

Detained immigrants live like animals in US, say critics

New York: The sweeping immigration bills in US Congress would add many thousands of beds to the patchwork network of detention facilities that hold illegal immigrants and asylum-seekers—places that critics say are over-costly and under-regulated.

Already, activists say, far too many non-threatening people are held for too long in demoralising conditions.

"I'm not against homeland security," said Edward Neepaye, a pastor and human-rights campaigner from Liberia who was detained in New Jersey for four months. "But the greatest nation on earth must come up with a remedy that accords immigrants some respect, rather than throwing them in jail like animals," he felt. On any given day, the system overseen by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detains about 21,000 people—most for a few weeks, some for years. Some, like Neepaye, are asylum seekers; others are illegal immigrants or foreigners who had US residence cards but face deportation because of run-ins with the law.

More than 200,000 people are detained over the course of a year in any of three types of facilities—eight run by ICE it-



IN AN ALIEN LAND: Edward Neepaye (centre) with his family. Neepaye, a pastor and human-rights campaigner, was detained in New Jersey for four months after fleeing Liberia in 2003

self, six run by for-profit companies that are eager for more business, and 312 jails that have won lucrative federal contracts and hold about 57% of the detainees.

Advocacy groups call it a hodgepodge system that is expensive and difficult to monitor. "ICE hasn't done a good job with the facilities they directly manage, much less the ones they contract out," said Judith Greene, a New York-based prison ex-

pert. "Talking about doubling or tripling this system, without some kind of restructuring, is a recipe for a nightmare."

ICE defends its performance, saying it has reduced the average detention from 90 days to 20 days as it speeds deportation proceedings.

In Congress, criticism of the detention system had little impact as both chambers proposed major expansions in their immigration bills. The Senate bill, though more moderate on some issues, proposed the biggest increase—20 new facilities with 20,000 beds.

The department of homeland security, ICE's parent agency, says it needs 35,000 more detention beds to hold all the illegal immigrants awaiting deportation.

Detainees, as non-US citizens, have no automatic right to legal counsel. The majority, who are indigent and without local connections, depend on scarce pro bono assistance or do without, reducing their odds of winning appeals.

Many detention facilities—notably those in the Southwest—are geographically remote, with few pro bono attorney nearby, and detainees often are transferred far from their home base. AP

RECEIVED BY THE
27 JUL 2005

Republicans in trouble

After the United States President, George W. Bush, won re-election in 2004, the Republican party believed it had a good chance of preserving its majorities in the two Houses of Congress over the next few electoral cycles. This did not appear a formidable task at that time. Given the polarisation between Red and Blue States, the Grand Old Party appeared comfortably placed to retain the 55 to 45 seat edge it currently has in the Senate. Over the years, the constituencies of the House of Representatives have been so redrawn as to give incumbents a clear advantage. So the Republicans had reason to believe their opponents would not be able to close the 30-seat gap in the lower chamber — they currently hold 231 seats, the Democrats 201, while one seat is occupied by an independent, and two are vacant. Political analysts were of the opinion that such a pattern of seat distribution was likely to endure unless there was a dramatic change in the mood of the electorate. Such a change does appear to have occurred over the past few months. According to recent opinion polls, only 65 per cent of those who voted to re-elect the President are likely to vote for his party's candidates in the 2006 Congressional election; the rest say they will either vote Democratic or abstain. In contrast, 80 per cent of those who supported John F. Kerry in the presidential election are likely to vote for candidates belonging to his party. This turnaround is not surprising given the poor image the GOP's Congressional contingent has projected over the past 18 months. Leading Republicans were involved in a series of corruption scandals; the bickering between fiscal conservatives and other sections of the party came out into the open; and leading right-wing theorists have rebelled against the party's policies.

Political analysts believe the Republicans are also being dragged down by Mr. Bush's plunging popularity. According to the latest opinion polls, about 47 per cent of voters vehemently disapprove of the President's performance in office as against 20 per cent who approve. If this trend holds until Election Day in November, the Democrats will be clear favourites. The Republicans draw some comfort from the historical record, which shows that voters focus on constituency-specific issues in elections to the House. They also believe Democrats have not been able to pick strong candidates in sufficient numbers to upset the composition of either chamber. Voter preferences could also change as the various contestants shift gear into campaign mode. However, the GOP might well be whistling in the dark. There are few signs that the electorate is likely to forget or forgive the Bush administration's record of incompetence in matters such as the handling of the aftermath of the hurricanes. Above all, the worsening military quagmire of Iraq is likely to have an adverse impact on the Republicans' prospects.

THE HINDU

9.11.06

US

Bush: New jobs will go to India and China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, APRIL 19

US President George Bush has warned America's school children that if they did not have the skills needed to compete with their counterparts from India and China, new



jobs would go to those countries.

He was addressing a magnet school in

Maryland, yesterday.

"If you're living in Midland, Texas, or living in Montgomery County, Maryland...if children don't have those skill sets needed to compete with a child from India or China, the new jobs will be going there," he told the students.

"And so, in order to make sure we remain the leader of the world, we have got to continue our focus in education...on math and science, just like as what's happening in this school," he said.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan elaborated on the "American competitiveness initiative" that was announced by the president.

The initiative, he said, was "to make sure that we have an educated workforce with the skills needed to fill the high-paying, high-growth jobs of the 21st century".

20 APR 2001

INDIAN EXPRESS

US immigrant strike begins

Washington, May 1 (Reuters): A one-day nationwide strike and business boycott gathered steam today to demand legal rights for millions of illegal immigrants, with many US businesses shutting down voluntarily to avoid disruption.

Early reports suggested many of the estimated 11.5-12 million illegal immigrants in the country were staying away from work, despite a mixed message from immigrant-rights organisations, some of which opposed the action.

In New York's Union Square, the normally bustling open-air market operated at a fraction of its typical activity. Cheap, immigrant-run buses services from New Jersey to the city were not running.

Demonstrators formed "human chains" at several points around the city. Hundreds, including schoolchildren, lined up in Queens, stretching for three blocks on both sides of the street waving US and Latin American flags and banners saying: "We are Americans" and "Full Rights for All Immigrants."

"Everyone's an immigrant here. The only real American is the Indian," said Puerto Rican-born Rene Ochart, a doorman at the posh Hotel Pierre in Manhattan's Upper East Side, who was working as usual.

A bill passed by the House of Representatives in December that would make all illegal immigrants into felons provoked a mass protest movement, bringing people who previously worked and lived in the shadows of US society into the streets.

Across the country, several major meat-packing plants were closed but operators had tried to prepare for the shutdown by stepping up production over the weekend.

Fast food company McDonald's Corp. said some of its restaurants were operating for shorter hours or drive-thru service only. The National Association of Chain Restaurants said the boycott could hurt its members.

"Unfortunately, these work boycotts have the potential to handcuff the very businesses that have worked so hard for immigration reform," said association spokesman Scott Vinson.



Workers protest in New York. (Reuters)

Wage and labour expert Oren Levin-Waldman of the Metropolitan College of New York said the main impact would be to inconvenience people but a one-day protest would have little economic effect despite the major role played by immigrants in the economy.

Recent polls suggest a majority of Americans would support legislation being debated in the Senate that would allow many illegal immigrants to join a legal guest worker programme.

02 MAY 2006

Hayden is new CIA chief, sparks debate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, MAY 8

PRESIDENT George W Bush on Monday chose Air Force General Michael Hayden to lead the embattled CIA, re-igniting a debate over the domestic surveillance programme that the one-time head of the National Security Agency once ran.



Mike Hayden

Republican and Democratic critics also questioned the wisdom of putting a military officer in charge of the civilian spy agency. "Mike Hayden is supremely qualified for this position," Bush said in the Oval Office, with Hayden at his side. Without mentioning Hayden's critics or their objections, the President said: "He knows the intelligence community from the ground up." If confirmed, Hayden would replace Porter Goss, who resigned under pressure on Friday.

Bush said that Hayden "has been a provider and consumer of intelligence." To balance the CIA between military and civilian leadership, the White House plans to move aside the agency's No. 2 official, Vice Admiral Albert Calland III, who took over as deputy director less than a year ago, two senior administration officials said. Other personnel changes also are likely, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the changes are not ready to announce.

09 MAY 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

CIA, Pentagon head for a 'role clash'

US Spy Agency Looks For Elbow Room As Defence Dept Expands Espionage Operations

Eric Schmitt

Washington: President Bush's selection of Gen Michael V Hayden to be the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency sets the stage for new wrangling with the Pentagon, which is rapidly expanding its own global spying and terrorist-tracking operations, both long considered CIA roles.

Overseeing Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld's drive to broaden the military's clandestine reconnaissance and man-hunting missions is Stephen A Cambone, the Pentagon's intelligence czar and one of Rumsfeld's most trusted aides, whose low public profile masks his influence as one of the nation's most powerful intelligence officials.

Since his office was created three years ago, Cambone and his deputy Lt Gen William G Boykin, a former commander of the army's elite Delta Force, have carried out a wide-ranging restructuring of the Pentagon's sprawling intelligence bureaucracy.

The CIA has the lead role in managing "human intelligence," or spying in the government. Whether by design or circumstance, though, much of the growth in the military's spy missions has come in the Special Operations Command, which reports to Rumsfeld and falls outside the orbit controlled by National Intelligence chief John D Negroponte.

In one of the boldest new missions, the Pentagon has sharply increased the number of clandestine teams of Defence Intelligence Agency personnel and Special Operations forces conducting secret counter-terrorism missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and other foreign countries. Using a broad definition of its current authority to conduct "traditional military activities" and "prepare the battlefield," the Pentagon has dispatched teams to gather information about potential foes well



HAPPY MOMENT: CIA director-nominee Gen Michael Hayden (right) with Senate majority leader Bill Frist during their meeting in Washington on Tuesday

before any shooting starts.

In an effort to enhance military interrogations, Cambone is also overseeing the politically sensitive task of rewriting the army's field manual. Just last week, he and other top Pentagon officials briefed senior senators on a Pentagon proposal to have one set of interrogation techniques for enemy prisoners of war and another, presumably more coercive, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said Senate aides, who were granted anonymity because the discussions were confidential.

At the Pentagon on Tuesday, Rumsfeld voiced support for General Hayden's nomi-

nae's office, saying that he held a 20-minute conference call with officials from a dozen intelligence agencies every Tuesday and Thursday morning. But Cambone said the military's thirst for information to help soldiers on the ground after the September 11 attacks had fuelled the Pentagon's intelligence-gathering expansion, particularly against shadowy terrorist cells.

"There's a lot more to do today than on Sept 10," Cambone said in an interview in his office last Friday, just before Bush's announcement. "The department has taken the responsibility to better prepare itself and to be prepared to operate in environments we encounter. Is that different than in the past? I think the difference is more the amount of activity as opposed to the activity itself."

