 3,000 centrifuges, which enrich uranium. If enriched at a low level, that uranium could fuel a nuclear power plant. But the centrifuges could also produce enough highly enrichment uranium to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Focus on loopholes

Mr. Rademaker's statement was intended to focus the conference on loopholes in the 35-year-old treaty, which he charged that Iran and North Korea have exploited. "Today, the treaty is facing the most serious challenge in its history due to instances of non-compliance," he said.

Though the International Atomic Energy Agency has said it has yet to find concrete evidence of a weapons



SOURCE: Natural Resources Defense Council AP

programme in Iran, Mr. Rademaker expressed no doubts about what Iran has done, or how it got the help.

"For almost two decades Iran has conducted a clandestine nuclear

weapons programme, aided by the illicit network of A.Q. Khan," Mr. Rademaker said, referring to the head of Pakistan's nuclear research laboratory, who was at the centre of a huge black-market network in nuclear technology.

Mr Rademaker offered the administration's first public confirmation that Mr. Khan has also traded in nuclear weapons designs — a reference to a Chinese design for a nuclear weapon that the Khan network provided to Libya — though he stopped short of saying that Iran had also been given that design.

"We assume that what the Libyans got the Iranians also got," a senior American intelligence official said recently. "But can we prove it? Not yet."

The Bush administration has long demanded that North Korea dismantle all of its nuclear facilities, and in Washington, Mr. Bush's aides have argued that the then President Bill Clinton erred in 1994 by signing an accord with the North that did not require the country to dismantle its facilities and ship all of its nuclear material out of the country. The North has refused to do so, pulled out of the NPT in 2003, and now asserts that it has reprocessed its stockpile of spent nuclear fuel into nuclear weapons.

At the conference here, there is considerable concern that Iran will follow the same model.

Mr. Rademaker described the American demands by saying that any solution "must include permanent cessation of Iran's enrichment and reprocessing efforts, as well as dismantlement of equipment facilities related to such activity." —New York Times News Service

Anti-nuclear demonstration at U.N.

Month-long review of Non-Proliferation Treaty begins in New York

NEW YORK: Thousands of activists marched past the United Nations, hoping to remind diplomats reviewing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty of the horrors of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki five decades ago. Chanting "No War, No Nukes" and carrying signs saying "No More Hiroshima, No more Nagasaki," the marchers then headed to Central Park, where they formed a human peace symbol. Organisers put the number of Sunday's protesters at 40,000.

The Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba, told the crowd that the survivors of the bombs were "the only people who have had the experience of nuclear war. For them the world is a family, and we need to work together so that no member of this family will have to suffer the pain that they suffered in 1945."

One of those survivors, Sunao Tsuboi, was a 20-year-old college student when the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Speaking through an interpreter, he spoke of the physical and mental anguish he experienced. "That's why we call the atomic bomb the absolute evil," he said.

A month-long review of the non-proliferation treaty at the U.N. began on Monday — a process done every five years. The treaty calls for nations without nuclear weapons to pledge not to pursue them, and the five that acknowledge having nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and



CLEAR MESSAGE: Chieko Neyo, of Osaka, whose brother died during the A-bomb attack on Hiroshima joins the peace rally in New York's Central Park, on Sunday. — PHOTO: AP

China — to pledge to move toward eliminating them. — AP

Black market network

AFP reports from Vienna: The NPT, which went into effect in 1970, received a rude blow with

the unearthing two years ago of an international black market network in technology that could be used to make atomic weapons, run by the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Mohammed ElBaradei, head of

the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency which verifies compliance with the NPT, has been in the forefront of critics calling for fixes to loopholes in the treaty. North Korea expelled IAEA inspectors in December 2002.

03 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Iran Should Not Be Driven Into A Corner

By KONSTANTIN KOSACHEV

Russia's interest in the Iranian nuclear programme is not only due to the fact that it is helping to build a nuclear plant at Bushehr. Iran is one of the most dynamically developing nations not only in the Middle East, but also anywhere in the world. The path chosen by Iran, including its nuclear ambitions, will be instrumental in determining both the situation in the region and future global mechanisms of controlling non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Rigid controls by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over Iranian nuclear power have always been a sine qua non for Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran. Russia is one of Iran's closest neighbours, and the risk of nuclear technologies falling into extremists' hands is one Russia does not wish to take.

Criticism

For this reason, Russia scrutinises every point of agreement with Iran — an approach that draws heavy criticism in Iran. In particular, Russia has always said that it will supply its nuclear fuel to Iran only if Teheran signs a protocol on returning spent fuel.

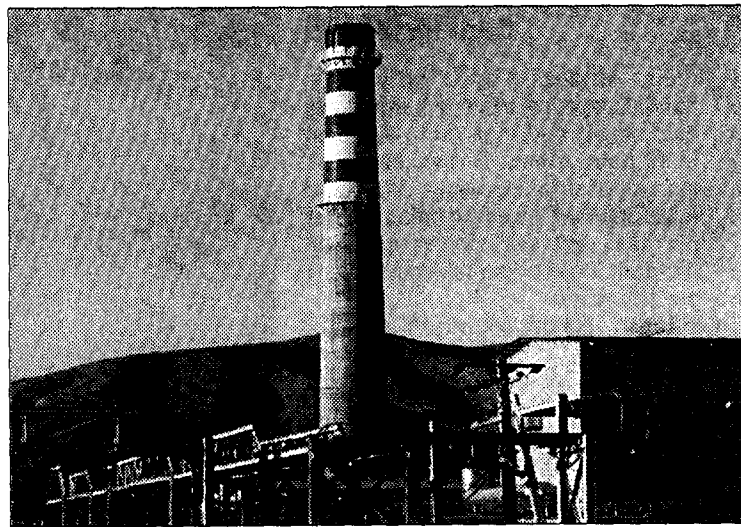
At present, Iran is ready and willing to cooperate with any party that does not see international controls as a way to wreck its nuclear program. Russia wants Iran's nuclear programme to be carried out under international control, and full and complete information to be available at any time. It would be unfair to deny Iran the chance to exploit advanced technologies for its own development.

US and Russian positions on the Iranian nuclear programme are often said to be widely divergent. In fact, deep down, they are dictated by the same motives. Both the US and Russia are first of all concerned with non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Should extremists acquire a nuclear bomb and unleash "nuclear terrorism", it would be

The author is chairman of the Russian State Duma's international affairs committee

a global nightmare. So US concerns about the security of America and its allies are quite understandable, as is its desire to play safe, especially in view of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. However, it should not be forgotten that it was the US campaign in Iraq that went some considerable way to sparking negative trends in the

that, were Russia to curtail its nuclear programmes in Iran, American specialists would step in. And it is not inconceivable that, in a miraculous fashion and within a very short space of time, Iran might turn out to be a peaceful and transparent, as far as international control is concerned, state for the US. To my mind, the principal weakness of



region.