The Pentagon has always been a behemoth in the intelligence world, largely because it controlled agencies with multibillion-dollar budgets like the National Security Agency and National Reconnaissance Office that are responsible for eavesdropping and satellites. What is different now is that the Pentagon is pushing deeper into human intelligence.

The CIA has always been a much smaller organisation than the Pentagon that served both the military and senior policy makers in Washington, including the President. But after the Sept 11 attacks, the Pentagon felt it had to step in to fulfil many of its own additional intelligence needs that the CIA could not.

This activity has stirred criticism from some lawmakers who express concern that the Pentagon is creating a parallel intelligence-gathering network independent from the CIA or other American authorities, and one that encroaches on the CIA's realm.

Hayden, while seeking to play down any turf war with the Pentagon, acknowledged some skirmishes over staff. NYT NEWS SERVICE

nation and dismissed any reported rivalries with his intelligence brethren as "theoretical conspiracies" that were "all off the mark." He added, "There's no power play taking place in Washington."

Some of the Pentagon's new initiatives have been previously disclosed. But in interviews, more than two dozen officials from intelligence agencies, the Defence Department and Congress provided new details of what they described as a strong effort by the Pentagon to assert a much broader role in the clandestine world of intelligence.

Cambone insisted that the Pentagon was working closely with the CIA and Negro-

Eavesdropping programme legal: Hayden

REUTERS

Washington, May 18

GEN. MICHAEL Hayden, US President George W. Bush's nominee for CIA director, strongly defended a domestic eavesdropping program on Thursday, saying it was vital to protect the country against terrorism and it did not violate Americans' civil rights.

Facing friendly questions from Missouri Republican Sen. Kit Bond about his role as architect of Bush's domestic spying program, Hayden said it was narrowly targeted to suspected terrorists, closely supervised and regularly reviewed.

"We have a very strong oversight regime," Hayden said. "Targeting decisions are made by people in the US government most knowledgeable about al-Qaida, al-

Qaida communications, tactics and procedures. There is a probable cause standard. Every targeting is documented," he said. "No one has said there has been a targeting decision made that hasn't been well-founded."

Under the eavesdropping program, the National Security Agency monitors telephone calls and e-mails originating abroad to or from suspected terrorists without first obtaining a court

order. Hayden, former NSA director, had been expected to face tough questions at a Senate Intelligence Committee confirmation hearing about the eavesdropping, which the administration has defended as legal and necessary to protect citizens after the Sept. 11 attacks.

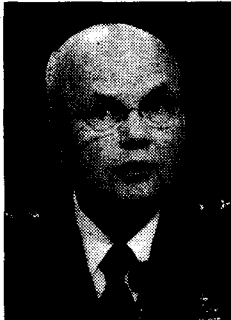
Bush nominated Hayden, a four-star Air Force general, to replace Porter Goss, who was forced to resign as CIA director this month after clashing with U.S. intelligence chief John Negroponte over the U.S. spy agency's future.

The full Senate must vote to confirm Hayden as CIA director. Most independent experts expected General Michael Hayden to be confirmed. Senators were limited in what they could ask him in open session.

The committee planned to hold a closed session later on Thursday, where the questions might be

more pointed but would remain secret. NEED FOR SECRECY Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican, gave a strong defence of the eavesdropping and said this and other activities needed to remain secret to be effective.

"I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment and civil liberties. But you have no civil liberties if you are dead," he said.



Gen. Michael Hayden

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19 MAY 2006

U.S. will face global consequences: Iran

Teheran reaches out to ²⁰⁰⁹ pro-U.S. Gulf neighbours

Atul Aneja

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has warned the United States that it would face worldwide retaliation in case his country was attacked.

"The Americans should know that if they launch an assault against Islamic Iran, their interests in every possible part of the world will be harmed," Iran's top religious leader was quoted as saying. He added, "The Iranian nation will give a double response to any strike."

Ayatollah Khamenei's tough warning followed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's assertion that Iran would resist demands calling for a halt of its uranium enrichment programme. The U.N. Security Council has given Iran an April 28 deadline to cease all enrichment activity.

Iran was unlikely to comply by the Council's demand, though the head of Iran's nuclear agency, Vice-President Gholam Reza Aghazadeh, was slated for last minute talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials.

The new round of rhetoric from Teheran follows the visit of Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, to the United States. There have been apprehensions in Iran that Azerbaijan could emerge as a possible "frontline state" against Iran, should Teheran and Washington get embroiled in a military conflict. Azerbaijan, a close post-cold war U.S. ally, shares borders with

• Last-minute talks with IAEA

• Iran prepared for war, says envoy

• Israel compares Ahmadinejad with Hitler

Iran and Russia. Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Afshar Suleimani was quoted as saying, "The U.S. plans to win over Azerbaijan to its side and use its territory as a base. However, I am sure that these attempts by Washington will not succeed." Mr. Suleimani said he was optimistic that Azerbaijan would abide by its 2002 non-aggression and cooperation treaty with Iran. He added that Iran was hoping for a diplomatic solution to the problem, but was "prepared to a war." Iran's Defence Minister was in Azerbaijan last week, and Mr. Ahmadinejad is planning to visit Baku in May.

Preparing for a worst-case scenario, Iran has also been making energetic efforts to per-

suade its pro-American Gulf neighbours not to support military action against it. Its top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani was on Sunday in Bahrain, headquarters of the U.S. fifth fleet that coordinates American naval activity in the Gulf. Earlier the former President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said at a press conference in Kuwait, that the Gulf countries had assured him that they would not support an American attack on Iran.

Meanwhile, Israel, Iran's arch-foe has launched a sophisticated spy satellite that can keep an eye on Iranian nuclear activities at close range. The high resolution Eros-B satellite can pick objects kept 70 meters apart, and was capable of monitoring missile-launching sites.

Tensions between Israel and Iran have been growing, with former the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, comparing Mr. Ahmadinejad with Adolf Hitler. On Monday, the Iranian President, on his part, had reiterated that the Holocaust was a "myth."

Oil could reach \$100, warns Russia

PARIS: The price of oil could pass \$100 a barrel in the case of a lengthy standoff with Iran over its nuclear programme, a senior adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday.

Asked about the possibility of U.S. strikes on

Iran if talks between the U.N. and Teheran break down, Igor Shuvalov said: "We must in no way allow discussions on sanctions to reach that point. First of all in order to prevent the barrel [of oil] reaching 100 dollars, or even more."

- AFP

27 APR 2006

THE HINDU

Bush pushes immigration proposal

PALM SPRINGS (CALIFORNIA): As Congress headed back on Monday from a two-week recess, U.S. President George W. Bush was in the country's most immigrant-rich state to push a stalled bill that would allow more foreigners to work legally in the United States.

Lawmakers, with an eye on Election Day in just over six months, remain far apart on whether to crack down on illegal immigrants or embrace them as vital contributors to the U.S. economy.

Mr. Bush planned to call for middle ground during a speech in Irvine, California, according to aides. He planned remarks stressing that the United States cannot allow people to break the law, but also cannot send all the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants back.

The White House's immediate goal is to get legislation approved by the Senate and into a conference committee, where the President's aides hope a compromise can be reached with House members who passed a tougher law-and-order bill.

Mr. Bush wants a law that

He plans to call that the United States cannot allow people to break the law, but also cannot send the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants back

would give temporary guest worker permits to foreigners in low-paying jobs while strengthening border security. He was pushing his idea in a speech on Monday in Irvine, in California, a state that has seen massive protests in recent weeks calling for immigrant rights.

Senator Arlen Specter, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said on Sunday he believes Congress will be able to work out differences and pass a bill. Mr. Specter, a Republican, has pledged to have legislation ready for debate soon after lawmakers return.

Mr. Specter said Democrats and Republicans have to agree on a list of amendments to con-

sider. And he acknowledged that even if senators pass a bill with a guest worker programme, it will be tough to work that out with House members who passed a much tougher bill that would impose criminal penalties on those who try to sneak into this country and would build up fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Tough meet

"It would be a tough conference, candidly, with the House, but we were able to work through the Patriot Act although there were big disagreements," Mr. Specter said on CNN's "Late Edition." The Patriot Act is a grouping of controversial anti-terrorism laws that critics say violate privacy rights.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Republican, intends to seek passage of immigration legislation by the end of May by reviving the Senate bill that stalled earlier this month due to internal disputes in both parties as well as political manoeuvring.

In a gesture to conservative critics of the measure, Republican leadership aides said last week that Mr. Frist also will seek

roughly \$2 billion (euro1.6 billion) in immediate additional spending for border protection.

Some conservatives have said the Senate bill is unacceptable because provisions allowing for eventual citizenship to some of the illegal immigrants already here amount to amnesty.

Appearing with Mr. Specter, Senator Carl Levin, a Democrat, said it is possible the Senate can pass a bill if "the administration will weigh in and the President will take a leadership role on this."

"We need a bipartisan bill. We need a comprehensive bill," said Mr. Levin, who appeared with Mr. Specter on "Late Edition" on CNN. "It's very possible we can get one, providing we address all of the problems, and not just one or two of them, since it's obvious our system is now broken."

After his immigration speech, Mr. Bush was ending a four-day stay in California that also featured speeches on U.S. competitiveness and his energy plan, meetings with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former President Gerald Ford, as well as plenty of time on his bike. — AP

Young US officers join debate over Rumsfeld's future

By Thom Shanker and
Eric Schmitt

Washington: The revolt by retired generals who publicly criticised US Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld has opened an extraordinary debate among younger officers, in military academies, in the armed services' staff colleges and even in command posts and mess halls in Iraq.

Junior and mid-level officers are discussing whether the war plans for Iraq reflected unvarnished military advice, whether the retired generals should have spoken out, whether active-duty generals will feel free to state their views in private sessions with

The stances that emerged are anything but uniform, although all seem coloured by deep concern over the quality of civil-military relations, and the way ahead in Iraq.

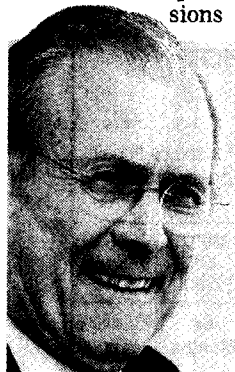
The discussions often flare with anger, particularly among many mid-level officers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and face the prospect of additional tours of duty.

"This is about the moral bankruptcy of general officers who lived through the Vietnam era yet refused to advise our civilian leadership properly," said one army major in the Special Forces who has served two combat tours.

One army colonel enrolled in a Defence Department university said an informal poll

among his classmates indicated that about 25% believed that Rumsfeld should resign, and 75% believed that he should remain. But of the second group, two-thirds thought Rumsfeld

**The debates
are fuelled
by the desire
to mete out
blame for
the deadly
situation
in Iraq**



the civilian leaders and, most divisive of all, whether Rumsfeld should resign.

In recent weeks, military correspondents of New York Times discussed those issues with dozens of younger officers and cadets in classrooms and with combat units in the field, as well as in informal conversations at the Pentagon and in e-mail exchanges and telephone calls.

To protect their careers, the officers were granted anonymity so they could speak frankly about the debates they have had and have heard.

should acknowledge errors that were made and "show that he is not the intolerant and inflexible person some paint him to be," the army officer said.

Many officers who blame Rumsfeld are not faulting President Bush in contrast to the situation in the 1960's, when both President Lyndon B Johnson and Defence Secretary Robert S McNamara drew criticism over Vietnam from the officer corps. (McNamara, like Rumsfeld, was also resented from the outset for his attempts to reshape the military itself.) NYT News Service

2 APR 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Pentagon attacks Rumsfeld critics

By Mark Mazzetti & Jim Rutenberg

Washington: The US Defence Department has issued a memorandum to a group of former military commanders and civilian analysts that offers a direct challenge to the criticisms made by retired generals about Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld.

The one-page memorandum was sent by e-mail on Friday to the group, which includes several retired generals who appear regularly on television, and came as the Bush administration stepped up its own defence of Rumsfeld. On the political front, Republican strategists voiced rising anxiety on Saturday that without a major change in the course of the Iraq war, Republican candidates would suffer dearly in the November elections.

The memorandum begins by stating, "US senior military leaders are involved to an unprecedented degree in every

decision-making process in the Department of Defence." It says Rumsfeld has had 139 meetings with the Joint Chiefs of Staff since the start of 2005

on Friday by the Pentagon's office of the Directorate for Programmes and Community Relations and Public Liaison, but it was unclear who wrote it.



The Pentagon memo says that senior military leaders are involved in every decision-making process in the department

and 208 meetings with the senior field commanders.

Seeking to put the criticism of the relatively small number of retired generals into context, the e-mail message also notes that there are more than 8,000 active-duty and retired general officers alive today.

The message was released

It is not uncommon for the Pentagon to send such memorandums to this group of officers, whom they consider to be influential in shaping public opinion. But it is unusual for the Pentagon to issue guidance that can be used by retired generals to rebut the arguments of other retired generals.

The memorandum quickly followed President Bush's statement on Friday in which he gave a strong endorsement of Rumsfeld. The

memorandum spoke directly to the thrust of the retired generals' complaints that Rumsfeld was a 'micromanager' who often ignored the advice of military commanders. The group that received the message was made up of both staunch Bush supporters and some who have been critical of administration policies. NYT News Service

17 APR 2006

The Times

More retired US generals call for Rumsfeld ouster

DAVID S. Cloud and Eric Schmitt
Washington, April 14

TWO MORE retired US generals called overnight on Donald Rumsfeld to resign as US defence secretary, pointing to a deepening rift within the Pentagon. Six generals — two of whom commanded troops in Iraq — have now called on Rumsfeld to stand down over his leadership of the war.

Retired Major General Charles Swannack, who led the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq, said Rumsfeld had "micromanaged the generals who are leading our forces". He told CNN: "I really believe that we need a new secretary of defence because Secretary Rumsfeld carries way too much baggage with him."

Another retired Major General, John Riggs, told National Public Radio that Rumsfeld had helped create an atmosphere of "arrogance" among the Pentagon's civilian leadership. "They only need military advice when it satisfies their agenda. That's a mistake," he said.

The widening circle of generals stepping forward to call for Rumsfeld's resignation is shaping up as an unusual outcry that could pose a significant challenge to Rumsfeld's leadership.

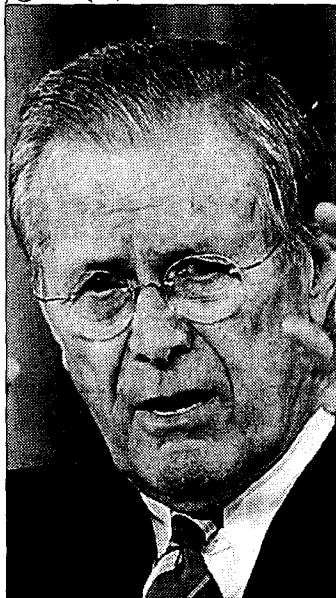
On Wednesday, retired Major General John Batiste, who led the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq from 2004 until last year, said Rumsfeld's authoritarian leadership style had made life more difficult for professional soldiers. "We need leadership that respects the military as they expect the military to respect them. And they need to understand teamwork," he told CNN.

His comments were especially startling because he served as an aide to Paul Wolfowitz, the former deputy defence secretary and an architect of the Iraq war.

The other retired officers are Maj-Gen Paul Eaton, Lt-Gen Gregory Newbold and retired Marine general Anthony Zinni, in charge of all US troops in West Asia from 1997 to 2000.

Rumsfeld has long been a magnet for political attacks. But the current uproar is significant because his critics include generals who were involved in the invasion of Iraq.

There were indications that



Donald Rumsfeld
In troubled waters

the concern about Rumsfeld, rooted in years of pent-up anger about his handling of the war, was sweeping aside the reticence of retired generals to criticise an enterprise in which they participated. Current and former officers said they were unaware of any organised campaign to seek Rumsfeld's ouster, but described a blizzard of phone calls and e-mails as retired generals weighed the pros and cons of joining in the condemnation.

A common thread in the generals' complaints has been an assertion that Rumsfeld and his aides too often inserted themselves unnecessarily into military decision-making, and often disregarding advice from military commanders.

The outcry also appears based in part on a coalescing of concern about the toll the war is taking on US forces.

The White House has dismissed the criticism, saying it merely reflects tensions over the war in Iraq. There was no indication that Rumsfeld was considering resigning. "The president believes Secretary Rumsfeld is doing a very fine job during a challenging period in our nation's history," the White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, told reporters.

The New York Times

10 APR 2006

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Thousands rally across US for immigration rights

11/19
WSD
(11-15)

Republicans Oppose Guest Worker Plan, Say Securing Borders A Priority

Washington: The top Republican in the United States House of Representatives remained opposed on Sunday to a guest worker programme for illegal immigrants as up to half a million Hispanics and their supporters poured onto the streets in their latest huge protest.

House Majority Leader John Boehner said he supported a bill already passed by the House that has angered immigrant groups by focusing on tightening the nation's borders and which does not include a guest worker programme.

"You can't begin to talk about a guest worker bill until you secure the borders," he said on ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. Otherwise, he said, "We're going to have an endless parade of illegal immigrants here in our country."

A bipartisan compromise that would have put millions of illegal immigrants in the United States on the road to citizenship broke down in the Senate on Friday amid bickering between Democrats and Republicans over possible amendments.

The collapse of the bill raised doubts over whether Congress can pass the comprehensive immigration reform that President George W Bush has called for before November mid-term elections.

Up to 500,000 people marched through Dallas on Sunday in one of the biggest protests yet, many wearing white, waving American flags and voicing anger at Congress' failure to pass reforms that would help illegal immigrants gain legal status.

"My mom was born in Mexico, she's been here ever since she was 16 and I'm here for her because I don't believe (in) the bill on immigration," said protester Ambrosio Garcia, 25.

"Immigrants should not be criticised or considered illegal felons."

Police and organisers had only expected 50,000 to 100,000 people to attend the march through the Texas city.

The tough House bill passed late last year has helped spark a wave of protests by Hispanics demanding legal status

in a country that has an estimated 11 to 12 million illegal immigrants, most of them from neighboring Mexico.

Thousands of protesters also marched in other cities, including Salt Lake City and Detroit, and organisers say more demonstrations are planned on Monday, including major ones in Washington and Los Angeles.

The House bill is much tougher than the proposed Senate version and defines the illegal immigrants as felons.

If senators pass a bill, lawmakers from both sides of Congress would have to work out their differences for a final bill. Boehner said that was possible.

He stopped short of saying congressional efforts to reform immigration had failed, calling on the Senate to pass a bill when lawmakers return from recess in two weeks. Still, he said, allowing illegal immigrants to stay and work "sounds too much like amnesty for most Americans."

The issue has divided conservatives, some of whom are anxious to court the Hispanic vote and support Bush. Others worry that allowing in undocumented immigrants, mostly from Mexico, could harm their election efforts.

"Everybody agrees there's an enormous problem, everybody agrees with the border security lines and there's general agreement that we have to craft a compromise," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, told *Fox News Sunday* with Chris Wallace.

Illinois Democrat Representative Luis Guterrez, chairman of the Democratic Caucus Immigration Task Force, said any bill must deal with the illegal immigrants already here because too many do tough agricultural and other essential work. "The only sane, sensible, compassionate thing to do is to integrate them fully into the fabric of our society," he told NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Representative Henry Bonilla, a Texas Republican, said most conservatives would eventually accept integration. "A lot of us want to support a guest-worker programme down the road, but first and foremost, we have to secure the border," he told NBC. AP



11 APR 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Democrats blocking immigration bill: Bush

Washington: US President George W Bush, trying to head off the latest in a string of setbacks, blamed Democratic "blocking tactics" for stalling an immigration overhaul and urged an end to the impasse.

Bush used his weekly radio address to point the finger at Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid for the breakdown on Friday of a Senate compromise plan to reform immigration law and give millions of illegal immigrants a chance for citizenship.

Failure to approve the bill, which would create a temporary worker program as proposed by Bush, could derail major changes in immigration laws for this year, dealing another blow to a president beset by his lowest public approval ratings since taking office. Gridlock over the legislation, which would be the biggest immigration overhaul in two decades, touched off re-terminations.

"Unfortunately, this compromise is being blocked by the Senate Democratic leader who has refused to allow senators to move forward and vote on amendments to this bill," Bush said. "I call on the Senate Minority Leader to end his blocking tactics and allow the Senate to do its work and pass a fair, effective immigration reform bill."



The immigration debate in the United States has been complicated by November's congressional elections

The immigration debate has been complicated by November's congressional elections in which Democrats are threatening to seize control of both houses from Republican Party. Republicans are split.

The party is nervous about losing Hispanic votes and some members back Bush's call for both tighter border controls and a guest-worker programme. But many conservatives worry that allowing millions of undocumented, mostly Mexican immigrants to qualify for residency would lead to charges in the coming congressional campaign of having voted for amnesty. Reuters

US Veep's ex-aide puts Bush in the dock

Chances Worsen For Indo-US Nuke Deal As Woes Grow For American President

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: United States President George W Bush, through vice-president Dick Cheney, authorised the leak of highly sensitive intelligence information to the news media in an attempt to discredit a CIA advisor whose views undermined the administration's rationale for the invasion of Iraq, it was revealed on Thursday.