But there are some aspects of the American position that clearly go beyond Iran-IAEA cooperation and clash with the Russian viewpoint. These are plans to overhaul the world order and, perhaps, the US's special attitude to Iran's oil resources and that country's growing say in regional affairs — a stance that, naturally, is not infused with pro-American sentiments. Russia is alarmed at the preparation by the United States of a "pre-war Iran dossier", as it did with Iraq.

A myth

The American charges that Baghdad had weapons of mass destruction are now known to have been a myth. Time and again, international inspections failed to confirm American accusations. But still this did not stop the US from unleashing a war against Iraq on the pretext that it could have used such weapons.

In addition, Russia has purely pragmatic interests in Iran. There is a very high likelihood

the US arguments against Iran's nuclear programme is this obvious commitment, as well as the negative experience of previous interference in Iraq's affairs on a similar pretext. Even if the US is right in many things, these two circumstances cannot but undermine the credibility of what it says and does on Iran.

Only the IAEA can be a really competent and level-headed judge on such a complicated matter as Iran's national nuclear programme. I think it would make sense for the US to stop judging the organisation's work exclusively through the prism of American aims and interests in the region. Incidentally, the issue of nuclear control in Iran may prove to be far from the last such issue that the world will face in the near future, and we should have ready some effective international mechanisms for such eventualities.

The European Union, which has its own axe to grind in Iran and the Middle East, is known to adhere to a relatively reasonable

position, as it seeks to find real and non-discriminatory solutions to existing problems. As negotiators, the Europeans fit the bill: on the one hand, the Iranian leadership is willing to negotiate with EU representatives, while on the other the Europeans also bear in mind "Atlantic solidarity".

Russia has a vested interest in seeing the EU and Iran agree on this far-from-simple subject, and in particular to holding a nuts-and-bolts discussion of Teheran's "limited enrichment" proposals. The way these negotiations go may take a lot of the sting out of current passions surrounding Iran. For the moment, these passions are running rather high. Some European commentators, for example, write that Bushehr may become a "stationary nuclear bomb", and, if detonated, could cover Middle East oil fields with a radioactive cloud. I believe it is up to an impartial IAEA mission to lay these fears to rest. Russian specialists, however, are convinced that safety at Bushehr meets next-generation international standards, and there is no cause for concern.

Cooperation

This is an apposite place to recall that the Middle East already has its own nuclear weapons, and they did not originate with Iran. It is certainly not right and proper, in my judgment, to consider weapons in the possession of one state in the region as posing a lesser risk than a peaceful energy programme controlled by an international agency. The most dangerous and short-sighted thing to do in the present situation would be to let the situation get out of control with Iran, disappointed and frustrated by its negotiating partners, "clamping up" against any external influence and drifting in a direction which it would be certain not to abandon. In this case, nuclear weapons, rather than peaceful programmes, will be more probable.

Iran should not be driven into a corner, especially in a situation when it is itself seeking full-scale and constructive cooperation.

Pak rejects report on sale of Iran nuke parts

Islamabad, March 14 (Reuters): Pakistan rejected today reports it would hand over used centrifuge components to the UN nuclear watchdog to help it solve a key mystery surrounding Iran's atomic programme.

Diplomats familiar with a UN investigation into Iran's nuclear programme said yesterday Islamabad had agreed to hand over the parts so UN inspectors could compare them with machinery sold to Iran by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb programme.

"That report is incorrect; that's entirely baseless and speculative," said Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani.

Islamabad acknowledged for the first time last week that Khan, the disgraced nuclear scientist at the centre of a

global atomic black market, provided Iran with centrifuges used to produce enriched uranium fuel for nuclear power plants or arms.

A diplomat, who asked not to be named, said in Vienna at the weekend that the centrifuges could hold crucial fingerprints, or "the DNA" of

uranium traces found on equipment in Iran.

In 2003, the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found traces of uranium in Iran that had been enriched to various levels, some of them close to what would be useable in weapons.

This sparked fears that

Tehran's secret centrifuge programme had been used to purify uranium for atomic weapons.

Iran blamed the traces on contaminated centrifuge components it acquired second-hand from Pakistan. But Islamabad's refusal to allow IAEA experts to take environmental samples inside the country has prevented the IAEA from verifying Iran's explanation.

An IAEA spokesman in Vienna declined to comment on whether Pakistan would provide the centrifuge parts, but two diplomats close to the agency said they would arrive soon. Analysts say Pakistan's admission that Khan gave Iran centrifuges appeared to be the result of US pressure ahead of a visit to Islamabad this week by US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice.

SC takes over rape case

Islamabad, March 14 (Reuters): Pakistan's top court said today it is taking over a notorious gangrape case that has stirred fierce legal controversy.

Mukhtaran Mai was gangraped on the orders of a village council nearly three years ago. The anti-terrorism court that first heard the case sentenced four men to death for the rape. A high court in Multan overturned this decision on March 3, acquitting five of the six due to lack of evidence. Last week, the federal shariat court in turn threw out this judgement. The Supreme Court in Islamabad suspended the rulings of both the high court and the Islamic court and said it would hear the case itself, court documents showed.

N Korea preparing for nuke test: USA

51-4 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK, April 23. — The United States has warned China that North Korea could be preparing for a nuclear test which could come with "little or no warning", according to a media report.

In an emergency diplomatic communication, Washington told China on Thursday that "in light of recent North Korean words and actions, a test could be in the works," the *Wall Street Journal*

reported yesterday, quoting an unidentified official.

The United States also told China that it believes "the North Korean nuclear programme advanced enough that a test could come with little or no warning", the newspaper reported, saying "another official said the USA fears about a test also were being conveyed to South Korea and Japan". "Spy satellites have observed heightened activity at missile sites as well as 'at various suspect sites' in North Korea where it is

29/4
believed underground tests could be carried out," the report said. But the official acknowledged that it was difficult to ascertain the true intent of that activity, the report said.

Similar warnings have reportedly also been sent to South Korea and Japan, the *Journal* added. North Korea had declared in February that it had nuclear weapons for self-defence and was indefinitely pulling out of six-party talks aimed at persuading it to give up its nuclear weapons programme.

24 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

Nuclear Diplomacy

NPT Meet Needs To Address Double Standards

By Manpreet Sethi

In May this year, the seventh quinquennial review conference of the now 35-year-old nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be held in New York. Representatives of a record 189 countries will assemble to review the performance of the treaty over the last five years and to identify future course of action. However, the last few reviews have generated more heat than light. They have exposed sharp differences of opinion, on both procedural and substantive matters, between the nuclear weapon states (NWS) and the non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS).

India is not a member of the NPT. The treaty has never been a favourite with New Delhi. Its discriminatory nature, its inability to check vertical proliferation, its incapacity to prevent clandestine pursuit of nuclear weapon programmes by keen NNWS, its powerlessness in the face of selective proliferation by NWS, and its failure to ensure nuclear disarmament are the major issues on which the treaty has been decried and rendered unacceptable by India.