According to the grand jury testimony of Lewis Libby, Cheney's former chief of staff currently under investigation in connection with the leak, the Vice-President told him Bush authorised the disclosure in an attempt to discredit Joe Wilson, a CIA advisor who questioned Bush's premise that Iraq was trying to obtain nuclear weapons, the reason cited for going to war.

Libby is subsequently alleged to have leaked to the media that Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA operative and she recommended his name for the job involving evaluation of whether Iraq sought nuclear material from Niger, a detail revealed by Bush.

Libby's disclosure took place as the result of a strong desire by many, including multiple people in the White House, to repudiate claims made in a July 2003 newspaper article by Wilson that "some

of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons programme was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat", federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, who was appointed to investigate the case, has said. The latest disclosure is a bombshell for the embattled Bush, already reeling from multiple political shocks and scandals.

No one questions the American President's power to authorise any leak, but in this case Bush played innocent when the story first broke, criticised the CIA leak, and then promised to get to the bottom of the scandal.

"If the disclosure is true, it's breathtaking. The President is revealed as the leaker-in-chief," said one Democratic lawmaker as the story threatened to snowball into another embarrassment for Bush. For India, the story is important because the President's political fortunes will have a bearing on the US-India nuclear deal.

Bush will need to expend political capital to persuade sceptical lawmakers to back the deal, and the more the legislators see Bush in trouble, the less inclined they will be to support his initiatives.

For instance, Bush won Indiana state against John Kerry in 2004 by a whopping 60-39% margin. But last month, his

BLACK DAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

CIA advisor Joe Wilson had questioned Bush's premise that Iraq was trying to obtain N-weapons, the reason the US administration cited for going to war

Later, US Vice-President Cheney's chief of staff Libby allegedly leaks to the media that Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA operative who recommended him for the job of evaluating whether Iraq sought nuclear weapons from Niger

Cheney told Libby that Bush authorised the disclosure in an attempt to discredit Wilson



approval rating in the state stood at 37%.

So Indiana lawmakers are not particularly compelled to listen to him, given his diminishing drawing power: (Richard Lugar, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that took up the nuclear deal this week, is from Indiana.)

Many Republican Party aspirants prefer not to be seen with Bush on campaign trails now.

Bush's diminishing stock is now beginning to show up on the road. In an astonishing display of chutzpah on Thursday, a workaday American lambasted Bush publicly during a townhall meeting in North Carolina, considered Republican territory.

"In my lifetime, I have never felt more ashamed of, or more frightened by my leadership in Washington, including the presidency, or the Senate.

"I feel like that—despite your rhetoric—that compassion and commonsense have been left far behind during your administration. And I would hope from time to time that you would have the humility and the grace to be ashamed of yourself," said the elderly man, who was later identified as real estate broker Harry Taylor.

If such scenes become more frequent or common, then Bush will be a lame-duck second-term president faster than any of his predecessors, a handicap that may put the nuclear deal in limbo.

CIA LEAK

Curb President's wartime powers, U.S. court urged

Guantanamo's day of reckoning in Supreme Court

Suzanne Goldenberg

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Supreme Court was urged on Tuesday to rein in President George Bush's use of his powers as a wartime President, challenging his order to dispatch Al-Qaeda suspects to trial before military tribunals.

In arguments that could refine the balance between presidential power and the laws of war, lawyers for Salim Ahmed Hamdan, an inmate at Guantanamo, told the court that Mr. Bush had violated basic military protec-

tions with his November 2001 executive order setting up the tribunals.

Mr. Hamdan, a Yemeni accused of driving a pick-up truck for Osama bin Laden, was captured in Afghanistan in November 2001 and charged with war crimes. The Bush administration claims he conspired with the Al-Qaeda leader to carry out attacks in the U.S. He says he was merely working to support his family, and needed the \$200-a-month salary.

The case challenges the Bush

administration's justification for holding people without recourse to U.S. courts or the Geneva Convention.

Suspects' rights

Terror suspects brought before the tribunals do not have the right to an attorney of their choice or to see the evidence against them. Even if they are acquitted and freed, the verdict can be reversed by Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Mr. Hamdan's lawyer contended on Tuesday that makes the tribunal unconstitutional because they allow the President to fine the crime, and select a prosecutor and

judges who act as jury. "It is a military commission that is literally unburdened by the laws, constitution and statutes of the United States," the lawyer, Neal Katyal, told the court.

To date, one of the 500 or so detainees at Guantanamo have appeared before a military tribunal, although 10 have been condemned for trial.

Under questioning from justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito, Mr. Katyal rejected the administration's argument that Mr. Hamdan should wait until after his appearance before a tribunal to challenge the President's definition of the laws of war. "The Government has had

four years to get their charges together on Mr. Hamdan," he said.

Congress legislation

"We are talking about just a set of core ideas that every country around the world is supposed to dispense when they create wartime trials, and even that minimum standard the Government doesn't want to apply here."

Lawyers for the Bush administration say the President denies his authority for the executive order from his powers as commander in chief. In addition, they note that Congress recently enacted legislation

barring Guantanamo detainees from being heard in the U.S. courts.

The Chief Justice, John Roberts, has withdrawn from the case because he ruled, on Mr. Hamdan while serving on an appeals court. Lawyers for the detainee had been looking forward to Tuesday's proceedings as a chance to begin pulling down the legal framework claimed by the Bush administration in its conduct of the "war on terror".

The case has attracted several prominent supporters, including the former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. — ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2006

Strategic interests and political lobbies

According to a study, the thrust of U.S. policy in West Asia is due especially to the activities of the "Israel lobby."

Hamid Ansari

INSTITUTIONAL DISCLAIMER on individual expression of views is normal; to go beyond it is not. For this to happen at Harvard University invokes curiosity, more so when the individual happens to be one of its own professors of some eminence co-authoring a study with another academic of repute from Chicago University.

What was the provocation? The devil seems to reside in the subject. The alleged sin of the two professors emanates from their co-authorship of a study made public this month entitled *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Published in the Faculty Research Working Paper Series of the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard, it runs into 83 pages with 211 footnotes. Its cover page carries the logo of the University as well as of the School.

According to Israeli press reports, Harvard has decided to remove its logo and "has appended a more strongly worded disclaimer to the study stating that it reflects the views of its authors only." The same reports quote another professor of the School as saying that the study "fails to meet minimal academic standards."

The reaction stems from an assertion in the study that the thrust of U.S. policy in West Asia is due almost entirely to its domestic politics, and especially to the activities of the "Israel lobby" that has managed to divert policy from American national in-

terest "while simultaneously convincing Americans that U.S. and Israeli interests are essentially identical."

The study defines the lobby as a loose coalition of individuals and organisations who actively work to steer U.S. foreign policy in a pro-Israel direction. The individuals involved are not exclusively Jewish; in fact, surveys show that 36 per cent of American Jews are either "not very" or "not at all" attached to Israel; many of them also oppose the extremist policies of the Likud. At the same time, many Christian evangelists as well as right-wing politicians are supportive of the lobby.

The principal organisations involved are the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations. "A key pillar of the lobby's effectiveness is its influence in the Congress, where Israel is virtually immune from criticism." Here, and in the executive branch, the focus of work is to control the debate on Israel and channel it in the desired direction. The AIPAC, rated among the two most powerful lobby groups in Washington, is credited with a capacity "to reward legislators and congressional candidates who support its agenda, and punish those who challenge it." Much of this is done through campaign contributions, supplemented by newspaper editorials and letter-writing drives. Many well-known think tanks, dependent on endowments, toe the line in their "academic" pursuits.

"The bottom line is that AIPAC, a *de facto* agent of a foreign government, has a stronghold on Congress, with the result that U.S. policy towards Israel is not debated there even though that policy has important consequences for the entire world." The annual function of the AIPAC is attended by all politicians of consequence and the occasion is used for important policy pronouncements even when, as on the eve of the 2005 dinner dedicated to the theme of "Israel: An American Value," two AIPAC officials were charged by the FBI with carrying out espionage on behalf of Israel. Nor has the notorious Pollard case been forgotten.

The lobby pays particular attention to academics and universities through its "Campus Watch" programme and uses the instrument of anti-semitism against those who are critical of Israel or of U.S. policy towards Israel.

Iraq debacle

The conclusions of the study are specific. Given the Iraq debacle, "there are ample grounds for U.S. leaders to distance themselves from the lobby and adopt a Middle East policy more consistent with broader U.S. interests. In particular, using American power to achieve a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians would help advance the broader goals of fighting extremism and promoting democracy."

In terms of current policy, on the other hand, America "has become the *de facto* en-

abler of Israeli expansion in the occupied territories." Furthermore, the lobby's campaign for regime change in Iran and Syria could lead to attacks on these countries "with potentially disastrous effects." Its campaign "to squelch debate about Israel is unhealthy for democracy" and has even been bad for Israel since it has encouraged an extremist-expansionist agenda to forego opportunities for peace and save Israeli lives.

"What is needed, therefore, is a candid discussion of the Lobby's influence and a more open debate about U.S. interests in this vital region. Israel's well-being is one of those interests, but not its continued occupation of the West Bank or its broader regional agenda. Open debate will expose the limits of the strategic and moral case for one-sided U.S. support and could move the United States to a position more consistent with its own national interest, with the interests of the other states in the region, and with Israel's long-term interests as well."

Away from the controversy about academic freedom, an Israeli comment has defined the bottom line in the debate: "Defending the occupation has done to the American pro-Israel community what living as an occupier has done to Israel — muddied both its moral compass and its rational self-interest compass."

Abba Eban had put it differently in 1994: Israel cannot live peacefully outside the international order that mocks the pretensions of unilateral power.

29 MAR 2006

THE HINDU

Washington: Founded by immigrants and praised as a haven for the oppressed, the United States now is struggling to decide the fate of as many as 12 million people living in the country illegally.

The Senate takes up the emotional debate on the heels of weekend rallies that drew hundreds of thousands of people protesting attempts to toughen laws against immigrants. Among the election-year proposals that President George W. Bush and members of Congress are considering:

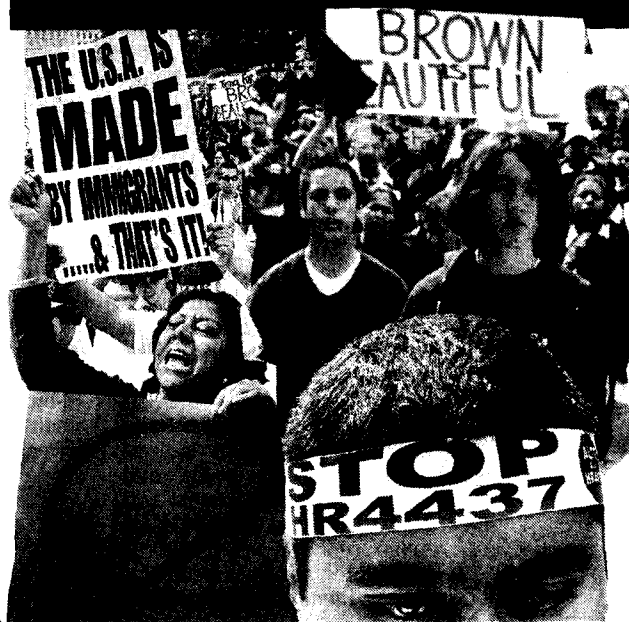
- Erecting a fence on the Mexico border to deter illegal immigration.
- Treating people who sneak across the border as felons to be deported.
- Allowing foreigners to stay in the country legally as custodians, dish washers, construction workers and other low-paid employees
- Allowing those working in the US a path to citizenship
- Requiring them to get in line behind everyone else back in their home countries who want to become Americans.

Senate aides met into the evening on Sunday in advance of a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting to debate legislation, but there was no evidence of a breakthrough on the issue most in dispute. Lawmakers have been divided on whether illegal immigrants should be required to return to their home country before they become eligible for US citizenship.

Bush arranged to attend a Monday naturalisation ceremony for 30 new citizens at Constitution Hall, a few blocks from the White House. And demonstrations are planned near the Capitol, including a prayer service with immigration advocates and clergy who plan to wear handcuffs to demonstrate the criminalisation of immigration violations.

Bush is going to Mexico this week for a meeting with the leaders of Mexico and

IMMIGRATION ISSUE GOES TO SENATE



Despite Protests, Fate of 12M Illegal Aliens In US Uncertain

Canada. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Sunday it's important that Mexico "recognise the importance of defense of the borders and of American laws."

Protests raged across the country over the weekend, led by more than 500,000 people who marched through downtown Los Angeles on Saturday in one of the largest demonstrations for any cause in recent US history. Marchers also took to the streets in Phoenix, Milwau-

kee, Dallas and Columbus, Ohio. Demonstrations continued on Sunday, when nearly 3,000 people, many wrapped in Mexican flags, rallied at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus and an estimated 3,500 United Farm Workers members and their supporters protested in Los Angeles.

The president, working hand-in-hand with the business community that relies on cheap labour, is pressuring Congress to allow immigrants to stay in the country

legally if they take a job that Americans are unwilling to do. Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, also supports the idea and has vowed that his committee will advance a bill to the full Senate on Monday, even if they have to work "very, very late into the night."

"If they're prepared to work to become American citizens in the long line traditionally of immigrants who have helped make this country, we can have both a nation of laws and a welcoming nation of workers who do some very, very important jobs for our economy," Specter said on Sunday on ABC's *This Week*.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Republican of Tennessee, has said that whether or not a bill gets out of the Judiciary Committee, he is opening two weeks of debate on the issue on Tuesday.

Democrats have said they will do everything they can to block Frist's bill. Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy said that legislation creating tougher enforcement does not do enough. "We have spent \$20 billion on chains and fences and border guards and dogs in the southern border over the last 10 years," Kennedy said.

Critics like Representative Tom Tancredo, a Republican, say that would give amnesty to people who have broken the law by entering the US without permission. "It's a slap in the face to every single person who has done it the right way, and to everybody who's waiting out there to do it the right way," Tancredo said.

Bush wants to give foreign workers a guest permit to stay for a specific amount of time to do a job, without a path to citizenship. Republican Senators John Cornyn and Jon Kyl propose to let employed illegal immigrants stay for five years but then leave, pay fines and apply to re-enter the country. AP

BILL ■ Says will end cooperation
if India detonates n-device,
vote likely late April-early May

India N-deal: the Bill goes to the Hill

LALIT K JHA

NEW YORK, MARCH 16

THE Bush Administration's much-awaited India-specific legislation seeking an exemption to enter into a bilateral civilian nuclear agreement was being introduced today in both chambers of the US Congress. The bill contains the rider that the cooperation would end if India were to detonate a device after the agreement comes into force.

Highly placed Congressional sources told *The Indian Express* that the bill would be introduced in the US House of Representatives by Henry J Hyde, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, and Tom Lantos, the committee senior Democrat member.

The all-important legislation, called The President's India Civilian Nuclear Bill, will be introduced in the Senate by its Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Richard Lugar. A number of India-friendly Congressmen are expected to co-sponsor the bill once introduced.

The bill seeks an India-specific waiver from some of the provisions in the Atomic Energy Act 1954 that do not permit nuclear trade with countries which are not committed to full scope safeguards. The sections, where the bill seeks waiver, are:

■ **Section 123 (a) (2) of Atomic Energy Act:** This section is meant for cooperation with non-nuclear weapon states and hence, requires full-scope safeguards which

Seeks India-specific waivers

■ The agreement is off if India were to detonate another device from now



■ Safeguards Agreement with IAEA has to be signed before Congress gives approval

■ Bill seeks waiver from full scope safeguards

■ Underlines India's support to international efforts on preventing spread of enrichment and reprocessing technology

means that all reactors will be under safeguards. Given that India will have a strategic weapons programme, a Congressional waiver is needed.

■ **Section 128 and 129:** The first section again reiterates full scope safeguards for recipient states while Section 129 does not permit exports to a country that has detonated a nuclear device after March 10, 1978. India falls in this category, hence the waiver. The Presidential exemption requires approval by both chambers of the Congress through a joint resolution.

At the same time, the bill—a draft copy of which is available with *The Indian Express*—states that the agreement “shall not be effective” if the US President “determines that India has detonated a nuclear explosive device after the date of enactment of this act”.

The timeline drawn up for the Bill suggests voting is likely

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Nuclear Bill goes to the Hill

to take place in April or early May. The strength of the House of Representative is 435, while that of the Senate is 100. The entire process is expected to be completed before end of May as desired by the Bush Administration when it sent the draft proposal to the Congress last week.

Hearing in both the committees is expected to start soon after the Congress meets following the week-long St Patrick's Day recess beginning this weekend. Earlier this week, Hyde had said hearings in the House International Relations Committee would begin later in March.

The bill, if approved by the Congress, would allow the American Government to supply nuclear technology and fuel to India for civilian purposes. Section "a" of the bill seeks India-specific waiver, while section "b" refers to the various steps taken

by India like the formalizing of a separation plan and a domestic legislation tightening export controls.

The bill clearly states that an "agreement has entered into force between India and the IAEA requiring the application of safeguards". New Delhi will, thus, have to conclude this agreement with IAEA soon. It also needs India to have made "satisfactory progress" towards implementing an IAEA additional protocol.

India and the IAEA have made satisfactory progress towards implementing an additional protocol that would apply to the Indian civil nuclear program, the bill says, adding the US is working with it for the conclusion of a multilateral Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.

"India is ensuring that the necessary steps are being taken to secure

nuclear materials and technology through the application of comprehensive export control legislation and regulations, and through harmonization and adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime and Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines," the bill says.

Another significant element of the bill, which is a clear indication to India's role in the Iran nuclear issue, is the observation that India is "supporting international efforts to prevent the spread of enrichment and re-processing technology".

While Hyde had indicated earlier that the Congress "may seek conditions" before giving approval to this "complex agreement", Lantos was more positive calling it a "breakthrough" in the relationship between the world's oldest and largest democracies.

17 MAR 2006

washingtonpost.com

Bush to Restate Terror Strategy

2002 Doctrine of Preemptive War To Be Reaffirmed

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, March 16, 2006; A01

President Bush plans to issue a new national security strategy today reaffirming his doctrine of preemptive war against terrorists and hostile states with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, despite the troubled experience in Iraq.

The long-overdue document, an articulation of U.S. strategic priorities that is required by law, lays out a robust view of America's power and an assertive view of its responsibility to bring change around the world. On topics including genocide, human trafficking and AIDS, the strategy describes itself as "idealistic about goals and realistic about means."

The strategy expands on the original security framework developed by the Bush administration in September 2002, before the invasion of Iraq. That strategy shifted U.S. foreign policy away from decades of deterrence and containment toward a more aggressive stance of attacking enemies before they attack the United States.

The preemption doctrine generated fierce debate at the time, and many critics believe the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq fatally undermined an essential assumption of the strategy -- that intelligence about an enemy's capabilities and intentions can be sufficient to justify preventive war.

In his revised version, Bush offers no second thoughts about the preemption policy, saying it "remains the same" and defending it as necessary for a country in the "early years of a long struggle" akin to the Cold War. In a nod to critics in Europe, the document places a greater emphasis on working with allies and declares diplomacy to be "our strong preference" in tackling the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

"If necessary, however, under long-standing principles of self defense, we do not rule out use of force before attacks occur, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack," the document continues. "When the consequences of an attack with WMD are potentially so devastating, we cannot afford to stand idly by as grave dangers materialize."

Such language could be seen as provocative at a time when the United States and its European allies have brought Iran before the U.N. Security Council to answer allegations that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons. At a news conference in January, Bush described an Iran with nuclear arms as a "grave threat to the security of the world."

Some security specialists criticized the continued commitment to preemption. "Preemption is and always

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will be a potentially useful tool, but it's not something you want to trot out and throw in everybody's face," said Harlan Ullman, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "To have a strategy on preemption and make it central is a huge error."

A military attack against Iran, for instance, could be "foolish," Ullman said, and it would be better to seek other ways to influence its behavior. "I think most states are deterrable."

Thomas Donnelly, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute who has written on the 2002 strategy, said the 2003 invasion of Iraq in the strict sense is not an example of preemptive war, because it was preceded by 12 years of low-grade conflict and was essentially the completion of the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Still, he said, recent problems there contain lessons for those who would advocate preemptive war elsewhere. A military strike is not enough, he said; building a sustainable, responsible state in place of a rogue nation is the real challenge.

"We have to understand preemption -- it's not going to be simply a preemptive strike," he said. "That's not the end of the exercise but the beginning of the exercise."

The White House plans to release the 49-page National Security Strategy today, starting with a speech by national security adviser Stephen J. Hadley to the U.S. Institute of Peace. The White House gave advance copies to The Washington Post and three other newspapers.

The strategy has no legal force of its own but serves as a guidepost for agencies and officials drawing up policies in a range of military, diplomatic and other arenas. Although a 1986 law requires that the strategy be revised annually, this is the first new version since 2002. "I don't think it's a change in strategy," Hadley said in an interview. "It's an updating of where we are with the strategy, given the time that's passed and the events that have occurred."

But the new version of the strategy underscores in a more thematic way Bush's desire to make the spread of democracy the fundamental underpinning of U.S. foreign policy, as he expressed in his second inaugural address last year. The opening words of the strategy, in fact, are lifted from that speech: "It is the policy of the United States to seek and support democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

The strategy commits the administration to speaking out against human rights abuses, holding high-level meetings at the White House with reformers from repressive nations, using foreign aid to support elections and civil society, and applying sanctions against oppressive governments. It makes special mention of religious intolerance, subjugation of women and human trafficking.