Interestingly, these issues are now beginning to irk several treaty subscribers too.

Much of this disenchantment was evident at the sixth review in 2000, as also at the three preparatory committee meetings held in preparation for the coming conference. Countries have openly expressed their frustration with the inability of the NPT to deliver on both its objectives — ensuring nuclear non-proliferation and securing nuclear disarmament.

They lament the absence of effective mechanisms to exert their collective will when faced with non-compliance or violation, as in the case of North Korea and Iran, or at the casual treatment meted out to disarmament by the NWS. Indeed, non-compliance is more acute than ever before and the credibility of the treaty stands seriously eroded.

Should India be happy at this state of affairs? There are two ways of looking at this. On the one hand, India's stand on the inability of a discriminatory arrangement to sustain itself stands vindicated. But on the other, proliferation is surely not in India's interests and, to some extent, the NPT has kept countries from going nuclear. Hence, from a balanced perspective, India need not be overly joyous nor agonise over the present state of the NPT. Rather, it must keep a close watch on the forthcoming review for two particular reasons.

This conference is taking place in the shadow of new developments that have adversely impacted the nuclear scenario. Contemporary threats now include nuclear terrorism, black marketing, insecure fissile material storage, clandestine weapon acquisition under the guise of power programmes, and the large and modernising arsenals in the NWS. Easy access to fissile material coupled with religious fundamen-

talism is a lethal combination that scares the international community as much as India. Therefore, it will be worthwhile to see how the NPT addresses these threats.

The review conference is sure to make a mention of the de facto nuclear status of India, Pakistan and Israel and exhort them to join the NPT as NNWS. This would be no more than a rhetorical exposition given the unlikelihood of their nuclear weapon programmes being rolled back. Some states accept this and are trying to find ways of accommodation. This, nevertheless, poses legal and political problems. The cut-off date for acceptance as NWS into the NPT stands at 1970, and hence the legal hurdle. Politically, too, many NNWS perceive attempts at accommodation as a betrayal of their obligation to keep away from WMD. However, this is a dilemma that the NPT members have to resolve within themselves and India can do little to help.

The NPT's mantra of universality has not really been effective in stalling proliferation. Efforts to enrol new members have brought in 189 nations, leaving only three countries out of the NPT fold. But it has not eliminated horizontal nuclear proliferation. Rather,

proliferation has emerged even more violently today in the wake of revelations of a thriving clandestine nuclear network. This network was patronised by rogue scientists and countries and had connections with business interests in countries like the UK, Malaysia, South Africa and UAE. Interestingly, all these suppliers and recipients

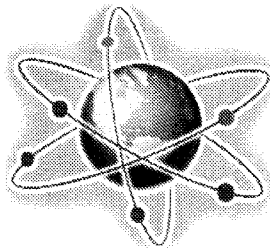
are NPT members and legally bound not to aid or acquire nuclear weapons!

Another fallacy has been that while imposing non-proliferation on others, the NWS have done precious little to bring down the role and importance of nuclear weapons in their own national security policies. Meanwhile, a paradigm shift in US non-proliferation policy away from reliance on multilateral instruments and towards pre-emption has added to the insecurities of nations.

Cases such as Iran should make the states realise that nuclear developments are linked to larger issues, in this case to Persian Gulf security, the US role in West Asia and Israel's nuclear status and Palestinian-Israeli relations.

The NPT finds itself in a crisis today. The review conference, therefore, will need to conduct a fair amount of soul-searching. It needs to seriously consider changes, in procedures and substantive issues, which can address present-day challenges. The indefinite extension of the NPT may have been technically secured at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, but its practicality stands to test in 2005. It should be interesting for India to watch if, and how, the treaty reinvents itself.

The writer is with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 APR 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Scientists cast doubts on US, UK nukes

FRANCIS HARRIS

Washington, April 4: British and American nuclear warheads carried by submarines are so poorly designed that they may fail to detonate if fired, scientists have said.

The news emerged after interviews with a group of American scientists with ties to the Los Alamos nuclear research facility, where the first atomic weapon was manufactured.

One of them, Richard Morse, of the University of Arizona and a former Los Alamos weapons designer, said the casing of the W76 nuclear warhead was so thin that it would probably fail if used. The Tri-

dent warhead, Britain's sole nuclear weapon, is based on the W76. Morse said: "What is out there on those boats is at best unreliable and probably much worse."

The claims have been vigorously denied by US officials, who say that the warhead "looks like a pretty good weapon". They say the warheads have not been tested for 13 years because of the global moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons but were successfully detonated before then.

Everet Beckner, the head of the nuclear arsenal at Los Alamos, said there were no plans to redesign the W76 but admitted to the *New York*

Times that that could change.

The story emerged after what was described as "acrimonious" exchanges between worried scientists and the leadership of America's nuclear weapons programme.

That led four scientists, three of them former Los Alamos employees and one still working there, to seek a secret meeting with weapons officials to discuss their fears.

They met in March last year. Morse said: "It was a verbal mud-wrestling match. Officials from Los Alamos and the government would not be candid with us. We told them things they did not know."

The issue is of central im-

portance despite the end of the Cold War. Countries such as North Korea and Iran are pursuing nuclear programmes that Washington believes have a military goal. Both have active and ambitious long-range missile programmes.

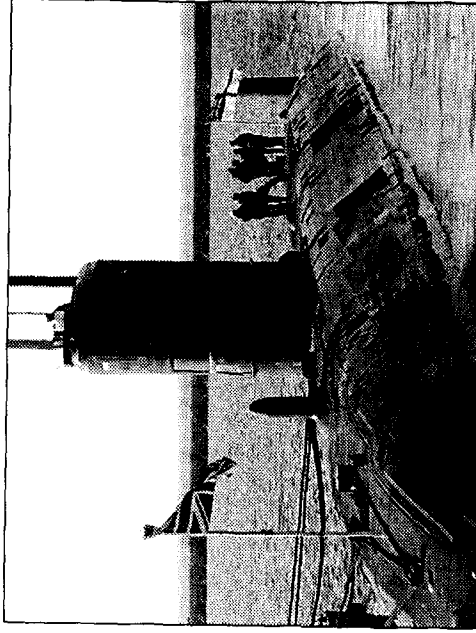
Britain's nuclear weaponry, thought to number about 190 warheads, is carried exclusively aboard four Trident submarines, *Vanguard*, *Vigilant*, *Vengeance* and *Victorious*.

While the US still has air-launched nuclear weaponry, it has become more dependent on submarine missiles. Morse said the growing reliance on submarine weaponry revived his long-standing worries

about the casings of the W76.

During the 1970s there was pressure to make warheads as light as possible to allow more to be fitted on top of a relatively thin missile. Although the radiation casing was made of uranium, which is double the weight of lead, it was to be super-thin — in places only as thick as a beer tin.

The casing is critical as it has to hold together for nanoseconds as the nuclear chain reaction begins, releasing temperatures hotter than the surface of the sun. If the casing fails, the bomb can fail, or explode with less than its intended force.



British nuclear-powered submarine HMS Turbulent

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Ford administration recommended Iran's nuke programme

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, March 27. — Former US President Gerald Ford's top officials had recommended the Iranian uranium enrichment programme — the shut-down of which the USA now demands, according to declassified US documents. The officials included Ford's Secretary of State Mr Henry Kissinger, current Vice-President Mr Dick Cheney and Defence Secretary Mr Donald Rumsfeld.

The Ford administration of the 1970s even recommended to Iran at one point to make the nuclear project a joint one with Pakistan, the newly declassified documents reveal. The Ford administration "at one point suggested joint Pakistani-Iranian reprocessing as a way of promoting nonproliferation in the region 'because it would cut down on the need for additional reprocessing facilities'", the *Washington Post* said in a report, after reviewing the documents.



Mr Henry Kissinger, Mr Dick Cheney and Mr Donald Rumsfeld had recommended to Teheran to make a joint nuclear project with Pakistan because the nuclear deal was attractive in terms of commerce.

Mr Cheney, Mr Rumsfeld and Mr Wolfowitz do not want to talk about it (Iranians) were then an allied country (under the Shah) and this was a commercial transaction. We did

not address the question of them one day moving toward nuclear weapons."

Mr Joseph Cirincione, a nonproliferation expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told the *Post*: "Do the Iranians remember that they (the then Ford administration leaders) said this? Yes, the Iranians sure remember that they said it." Cirincione described as "the worst imaginable" the Ford administration's suggestion for a joint Pakistani-Iranian reprocessing plant.

He added: "It is absolutely incredible that the very same players who made those statements then are making completely opposite ones now."

Mr Charles Naas, who was deputy US ambassador to Iran in the 1970s, said proliferation was high in the minds of technical experts "but the nuclear deal was attractive in terms of commerce, and the relationship (with Iran and Pakistan) as a whole was very important". He added that Mr Cheney, Mr Rumsfeld and his deputy Mr Paul

Wolfowitz were all in positions to play significant roles in Iranian policy then, "but in those days, you have to view Mr Kissinger (who now opposes such a deal) as the main figure."

Documents show that US companies, led by Westinghouse, stood to gain \$6.4 billion from the sale of six to eight nuclear reactors and parts to Iran. Iran was also willing to pay an additional \$1 billion for a 20 per cent stake in a private uranium enrichment facility in the USA, according to the documents.

Pak faces nuclear black market heat

Vienna, March 15 (Reuters): Pakistan has developed new illicit channels to upgrade its nuclear weapons programme, despite efforts by the UN atomic watchdog to shut down all illegal procurement avenues, diplomats and nuclear experts said.

Western diplomats familiar with an investigation of the nuclear black market by the UN's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said this news was disturbing.

While Pakistan appeared to be shopping for its own needs, the existence of some nuclear black market channels meant there were still ways for rogue states or terrorist groups to acquire technology that could be used in atomic weapons, they said.

"General procurement ef-

forts (by Pakistan) are going on. It is a determined effort," a diplomat from a member of the 44-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) said on condition of anonymity.

Nuclear experts said these channels involved new middlemen who had not played a role in earlier deals which came to light last year. "These are not the same people. They're new, which is worrying," said one western diplomat. Pakistan is subject to sanctions against its atomic arms programme as it has not signed the 1968 global nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Pakistan first successfully tested a nuclear weapon in 1998 and remains under a strict embargo by the NSG, whose members include the world's major producers of

nuclear-related equipment, such as the US, Russia and China.

A diplomat from another NSG country that is a producer of technology usable in weapons programmes said his country's customs agents were not surprised. "Our people are well aware of Pakistan's efforts to upgrade its centrifuge programme."

Asked if Pakistan was using the black market to upgrade its facilities, foreign ministry spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said in Islamabad: "To be honest, I don't have an update on that."

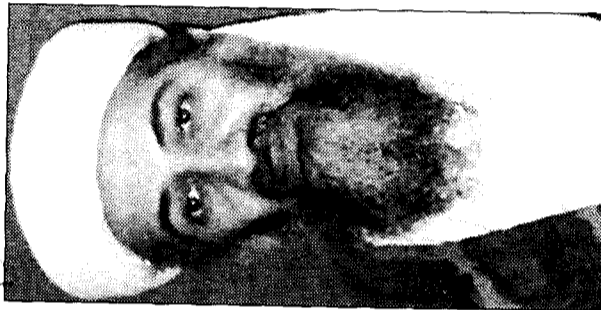
"Pakistan's nuclear capability is a reality which has to be reconciled, and obviously in order to maintain its capability Pakistan would make all the preparations," he added.

The black market will be a

major topic of discussion at the NPT review conference in New York in May, where IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei hopes to rally support for a plan to patch up loopholes in the pact against the spread of nuclear arms. Being outside the NPT, like India, meant Pakistan had to buy on the sly.

This was why Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced scientist who built Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, set up a clandestine procurement network with front companies and middlemen who duped manufacturers across the globe into thinking purchases of sensitive dual-use items were intended for civilian purposes.

Khan later used this network to supply Iran, which says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.



Osama bin Laden: Elusive

Osama trail cold

London, March 15 (Reuters): President Pervez Musharraf said today his forces believed they nearly hunted down Osama bin Laden about 10 months ago but the trail had since gone cold.

"Through interrogation of those who have been captured, the al Qaida members who were apprehended here, and through technical means there was a time when the dragnet had closed," Musharraf told the BBC in an interview. "We thought we knew roughly the area where he possibly could be. That was I think... not very long (ago), maybe about 10 months back," said Musharraf, a close ally in President George W. Bush's declared war on terrorism.

The BBC quoted Musharraf as saying his forces had since lost track of bin Laden's possible whereabouts. Some security experts say bin Laden is hiding somewhere in the rugged mountainous border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan. On Sunday, Pakistani officials said security forces had mounted a search for suspected al Qaida foreign fighters in a tribal area near the Afghan border. Ten men were detained for questioning. Pakistani officials say security forces killed or arrested hundreds of al Qaida foreign fighters in operations in the South Waziristan region last year.

Pak: Iran did get nuke tech

Islamabad, March 10 (Reuters): Pakistan acknowledged today for the first time that a disgraced Pakistani scientist at the centre of a nuclear black market gave Iran centrifuges which can be used to make atomic weapons.

Centrifuges purify uranium for use as fuel in atomic power plants or bombs. Washington believes Iran's centrifuge programme, which it concealed from UN inspectors for nearly two decades, is at the heart of clandestine atom bomb plans.