At the same time, it acknowledges that "elections alone are not enough" and sometimes lead to undesirable results. "These principles are tested by the victory of Hamas candidates in the recent elections in the Palestinian territories," the strategy says, referring to the radical group designated as a terrorist organization by the United States.

Without saying what action would be taken against them, the strategy singles out seven nations as prime examples of "despotic systems" -- North Korea, Iran, Syria, Cuba, Belarus, Burma and Zimbabwe. Iran and North Korea receive particular attention because of their nuclear programs, and the strategy vows in both cases "to take all necessary measures" to protect the United States against them.

"We may face no greater challenge from a single country than from Iran," the document says, echoing a statement made by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last week. It recommits to efforts with European

allies to pressure Tehran to give up any aspirations of nuclear weapons, then adds ominously: "This diplomatic effort must succeed if confrontation is to be avoided."

The language about confrontation is not repeated with North Korea, which says it already has nuclear bombs, an assertion believed by U.S. intelligence. But Pyongyang is accused of a "bleak record of duplicity and bad-faith negotiations," as well as of counterfeiting U.S. currency, trafficking in drugs and starving its own people.

The strategy offers a much more skeptical view of Russia than in 2002, when the glow of Bush's friendship with President Vladimir Putin was still bright.

"Recent trends regrettably point toward a diminishing commitment to democratic freedoms and institutions," it says. "We will work to try to persuade the Russian Government to move forward, not backward, along freedom's path."

It also warns China that "it must act as a responsible stakeholder that fulfills its obligations" and guarantee political freedom as well as economic freedom. "Our strategy," the document says, "seeks to encourage China to make the right strategic choices for its people, while we hedge against other possibilities."

To assuage allies antagonized by Bush's go-it-alone style in his first term, the White House stresses alliance and the use of what it calls "transformational diplomacy" to achieve change. At the same time, it asserts that formal structures such as the United Nations or NATO may at times be less effective than "coalitions of the willing," or groups responding to particular situations, such as the Asian tsunami of 2004.

Beyond the military response to terrorism, the document emphasizes the need to fight the war of ideas against Islamic radicals whose anti-American rhetoric has won wide sympathy in parts of the world.

The strategy also addresses topics largely left out of the 2002 version, including a section on genocide and a new chapter on global threats such as avian influenza, AIDS, environmental destruction and natural disasters. Critics have accused the administration of not doing enough to stop genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, responding too slowly to the Asian tsunami and disregarding global environmental threats such as climate change.

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DOUBLESPEAK

It is possible to have one's cake and eat it too provided one is the world's solitary superpower. The United States of America is the most voluble advocate of free trade across the globe. But when it suits its own interests it can suddenly turn insular and protectionist. Witness the refusal of the US Congress to allow some US ports to be managed by a company based in Dubai and owned by the United Arab Emirates. Previously, these ports were managed by P&O, a British company. The US Congress had no problems with a British company running some of its ports but objections were raised when P&O was bought by Dubai Ports World, a company with an established track record as a ports operator with business interests spread across the world, including in the Western world. But the US is not willing to allow Dubai Ports World to operate in the US because its presence is a threat to national security. The allegation is absurd for a number of reasons. The company had got for itself the necessary clearance from the official committee that looks into the security angles of investments. Moreover, there are more US naval ships in Dubai and other ports of the UAE than anywhere else outside the US. It must be said to the credit of Mr George W. Bush that he opposed the decision of the Congress. There are only a few ways to explain this behaviour of the US Congress. One, that it is racist. Two, that it is suspicious of anything that has some kind of Islamic association. And three, it thrives on double standards. None of the three brings any credit to the US Congress.

The charge of double standards can be levelled against other Western governments as well. These governments consistently hector India and other developing countries about allowing foreigners to own companies, including in areas that are normally labelled "strategic". But the same governments easily forget the same advice when it affects their own economic interests. Recently, the US stopped a Chinese company from buying Unocal. In Europe there was a furore when the London-based Indian steel magnate Mr L.N. Mittal made a bid to buy Arcelor. The West thus finds it convenient to be both pro-free market and protectionism. It is also a fact that, despite postures to the contrary, governments in the West determine the nature of investments and ownership of assets. The world may not be flat after all.

Port deal's collapse prompts fears on trade with US

EDUARDO PORTER
WASHINGTON, MARCH 10

DP WORLD'S decision on Thursday to transfer a handful of American port terminals, rather than chilling interest in investing in the US, may actually have made it safer for foreigners by relieving some of the political pressure that was building up against them.

But as part of a pattern of other anti-foreign actions in Washington, fears remain that the US is becoming a less welcoming place for investment from overseas.

"We need a net inflow of capital of \$3 billion a day to keep the economy afloat," said Clyde V Prestowitz Jr, president of the Economic Strategy Institute. "Yet all of the body language here is 'go away'."

At least initially, those who support increased globalisation were relieved that Dubai appears to have backed away from a confrontation with Congress.

"It is our hope that this relieves some of the political pressure," said Nancy McLernon, senior vice-president of the Organisation for Interna-

tional Investment, a lobbying group in Washington representing the US subsidiaries of foreign multinationals.

DP World's takeover was a special case: a state-owned company from the Middle East buying a sensitive American asset. Most multinationals that invest in the US come from Western industrial democracies and are unlikely to be subject to such scrutiny.

The flap over the ports acquisition alone is unlikely to make a dent in foreign investment flows into the country, most economists agree.

Foreign companies plowed \$38.8 billion worth of direct investment into the US in the third quarter of last year, according to government statistics, over 2 1/2 the amount recorded in the second quarter and roughly 9 per cent more than in the period in 2004.

Foreign investment in American financial markets is even stronger. Last year, capital flows into Treasury bonds, equities in American companies and other securities totaled more than \$1 trillion, 14 per cent more than in 2004. Much of it came from China and the Middle East.

Some economists argue

that it is good that foreign investment in sensitive areas be subject to more scrutiny.

"There are some assets that are absolutely essential to US security and today's action reflects the House and Senate actually drawing a line," said Robert E. Scott, a senior economist and trade specialist at the Economic Policy Institute.

"The question," he added, "is whether or not this is going to be a one-time event or whether we are going to look more carefully at foreign acquisitions, particularly in the military sector."

But some analysts warn that further political hostility against foreign companies buying American assets could boomerang against the US.

The political flap over the ports deal is still not over. McLernon noted that members of Congress had submitted some two dozen bills in the last weeks aimed at changing the review process for foreign investment. Many could end up blocking all kinds of deals.

"It is almost certain that one or another of those bills will pass," Prestowitz said. "The question is whether it will have sufficient votes to override a veto by the president." —NYT

Troubled Deal in January an interagency committee led by the Treasury Department unanimously approved a Dubai-owned port operator to do business in the US

Feb 13. Shareholders of Peninsula & Oriental Steam Navigation approve a takeover bid by DP World, a Dubai-owned company

Feb 16. DP World says it has received all approvals from US regulators

Feb 21. "If there was any chance that this transaction would jeopardise the security of the United States, it would not go forward." —President Bush announcing he will veto any legislation against the deal

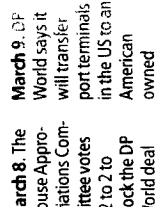
Feb 22. "We should have briefed Congress about it sooner." —Scott McClellan, White House press secretary

Feb 26. "We cannot mess this deal up. We are dependent on countries like the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, to give us the support to fight this war on terrorism." —Senator John W. Warner, Republican, Virginia

Feb 28. "We assessed the threat to US national security posed by DP World to be low." —John Negroponte, director of national intelligence to Senate Armed Services panel

March 8. The House Appropriations Committee votes 62 to 2 to block the DP World deal

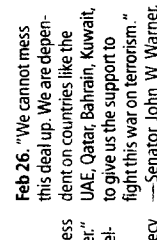
March 9. DP World says it will transfer port terminals in the US to an American-owned company



March 7. "It is my intention to lay the foundation to block the deal." —Jerry Lewis, Republican, California, head of House Appropriations Committee



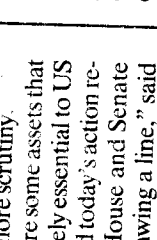
March 7. "Dubai can't be trusted with our critical infrastructure." —Representative Duncan Hunter, Republican, California



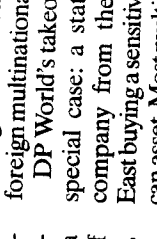
Feb 27. 70 percent of participants in a CBS News poll say a UAE company should not be permitted to operate US shipping ports.



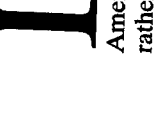
Feb 26. "We've defended them on so many things he's tried to accomplish, that to be left out here supporting this thing in a vacuum is kind of offensive." —Representative Mark Foley, Republican, Florida



Feb 20. "There was not a full review of the port in the context of a post 9/11 world." —Representative Peter T. King, Republican, NY



Feb 17. "Our port security is too important to place in the hands of foreign governments." —Senator Rodham Clinton, Democrat, NY



Feb 16. "This is not going to go through currently the way some people might like." —Senator Charles E. Schumer, Democrat, NY

11 MAR 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

VV
INDIA-US ■ Draft sent to Congress, decision needed before N-suppliers meet in May

N-deal journey begins, up the Hill

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, MARCH 10

SETTING into motion what promises to be a tough climb, the Bush Administration formally submitted a draft proposal before the US Congress seeking its approval for the civilian nuclear agreement with India signed in July 2005.

The submission comes within a week of US President George W Bush's visit to India. During the visit, the two countries reached an understanding on the contentious issue of separation of India's nuclear facilities into civil and nuclear.

Congressional sources told

The Indian Express that the proposal, seeking amendment of the Atomic Energy Act 1954—as amended in 1974—has been submitted to the Foreign Relations Committee of the US Senate and the International Relations Committee.

For the US to help India with civilian nuclear technology, the Congress needs to make amendments to Sections 123, 128 and 129 of the Atomic Energy Act that prohibits the US from sale of nuclear technology to countries which have not signed the NPT, refuse to allow full-scope safeguards and develop nuclear weapons in defiance.

One of the most significant

What the draft says

- Seeks amendment of the US Atomic Energy Act that prohibits US from sale of nuclear technology to countries which have not signed the NPT, refuse to allow full-scope safeguards and develop nuclear weapons in defiance.
- US President has power to scrap agreement if after its enactment India detonates a nuclear explosive device.
- India-specific, "not" to be considered a precedent
- Congress asked to decide before May end so that it can be tabled to the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group
- India has informed IAEA about the separation plan

aspects of this proposal is the legislative provision that empowers the US President to declare this agreement and amendments in the Act "null and void" if he determines after its enactment that India has detonated a nuclear explosive device.