Tehran says its enrichment programme will produce only low-grade enriched fuel for power plants, not highly enriched uranium for

weapons. "(Abdul Qadeer Khan) has given centrifuges to Iran, but the government was in no way involved in this," Pakistani information minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Pakistan has admitted in the past that Khan, dubbed the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, smuggled nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya. But this is the first time Islamabad admitted that Khan supplied Iran with centrifuges.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was not surprised by Pakistan's public confirmation of Khan's role in Iran's programme. "We're well

aware that Iran received designs and centrifuge components from the Khan network," IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said.

The agency has found no clear proof of an Iranian nuclear arms programme, but is not convinced Iran declared everything.

One western diplomat in Vienna, where the IAEA is based, said Khan clearly knows the answer to the question of whether or not Iran wanted the bomb when it first made contact with Khan's clandestine nuclear network in 1987.

"Khan is the man who would know if the Iranians wanted nuclear weapons," the

diplomat said on condition of anonymity adding that it was a pity Islamabad refuses to allow the IAEA to question Khan directly.

Several Vienna diplomats said there is no way Islamabad was entirely unaware of Khan's atomic peddling.

Navy tanker fire

At least six navy personnel were killed and up to 95 hurt, many of them seriously, when fire broke out aboard a Pakistan navy tanker during routine dockside maintenance in Karachi today, officials said.

"The number of deaths has climbed to six," a senior Navy official said on condition of anonymity.



Abdul Qadeer Khan

US wait-&-watch role in nuke scam

DOUGLAS FRANTZ

Washington, Feb. 27: Nuclear warhead plans that Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan sold to Libya were more complete and highly detailed than previously disclosed, raising new concerns about the cost of Washington's watch-and-wait policy before Khan and his global black market were shut down last year.

Two Western nuclear weapons specialists who have examined the top-secret designs say the hundreds of pages of engineering drawings and handwritten notes provide an excellent starting point for anyone trying to develop an effective atomic warhead.

"This involved the spread of very sensitive nuclear knowledge and it is the most serious form of proliferation," said one of the specialists. Both described the designs on condition that their names be withheld because the plans are classified.

The sale of the plans is particularly troubling to some investigators because the transaction occurred at least 18 months after US and British intelligence agencies concluded that Khan was running an international nuclear smuggling ring and identified Libya as a suspected customer, according to US officials and a British government assessment.

Interviews with current and former government officials and intelligence agents and outside experts in Washington, Europe and West Asia reveal a lengthy pattern of watching and waiting when it came to Khan and his illicit network.



A.Q. Khan: On a long rope

The trail dated back more than 20 years as Khan went from a secretive procurer of technology for Pakistan's atomic weapons programme, which he headed, to history's biggest independent seller of nuclear weapons equipment and expertise.

For most of those years, Khan's primary customers were Iran and North Korea.

Despite knowing at least the broad outlines of Khan's activities, American intelligence agencies regularly objected to shutting down his operations and policymakers in

Washington repeatedly subordinated stopping him to other strategic goals, according to current and former officials.

Some officials said the intelligence was too limited to act on even as the picture of the threat posed by Khan's operation got clearer and bigger in 2000 and 2001.

Other officials said the CIA and National Security Agency, which eavesdropped on Khan's communications, were so addicted to gathering information and so worried about compromising their electronic sources that they rebuffed efforts to roll up Khan's operation for years.

"We could have stopped the Khan network, as we knew it, at anytime," said Robert Einhorn, a top counter-proliferation official at the state department from 1991 to August 2001. "The debate was, do you stop it now or do you watch it and understand it better so that you are in a stronger position to pull it up by the roots later? The case for waiting prevailed."

LOS ANGELES TIMES-WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

28 FEB 2005

Rise of a new axis?

Washington may have cause to worry about a Pyongyang-Teheran nuclear alliance, writes LEONARD S SPECTOR

NORTH KOREA'S abrupt announcement that it has manufactured nuclear weapons "for self-defence" and is suspending participation in disarmament talks underscores the dangers posed by its nuclear potential and seriously dims prospects that it will ever be eliminated.

Pyongyang's assertive new stance does not, in itself, change the facts on the ground. The USA has assumed for some time that N Korea has a nuclear arsenal of roughly eight plutonium-based weapons, and it is known to have production capacity for roughly one weapon per year. In addition, Washington believes N Korea has a programme for enriching uranium, the second material that can be used for nuclear weapons. The status of that programme, which received extensive assistance from the nuclear smuggling network led by Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan, remains uncertain, but it could eventually enable Pyongyang to add several weapons annually to its stockpile.

In September 2004, N Korea announced at the United Nations that it had transformed material for nuclear weapons "into arms," but the Bush administration treated the announcement as less than definitive. Since the US elections, Washington has pressed N Korea to restart the "Six-Party Talks," which also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. The talks are aimed at persuading Pyongyang to cede its nuclear weapons and production capabilities in return for US diplomatic recognition, substantial foreign aid and assistance to its energy sector. The talks, launched in 2002, have been deadlocked over the sequence for implementing the bargain, the USA demanding that N Korea first eliminate its nuclear capability before receiving any benefits, and the North insisting on a step-by-step process, with benefits accruing at an early stage.

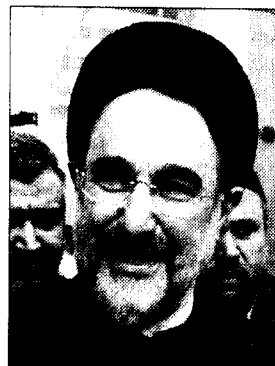
N Korea's announcement appears

to end prospects for a negotiated elimination of its nuclear potential, although the USA and its North-east Asian partners will undoubtedly keep the door open. Even Pyongyang has stated it is "suspending" its participation in the talks, rather than withdrawing permanently from them.

N Korea's new belligerence comes at a moment when another development had greatly heightened US concern over that country's nuclear potential: evidence that N Korea was the most likely supplier of uranium hexafluoride for Libya's now renounced nuclear weapons programme. The transfer, attempted 18 months ago, was interdicted through a US-led multinational effort, known as the Proliferation Security Initiative.

Libya had planned to improve the uranium to weapons-usable, highly enriched uranium in a gas-centrifuge uranium enrichment plant. At first, because the AQ Khan network had supplied equipment for the enrichment plant, it was assumed that the uranium hexafluoride had been produced in Pakistan and smuggled to Libya.

But, based on extensive technical analysis, the new US assessment that the uranium originated in N Korea, proved more credible. Importantly, it provides the first publicly disclosed evidence that Pyongyang has become a player in the secret nuclear supply market. The development adds further urgency to efforts to constrain N Korea's nuclear capabilities because if Libya was its nuclear customer yesterday, Iran – already buying N Ko-



BROTHERS IN ARMS? Kim Jong Il and Mohd Khatami

rean intermediate-range missiles – may be its nuclear customer today, or could become one tomorrow. And if N Korea continues to enlarge its own nuclear arsenal, it may have much more to sell, including weapons-ready uranium or plutonium – or nuclear weapons themselves. Now that Khan and his network have been shut down, N Korea is likely emerging as the rogue supplier of choice.

In Teheran, meanwhile, another nuclear negotiation, with considerably more promise than the Six-Party Talks, is under way. This bargain is being brokered by France, Germany, and the UK, with US engagement behind the scenes. In late 2002, it became known that Iran had pursued a clandestine uranium enrichment programme for over a decade. Again with the help of the Khan network, Iran developed the ability to manufacture enrichment centrifuges; set up a pilot enrichment plant; and was building an industrial-scale enrichment facility. Because Iran is a party to the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, all of this work should have been disclosed to the International Atomic Energy Agency and placed under IAEA inspection to ensure it

was not used for nuclear arms. (A uranium hexafluoride plant, initially assisted by China, was declared to the agency.) Although the IAEA detected traces of highly enriched uranium on some of the Iranian centrifuge equipment, it remains unclear whether Iran has in fact crossed this critical threshold. Iran claimed the equipment was contaminated with highly enriched uranium produced by its previous owner, Pakistan, although Iran has not specifically acknowledged the Pakistani connection.

Iran argues that it is building its enrichment capability to supply low-enriched fuel for future nuclear power plants. But the evidence doesn't add up: Iran currently has only a single power reactor under construction, the Russian-supplied Bushehr reactor, and the contract specifies that Russia will supply all the low-enriched fuel needed for that reactor. Given the secret history of the Iranian enrichment programme and its unconvincing justification, virtually all observers perceive the effort as a transparent bid to develop an Iranian nuclear weapon capability.

The deal being negotiated with France, Germany and the UK would require Iran to freeze these activities, as well as those at a second set of facilities that appear designed to produce plutonium, an alternative material for nuclear weapons. The IAEA would monitor all relevant sites to ensure Iranian compliance. In return, Europe would lift trade restrictions, Iran would gain access to currently prohibited high-technology, and, possibly, the West would assist Iran with a truncated nuclear power programme that would not include facil-

ities for enriching uranium or separating plutonium. Teheran's missiles – capable of reaching Israel – wouldn't be included, nor would the chemical weapons the USA believes Iran retains.

The USA is uncomfortable with the nuclear deal. Its fundamental concern is Iran will cheat and build new enrichment facilities at secret sites, notwithstanding the relatively robust IAEA inspections prescribed under the deal. Indeed, last month, Iran appeared to be protecting some nuclear-weapons related activities from IAEA scrutiny, restricting its access to portions of a site where Iran is allegedly developing the triggering components for nuclear arms.

As the IAEA monitors Iran's known nuclear facilities, the most effective way for Teheran to build a new clandestine enrichment capability would be with assistance from abroad. If the uranium hexafluoride sale to Libya is any indication, N Korea stands ready to help. Teheran, whose enrichment programme is well advanced, may have technical know-how to trade to N Korea as part of the bargain. The two states are thought to have collaborated on intermediate-range missiles: N Korea – having accepted a voluntary moratorium on missile launches – most likely supplied the missiles and a production capability in exchange for Iranian missile test data.

With the end of Libyan and Iraqi nuclear programmes, the "Axis of Evil" is not what it once was – but a N Korea-Iran nuclear axis seems all too likely. Now that N Korea has declared itself nuclear power and rejected negotiations to eliminate this capability, thwarting such connections will be more difficult than ever.

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দায় আমেরিকার

দুই পক্ষেরই প্রবল জেদ ও অনমনীয়তা, যে ক্ষত বড় অকারণ
 মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্র তাহার উদাহরণ। দুই পক্ষের কেহই কাহাকে
 ছাড়িয়া কথা বলিবার পাত্র নয়, কেহই নিজস্ব স্বার্থবৃদ্ধির এক পা
 বাহিরে গিয়া কোনও সমঝোতার দূরতম ইঙ্গিত দিবার পাত্রও নয়।
 আমেরিকার অভিযোগ: নিউক্লিয়ার নন-প্রলিফারেশন চুক্তি অমান্য
 করিয়া উত্তর কোরিয়া বিপজ্জনক ভাবে নিজের রাজনৈতিক ও
 সামরিক শক্তি বাড়াইতেছে। ২০০২ সালে প্রেসিডেন্ট জর্জ ডবলিউ
 বুশ এই দেশকে বিশ্বের তিন 'অশুভ অক্ষ'-র অন্যতম বলিয়া
 অভিহিত করিয়াছেন। পাল্টা বিবোধগার করিয়া উত্তর কোরিয়া
 জানাইয়া দিয়াছে যে, তাহারা এ বিষয়ে আদৌ কোনও পদক্ষেপ
 লইবে না, কেননা 'নিউক্লিয়ার ক্রিমিন্যাল' আমেরিকা যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের
 কাছ হইতে কোনও হুমকি, পরামর্শ বা প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিবার বা
 মানিয়া চলিবার দায় তাহাদের নাই। ২০০২ সাল হইতেই উত্তর
 কোরিয়াগামী সমস্ত মার্কিন বাণিজ্য বন্ধ হইয়াছে, কূটনৈতিক স্তরেও
 প্রবল শৈত্য চলিতেছে। উত্তর কোরিয়া যথেষ্ট দাপটের সঙ্গে গত
 বছরে জানাইয়াছে যে, তাহাদের কিছুমাত্র অসুবিধা নাই মার্কিন
 অসহযোগিতায়, বস্তুত তাহারাও আমেরিকাকে সর্বপ্রকারে বাদ
 দিয়াই বাঁচিতে চায়। গত জুন মাসের প্রস্তাবিত আলোচনায় সেই
 কারণেই তাহারা যোগদান না করিবার সিদ্ধান্ত লয়। এই দ্বৈরথ
 কোথা অবধি, কত সময় ধরিয়া গড়াইবে, তাহা এখনও স্পষ্ট নহে।
 তবে এটুকু স্পষ্ট যে খুব সহজে মীমাংসায় পৌঁছানোর আশা নাই।