Sources said the amendment proposal is strictly India-specific and the Bush Administration promises that this would "not" be considered a precedent for any other country in the future.

Hearings on the proposal would begin soon—as early

as next week—in both Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the US House Committee on International Relations.

Notably, both Henry Hyde, the House International Relations Committee Chairman and Richard Lugar, chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have been critical of the nuke deal with India.

"It is the responsibility of this Committee to thoroughly examine the specific provisions of this agreement and its potential consequences for the US interests and those of the international community," Hyde had said earlier.

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

N-deal journey begins, up the Hill

In its proposal, the Bush administration has requested the Congress for a decision on this before the end of May so it can table before the Nuclear Suppliers Group a proposal to exempt India from the existing guidelines that prevents the 45-member NSG—including the United States—to indulge in trade of nuclear technology with any country outside the NPT purview.

In its draft proposal, the administration has listed out the steps being taken by India and the US in this regard. This refers to the recent understanding reached between the two countries about the separation of India's nuclear facilities into civil and military. It says India has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) about its separation plan.

Informing the Congress that India and the IAEA are making satisfactory progress towards implementing an additional protocol that would apply to the Indian civilian nuclear programme, the proposal said India is also working with it for the conclusion of a multilateral Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty.

It assured the Congress that India is supporting international effort to prevent the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technology.

"India is ensuring that necessary steps are being taken to secure nuclear materials and technology through the application of comprehensive export control legislation and regulations and through harmonization and adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime and Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines," it said.

11 MAR 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

Republicans pulling away from Bush

After years of allowing President Bush to set their course, Republicans are suddenly rebelling over spying and a port deal.

Carl Hulse

AFTER MORE than five years of allowing President Bush relatively free rein to set their course, Republicans in Congress are suddenly, if selectively, in rebellion, a mutiny all the more surprising because it centres on the party's signature issue of national security.

In a rebuke to the White House, House Republicans are moving aggressively to put the brakes on the takeover by a Dubai company of some port terminal operations in several large American cities, an effort that moved forward on Wednesday with broad bipartisan support. At the same time, Republicans in the Senate are wrestling with how hard to press the White House for more authority over Mr. Bush's eavesdropping programme.

In the case of the port deal, the political considerations are clearly paramount for Republicans and are compelling. Public opinion appears to be strongly against allowing an Arab company to manage some port terminals in the United States. Democrats are hammering Republicans on the issue, and the White House has been unable to provide much political cover to its allies on Capitol Hill.

When it comes to the debate over how and whether to allow eavesdropping without warrants on communications involving terror suspects, the politics is more muddled. The White House has had considerable success defining that issue on its terms, as anti-terrorist surveillance, and there has been no broad public outcry against it. Republicans on Capitol Hill have been left grappling with how to balance their concerns about granting the President wide wartime powers against the perception that they might be weaken a programme that the administration believes protects Americans from attack.

Still, even a limited move to place a check on the eavesdropping programme, like the one contained in a deal worked out by the White House with Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday, contributed to a sense that his own party is edging away from Mr. Bush — or, in the case of the port deal, abandoning him and his dismal poll numbers with the greatest possible haste. A perception that conditions in Iraq show little improvement is not helping the relationship. The President and his Congressional allies have been at cross-purposes before but it has never reached the level of the port confrontation. The backlash reflects a view held by many Republicans that the White House has asked a lot of them over the years but has responded with dismissive and occasionally arrogant treatment.

Intramural fights in politics often have an element of calculation if not orchestration, and the White House's political shop is no doubt aware that allowing congressional Republicans to put some distance between themselves and Mr. Bush in an election year could serve the party's long-term interest. Whether theatrics or something more fundamental, some Republicans say the port fight and scrutiny of the surveillance programme show a new willingness by Republicans to confront the White House and that it was a fitting moment for Congress to declare its independence.

Instinct for survival

That instinct for political survival is helping to stiffen the Congressional spine. Republicans have held a significant political advantage over Demo-

crats on the issue of national security, offsetting Democratic strength on social policy. Given the uproar at home over the port deal and nervousness about the implications of eavesdropping without warrants, Republicans are worried about losing their edge. Democrats say they should be.

In a memorandum to Senate Democrats that quickly made its way to reporters, a pollster reported on Wednesday that the backlash to the port proposal and uncertainty over Iraq has significantly eroded Republican advantages among voters when it comes to security concerns. "With huge majorities opposing the President's proposal to sell control of U.S. ports to Dubai and the failure of the President's Iraq policy, Republicans' once yawning advantage on security issues has been largely neutralised," said the pollster, Mark Mellman. Democrats tried to press their advantage on Wednesday in the Senate. Charles E. Schumer of New York sprung an amendment to a lobbying bill that would ban any company "wholly owned or controlled by any foreign government that recognised the Taliban" from managing port facilities. The company at issue, DP World of Dubai, would fit that description.

Senate Republican leaders, trying to buy the administration some time on the port fights as their counterparts in the House abandoned Mr. Bush, blocked a vote for the moment, but a showdown appeared inevitable. "We know what the people of America think," said Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate. "This is a very bad idea."

Different strains of ideology

While the national security ruptures have been striking, the administration and congressional Republicans are likely to be parting ways on other issues waiting in the wings. They include immigration policy, spending cuts, trade and perhaps a stem-cell research proposal that many Republicans believe is crucial to winning moderate voters this fall. The rifts reflect different strains of ideology within the party, many of which have been tamped down until now by Mr. Bush's ability to hold Republicans together — a degree of clout that now seems to be ebbing away from him.

His strength has largely been anchored in his standing on national security. And in elections since the attacks of September 11, that has been good politics as Republicans have claimed the mantle of the party best able to prevent another terror strike.

In the Senate, this week's manoeuvring over the surveillance programme showed a more cautious approach to confronting the administration. Republicans feared being accused of tampering with a valuable anti-terror technique, but some were genuinely troubled by the eavesdropping and refused to reject Democratic calls for an inquiry without taking some action.

The result was a legislative proposal for close oversight by a new subcommittee. But what was most striking was how hard Republicans involved in negotiations sought to make clear that the agreement was a concession by the White House, not a victory for Mr. Bush. "They wanted the status quo," said Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas and chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

One thing is clear: Republicans on Capitol Hill are no longer entrusting security issues solely to Mr. Bush. They now realise that in some cases, they must protect themselves. —New York Times News Service

10 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

washingtonpost.com

U.S. Plans to Modernize Nuclear Arsenal

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, March 4, 2006; A02

The Bush administration is developing plans to design and deploy refurbished or replacement warheads for the nuclear stockpile, and by 2030 to modernize the production complex so that, if required, it could produce new generations of weapons with different or modified capabilities.

Referring to goals established two years ago, Ambassador Linton F. Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), told the House Armed Services subcommittee on strategic forces Wednesday that "we will revitalize our weapons design community to meet the challenge of being able to adapt an existing weapon within 18 months, and design, develop and begin production of a new design within three to four years of a decision to enter engineering development."

A study by NNSA for restructuring the aging weapons complex, which includes dealing with facilities that dismantle retired weapons, should be sent to Congress this spring, Brooks said. Although there is some updating and modernizing of the present complex, "full infrastructure changes . . . will take a couple of decades," Brooks said.

The first step in the long-range plan is focused around the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program that was approved last year. That program contemplates designing new components for previously tested nuclear packages that would make the resulting bombs and warheads safer and more reliable over the long term than older stockpiled weapons that are being refurbished.

The RRW warheads would create, Brooks said, a "reduced chance we will ever need to resort to nuclear testing." In addition, he said, "Once we demonstrate we can produce warheads on a time scale in which geopolitical threats could emerge, we would no longer need to retain extra warheads to hedge against unexpected geopolitical changes."

Under current plans, the number of deployed U.S. warheads on submarines, missiles and bombers would be reduced to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012. There would be an additional number, said to exceed 2,000, that would remain in a strategic reserve, and it would be the latter that could be further reduced under the RRW program.

However, Brooks told the subcommittee that he believes more funds will be needed to prepare for a new multibillion-dollar facility to produce "pits," plutonium triggers for thermonuclear weapons. There is controversy over how reliable the plutonium pits are as they age because of radioactive decay. Brooks told the panel the current belief is they are reliable for 45 to 60 years, but uncertainties have developed.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/03/AR2006030301757_pf... 3/6/2006

- A small facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory has been established to build pits, but its capacity will be 30 to 40 pits a year beginning in 2012, which Brooks described as "insufficient to meet our assessed long-term pit production needs" created by the RRW warheads.

Brooks's description of the U.S. plan for nuclear weapons production came one day before President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced their agreement for sharing nuclear technology, while permitting India to continue production of weapons-grade materials at one-third of their reactors. It also came one day after testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee by Lt. Gen. Michael D. Maples, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, described how India and other nations are moving forward with their own nuclear programs.

"We believe that India and Pakistan . . . continue expanding and modernizing their nuclear weapon stockpiles," Maples said, adding, "Pakistan has also developed the capability to produce plutonium for potential weapons use."

He also reported that North Korea is continuing to produce plutonium for its nuclear program, and that China "is likely" to increase the number of its nuclear-armed theater and strategic weapons and "has sufficient fissile material to support this growth."

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Not as good as it can get

The declaration by President George Bush that the United States must snap out of its dependence on oil holds the promise of many positive changes for America and the world. It could, for instance, alter for the better the way the U.S. conducts its relations with other countries. It could help push oil prices down, and even slow the rate of global warming. The Advanced Energy Strategy that President Bush unveiled in his State of the Union Address promises more money for developing alternative energy sources — such as solar, wind, and nuclear power — clean coal and ethanol, so that “addicted to oil” America can reduce its oil imports. At present, the U.S. imports an estimated 500 million tonnes of oil annually — 60 per cent of its needs — compared with 117 million tonnes by China. But if Mr. Bush is genuine about breaking America’s oil habit, quicker and more direct ways to reach this goal are available. Of the 20 billion barrels of oil that America consumes every day, an estimated 9 million go into automobiles. Taxing petrol at rates significantly higher than at present is one way to reduce consumption. The other is to put pressure on the American automobile industry to produce smaller, lighter, more fuel-efficient cars instead of the petrol-guzzling sports utility vehicles that have become synonymous with what is grandly known as “the American way of life.” And if ethanol is what President Bush wants, Brazil found a cost-effective way of making this alternative fuel several years ago from sugarcane, and the U.S. could well think of making it easier to import ethanol from the South American country.