মূল প্রশ্ন এখন: আমেরিকা যুক্তরাষ্ট্র ও উত্তর কোরিয়াকে ঠিক
 কোন পরিবেশে পরস্পরের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসিতে রাজি করা
 যায়। উত্তর কোরিয়ার বক্তব্য, যেহেতু এই দুই দেশের দ্বন্দ্বের
 ইতিহাস অনেক দিনের পুরাতন, সেই ইতিহাসকে বাদ দিয়া
 সমাধানের পথে এক পা এগোনো সম্ভব নয়, দ্বিপাক্ষিক আলোচনাই
 আমেরিকার সঙ্গে দ্বন্দ্ব মিটাইবার একমাত্র উপায়। আমেরিকার
 সঙ্গে কূটনৈতিক, রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক অসহযোগিতা
 মিটাইবার পথে উত্তর কোরিয়া স্বভাবতই আর কোনও তৃতীয়
 পক্ষের অংশগ্রহণ চায় না। উল্টো দিকে, ঠিক একই ইতিহাসকে
 পাশ কাটাইয়া সমাধানে পৌঁছাইবার লক্ষ্যে আমেরিকাও একেবারে
 এককাটা, তাহারা কিছুতেই দ্বিপাক্ষিক আলোচনায় বসিতে নারাজ,
 বৈঠক বা আলোচনা যাহা কিছুই ঘটুক না কেন, তাহা হইবে
 বহুপাক্ষিক। এই দাবির সমর্থনে যে যুক্তি প্রদত্ত হইতেছে, তাহা
 হইল: আঞ্চলিক দেশগুলিকে বাদ দিয়া কোনও আলোচনাই সম্পূর্ণ
 হইতে পারে না, কেননা উত্তর কোরিয়ার সঙ্গে প্রতিটি আঞ্চলিক
 দেশেরই সমূহ বিবাদ। প্রস্তাবিত ছয়-পাক্ষিক বৈঠকের অন্য চার
 সদস্য চীন, জাপান, রাশিয়া, দক্ষিণ কোরিয়া— প্রত্যেকেরই এ
 ব্যাপারে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবস্থান। সেই অবস্থানকে বাদ দিয়া আমেরিকা
 একাকী ভাবে কোনও সমাধানে পৌঁছাইতেই পারে না। অর্থাৎ
 দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার সামনে উত্তর কোরিয়ার যে 'আগ্রাসনকারী'
 ইমেজ, সোল-এর অনতিদূরে উত্তর কোরিয়ান সেনাবিহীনীর সত্তর
 শতাংশের যে অবিরাম টহল, যে অতিরিক্ত সামরিক সজ্জায়
 আতঙ্কিত চীন ও রাশিয়ার মতো বৃহৎ শক্তিগুলিও, এবং সর্বোপরি
 পিয়ংইয়ং-এর যে তথাকথিত বৃহৎ পারমাণবিক অস্ত্রভাণ্ডার,
 (বিশেষজ্ঞদের মতে, এখনই অন্তত তিনখানি পরমাণু-বোমা তাহার
 সরকারি সিদ্ধিকে) — এই সব প্রশ্নের যথাযোগ্য উত্তর ও মীমাংসা
 ছাড়া যে হোয়াইট হাউস কোনও কথাই কানে তুলিবে না, ইহা
 বারংবার মার্কিন কর্তারা স্পষ্ট করিয়া দিয়াছেন। তাহারা কোনও
 রাখঢাক না করিয়াই বলিতেছেন যে আলোচনা ঝগড়া যে কোনও
 পথেই হউক না কেন, তাহাদের প্রথম ও শেষ লক্ষ্য, উত্তর
 কোরিয়ার পরমাণু-ভাণ্ডার নষ্ট করিয়া দেওয়া। আর ঠিক এই
 জায়গাতেই উত্তর কোরিয়া পক্ষের ক্রোধ ক্রমাগত বর্ধমান।
 আমেরিকা যে ইজরায়েল, জাপান বা দক্ষিণ কোরিয়ার মতো
 তাহাদের বশংবদ মিত্রশক্তির হাতে আত্মদ করিয়া পরমাণু-অস্ত্র
 তুলিয়া দিতেছে, উল্টো দিকে অপছন্দের দেশগুলিকে অন্যায় ভাবে
 একঘরে করিয়া পরমাণু কার্যক্রম বন্ধ করিতে প্রবল চাপ দিতেছে:
 এই দ্বিচারিতা তাহারা কিছুতেই বরদাস্ত করিবে না, এখনও অবধি
 পিয়ংইয়ং এই অবস্থানে কটর। অসম শক্তির এই দ্বৈরথ কত দূর
 চলে, দেখা যাক। তবে ইহা নিশ্চিত, এ দ্বৈরথ যত দিন চলিবে, আর
 এক নূতন ইরাক-পর্বের ভীতি বিশ্বদুনিয়াকে তাড়াইয়া বেড়াইবে।
 এই বিষম পরিস্থিতি হইতে মুক্তির পথ সন্ধানের প্রধান দায়িত্ব কিন্তু
 মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের। কারণ, তাহারা ই একমাত্র মহাশক্তি।

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

14 FEB 2005

US rejects direct N. Korea talks

Disarmament

(1-3)

MJ

Washington, Feb. 11 (Reuters): The US today rejected North Korea's demands for direct talks over its nuclear weapons programme and insisted on six-party negotiations.

"There's plenty of opportunities for North Korea to speak directly with us in the context of the six-party talks," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

North Korea said for the first time yesterday that it possessed nuclear weapons and a North Korean diplomat at the UN in New York said: "If the US wants to talk to us directly, it can be seen as a sign of a change in the US hostile policy toward North Korea."

McClellan insisted President George W. Bush will stick to the negotiating format in which the US, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia nego-

tiate with North Korea. The six parties have held three rounds of talks since August 2003 and the process has stalled.

"All of North Korea's neighbours in the region recognise that this is a regional problem and it requires a multilateral approach for resolving it," McClellan said. "We believe the six-party talks, like North Korea's neighbours, are the way to resolve the situation."

He said that as secretary of state Condoleezza Rice said yesterday: "North Korea should have no reason to be-

lieve that any nation wants to attack them, that there's a proposal on the table that provides the way forward for North Korea to eliminate its nuclear programme."

China, South Korea and Germany joined the US and elsewhere for Pyongyang to return to the table. In the firing line is South Korea, under constant threat from a neighbour that keeps 70 per cent of its 1.2-million-strong army along a border that passes just 65 km north of the capital, Seoul.

South Korean officials said talks were the only solution to end the north's isolation.

North Korea admits it has nukes

Seoul: North Korea on Thursday announced for the first time that it has nuclear arms and rejected moves to restart disarmament talks any time soon, saying it needs the weapons as protection against an increasingly hostile US.

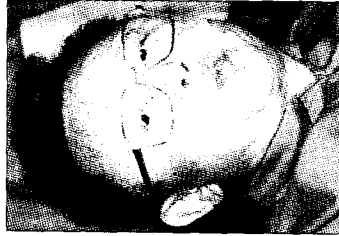
The communist state's pronouncement dramatically raised the stakes in the two-year-old nuclear confrontation and posed a grave challenge to President Bush, who started his second term with a vow to end North Korea's nuclear programme through six-nation talks.

"We ... have manufactured nukes for self-defence to cope with the Bush administration's ever more undisguised policy to isolate and

stifle the North," the North Korean foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The claim could not be independently verified. North Korea expelled the last UN nuclear monitors in late 2002 and has never tested a nuclear bomb, although international officials have long suspected it has one or two nuclear bombs and enough fuel for several more.

US secretary of state Condoleezza-



Kim Jong-il

to attack them," she added. "They have been told they can have multi-lateral security assurances if they

will make the important decision to give up their nuclear weapons programme. So there is really no reason for this, but we will examine where we go next."

Previously, North Korea had reportedly told US negotiators in private talks that it had nuclear weapons and might test one of them. The North's UN envoy said last year that the country had "weaponised" plutonium from its pool of 8,000 nuclear spent fuel rods. Those rods contained enough plutonium for several bombs. But Thursday's statement was North Korea's first public acknowledgment that it has nuclear weapons. AP

za Rice said Washington would consult allies before responding. "I think we just have to first look at the statement and then we need to talk with our allies," Rice told Dutch RTL television while on a trip through Europe.

"The North Koreans have no reason to believe that anyone wants to attack them," she added. "They have been told they can have multi-lateral security assurances if they

Tyranny barb prompted step, P 14

India

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NORTH KOREA DECLARES ITSELF THE WORLD'S EIGHTH NUCLEAR STATE

KIM'S KOREA GOES BALLISTIC

China Daily and Yonhap
Shimbu/ANN

BEIJING/SEOUL/TOKYO, Feb. 10. — Communist dictator Kim Jong Il's North Korea today declared itself the eighth nuclear-weapon power in the world. Pyongyang rejected moves to restart disarmament talks any time soon, saying it needs the weapons as protection against "an increasingly hostile USA".

Pyongyang's nuke claim, if true, makes North Korea the world's eighth declared-nuclear-weapon state after the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, India and Pakistan.

"We have manufactured nukes for self-defence to cope with the Bush administration's ever more undisguised policy to isolate and stifle (the North)," the North Korean foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency.

Today's statement marked the first time North Korea had officially declared it is armed with nuclear weapons. For years, Pyongyang had hinted at its possession of nuclear arms by saying it had a "nuclear deterrent".

THE little that is known about Kim Jong-Il, North Korea's leader, conjures up a caricature of a diminutive playboy, a comic picture at odds with his brutal regime. Diplomats and escaped dissidents talk of a vain, paranoid, cognac-guzzling hypochondriac. He is said to wear platform shoes

REACTIONS

■ **Condoleezza Rice:** The world has given them a way out and we hope that they will take that way out.

■ **South Korea:** We will never tolerate North Korea possessing nuclear weapons.

■ **Russia:** The move can only cause regret.

■ **Koizumi:** It would be better if we resumed talks soon.

The statement also indicated the North's determination to continue its nuclear programme by saying that it would implement steps to build more silos for nuclear weapons.

Faced with North Korea's declared refusal to return to the six-way talks, the USA may urge other nations to bring the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear ambition before the UN Security Council.

The latest announcement may also arouse greater calls among the Japanese for economic sanctions on North Korea as people have been strongly antagonised by the Stalinist state's unbending attitude.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi tonight urged North Korea to retract its announcement. He also said that Japan and other countries should try to convince North Korea that scrapping its nuclear programme would earn it more rewards from the international community than maintaining its nuclear ambitions.

However, keeping up its belligerent attitude, North Korea said it had no intention to rejoin talks to defuse the crisis any time soon. "We had wanted the six-party talks but we are compelled to suspend our participation in the talks for an indefinite period till we have recognised that there is justification for us to attend the talks," the North said.

North Korea said it made the decision because "the USA disclosed its attempt to topple the political system (in North Korea) at any cost," threatening it "with a nuclear stick."

Such a comment has widely been interpreted as North Korea's negotiating tactic to get more economic and diplomatic concessions from Washington before joining any crucial talks to break the stalemate in the Korean peninsula.

(With inputs from agencies)

Teheran teaser



TEHERAN, Feb. 10. — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said today that Iran won't scrap

its nuclear programme, which the USA suspects as a plan to produce the bomb. He warned that any invader would be met by a "burning hell" as tens of thousands of people braved snow blizzards to join rallies for the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"All the people of Iran are united against any attack and any threats," Mr Khatami told a rally in the snow-bound capital. As the clerical regime marked the 26th anniversary of the revolution, Iranians were urged to turn out en masse and give a show of unity in the face of mounting international pressure over its nuclear programme. — AFP

The man & his madness

and favour a bouffant hairstyle in order to appear taller than his 5-foot 3 inches. But analysts are undecided whether his eccentricities mask the cunning mind of a master manipulator or betray an irrational madman. Kim may well encourage the myth-making surrounding him precisely in order to keep the Western world

guessing. North Korea has little to bargain with, and ignorance breeds fear. As head of North Korea's special forces for much of the '70s and '80s, he has been linked by defectors to international terrorist activities, including the 1986 bombing of a Korean Airlines jet in which 115 people died. He follows

international events on the Net and some see him as a clever manipulator, willing to take great risks to underpin his regime. According to North Korean records, his birth was marked by a double rainbow and a bright star in the sky.

(Written on the basis of Internet data)



WHAT NEXT? NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG-IL. — AFP (Another report on page 2)

'Khan gave nuke tech to three more nations'

Press Trust of India

Jerusalem Post that while Israel is understandably concerned by the threat of Iran going nuclear, "maybe we should be looking beyond the lamp post."

"The lamp post may be Iran", but there were "question marks" about Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Mr Halevy, who resigned as Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon's national security adviser at the end of 2003, said.

It could well be that those countries might have a nuclear capability Israel was

not aware of. "Its certainty is only something that should be looked at," he argued.

The former Mossad chief also drew attention to a New York Times article last week which detailed the scale (and the possible recipients) of what it dubbed "the largest illicit nuclear proliferation network



Dr. AQ Khan

in history" while accepting lack of any evidence to substantiate the claim.

"The most delicate investigations" in the hunt for "nuclear rogue states," the report said, were those involving important US allies, "including Egypt and Saudi Arabia." No hard evidence of clandestine nuclear arms programmes had surfaced yet, although "suspicious signs have emerged" regarding Saudi Arabia.

American intelligence officials and the International

Atomic Energy Agency are said to be still untangling the details of Dr Khan's travels to 18 countries in the years before his arrest last year, it said.

Among the countries the Pakistani scientist visited, apparently "to buy materials such as uranium ore or sell atomic goods," were Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, it said.

Federal and private experts quoted by the US daily put "Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Kuwait, Myanmar

and Abu Dhabi on the suspected list of customers." The New York Times article had noted that USA and its allies had failed to detect the fact that Dr Khan began to sell nuclear technology to Iran in the late 1980s, in what it said was "the opening transaction for an enterprise that eventually spread to North Korea, Libya and beyond." Brushing aside US President Mr George W. Bush's claims that Dr Khan's network has now been dismantled, the daily had said that the investigators doubt this is the case.