The U.S. President has instead chosen long-term plans that will not require consumers to shake off their oil dependence in the immediate future. That makes it all sound like the promise of a cigarette smoker who says he wants to quit but puts off acting on it for another day. It has, understandably, created the impression that the much-touted energy initiative is meant to be nothing more than a nod in the direction of the green lobby by an embattled leader seeking better poll ratings. Environmentalists are now more concerned that President Bush’s declaration for energy independence could be used by the oil lobby in the U.S. to push for more drilling at home, including in protected areas in Alaska. Considering that only 20 per cent of U.S. oil imports is sourced from West Asia, even the singling out of that region as the preferred target for a sharp import cut appears to be a mere ploy to neutralise adverse public opinion on Iraq and the Bush administration’s foreign policy. As for nuclear energy, it will not be long before President Bush is asked why the U.S. can use this to build energy self-sufficiency, but not Iran. If President Bush expected to win himself friends at home and abroad with his new energy strategies, he has not quite succeeded.

War cost for U.S. soars to \$440 billion

Increase in spending despite reduction in troop levels in Afghanistan, Iraq

Julian Borger

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has said it is planning to spend \$120 billion on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars this year, bringing their total cost so far to \$440 billion.

The spending request, which will soon be presented to Congress, marks a 20 per cent increase over last year, despite plans to draw down U.S. troop levels in both war zones in the coming months.

The administration also plans to ask for a down payment of \$50 billion on war costs next year. The re-

quests are expected to pass easily.

The spending on the Iraq conflict alone is now approaching the cost of the Korean War, about \$330 billion in today's dollars.

War on terror

Meanwhile, the cost of the overall "war on terror" - relabelled The Long War in the Pentagon - is already close to half a trillion dollars, and will soon equal that of the 13-year Vietnam war.

"There is some reason to be surprised that it's this much," said Steven Kosiak, a military spending

analyst at the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

"The Congressional Budget Office had estimated the defence department would need \$85 billion and that was with no draw down in troops."

A White House budget official, Joel Kaplan, said that some of the extra spending would go towards keeping military equipment going in the desert, to accelerate training of Iraqi forces, and to give U.S. troops better protection against roadside bombs. The budget request

did not include reconstruction spending.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld once predicted that the Iraq war would cost \$50 billion.

President George Bush's former economic adviser, Lawrence Lindsey, was forced to resign for being alarmist after predicting in 2002 that the Iraq war could cost up to \$200 billion.

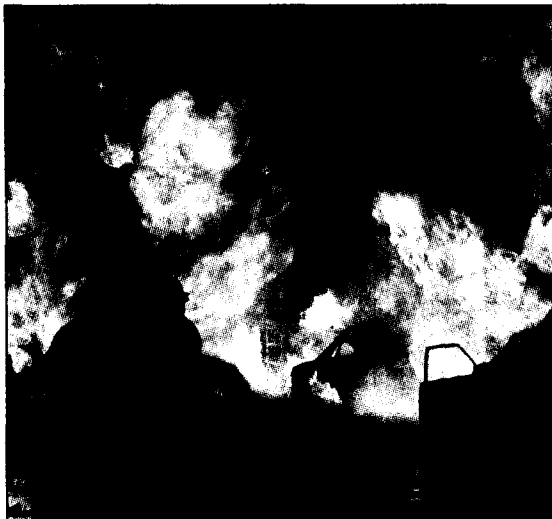
Even before the new supplemental requests, spending on the conflict in Iraq has reached \$250 billion.

— ©Guardian Newspapers Limited 2006

THE HINDU

6 FEB 2006

US seeks \$120b more for war zones



Iraqi firemen try to extinguish a huge blaze at a petrol station after a double car bomb attack killed 16 people in Baghdad on Wednesday

By David S Cloud

Washington: The Bush administration said on Thursday that it would seek about \$120 billion in additional financing to pay for continuing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through 2006.

The request shows that the cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has remained at virtually the same level for several years, despite hopes that a large number of the American troops may leave Iraq by the end of the year.

The \$120 billion includes money for the fiscal year that began in October in the form of a \$70 billion supplemental spending request, which had been expected. It also includes \$50 billion in the overall budget request for the first months of the 2007 fiscal year that President Bush will submit to Congress on Monday, a figure that was described as basically a placeholder until a more specific number can be developed.

Over all, the Bush administration will propose a defence department budget of \$439.3 billion for the 2007 fiscal year, almost a 5% increase over this year, according to a Pentagon official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the budget request has not officially been submitted to the Congress.

The figure does not include the proposed new money for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which have been financed in stand-alone supplemental spending bills since 2001.

These costs include pay and benefits for reservists, war-related benefits for the active-duty military, fuel, spare parts, transportation and contractor support.

Secretary of defence Donald H Rumsfeld acknowledged the growing sentiment for reducing the 130,000 American troops in Iraq in a speech on Thursday at the National Press Club, but reiterated that any further reductions depend on improvements in conditions in Iraq.

"We ought to be able to pull down our troops, but anyone who predicts 100,000 or some other number, I think is making a mistake," he said. A large amount of the money in the supplemental request to Congress would be spent on training the new Iraqi military forces.

Steven M Kosiak, director of budget studies at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a research group here, said that up until this most recent request, the total cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan had been about \$331 billion since 9/11, 2001. Rumsfeld said terror groups remained determined to strike US. "The enemy while weakened and under pressure is still capable of global reach, still possesses the determination to kill Americans and is trying to do so with powerful weapons," the US secretary said. NYT News Service

4 FEB 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

BUSH SERVES 'US OPEN' AGENDA

Says America Can't Compete With India & China By Closing Its Economy, Borders

By Chidanand Rajghatta/TNN

Washington: Americans need to break their addiction to oil while getting their children hooked to math and science, President Bush said in the annual State of the Union address in which he laid down an agenda for reinvigorating the United States and retaining its primacy in the world.

Citing China and India as "new competitors" in a dynamic world economy, Bush said the way to meet the challenge was not to escape competition or wall off the economy and the borders, but to kindle America's inventive spirit with better education and breakthrough energy technologies, while continuing to accept legal immigration since the American economy could not function without immigrants.

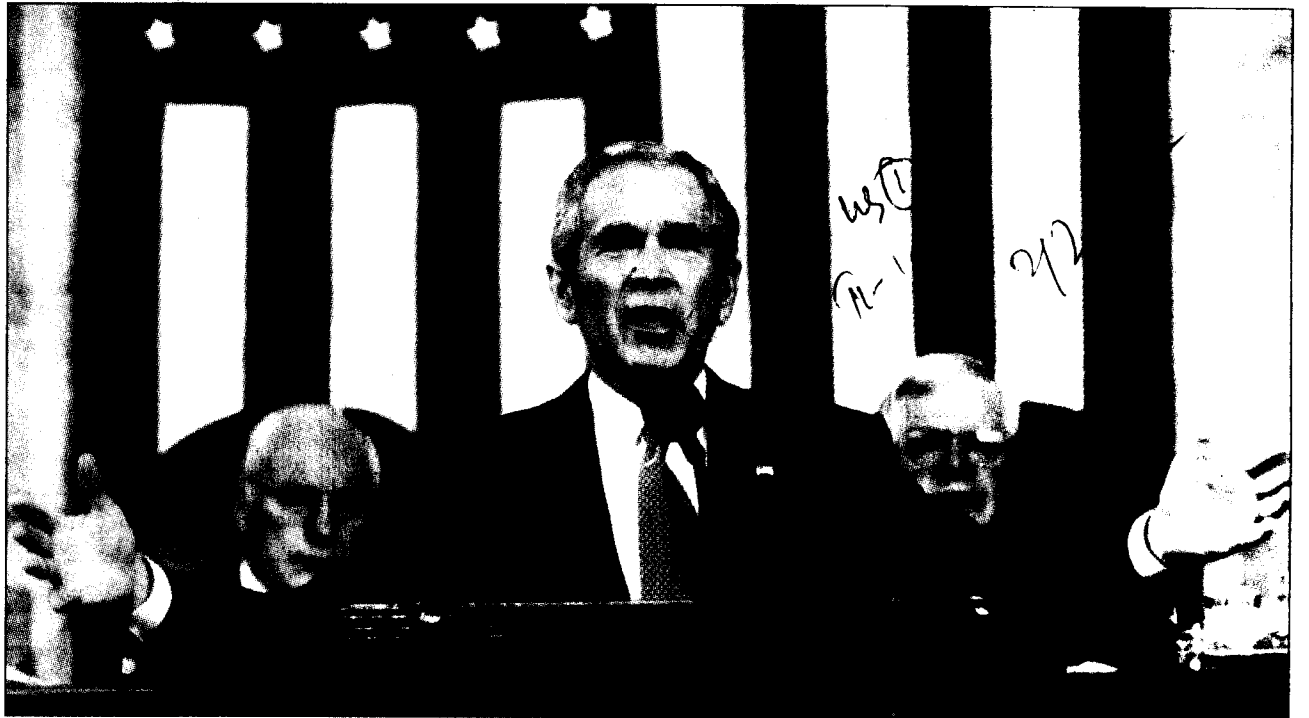
"In a complex and challenging time, the road of isolationism and protectionism may seem broad and inviting, yet it ends in danger and decline," Bush said in a 55-minute address delivered at a time his popularity is at an all-time low. "The only way to protect our people, the only way to secure the peace, the only way to control our destiny is by our leadership. So the United States will continue to lead."

Aside from the allusion to India in the economic context, Bush made no other reference to it—not the nuclear deal which he needs to push through Congress nor his upcoming visit to New Delhi. The US President strongly defended his administration's actions in Iraq saying America cannot find security by abandoning its commitments and retreating within its borders.

"If we were to leave these vicious attackers alone, they would not leave us alone. They would simply move the battlefield to our own shores. There is no peace in retreat. And there is no honour in retreat," Bush said.

SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ America should not be 'addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world'
- ▶ US kids need better math, science knowledge so future generations can compete with the world
- ▶ Iran is 'held hostage by a small clerical elite'. US offers close ties with 'a free and democratic Iran'
- ▶ 'State of our union is strong' despite worries about Iraq, economy, energy
- ▶ Hamas should recognise Israel, disarm



"In a complex and challenging time, the road of isolationism and protectionism may seem broad and inviting, yet it ends in danger and decline"

—US President George W Bush, State of the Union address

Bush bluntly cited radical Islam as the danger, saying terrorists like Osama bin Laden seek to "impose a heartless system of totalitarian control throughout the Middle East and arm themselves with weapons of mass murder".

He then glibly linked bin Laden to Iraq, saying, "Their aim is to seize power in Iraq and use it as a safe haven to launch attacks against America and the world."

In the context of the troubles in the Middle East and America's eroding competitiveness, Bush announced new initiatives in education and energy, including new investments in safe nuclear power (which has been on ice in the US after the Three Mile Island acci-



PEACE MOM BUSTED: Anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan is escorted out of the House before Bush's speech. She was taken in handcuffs to a nearby police HQ and charged with demonstrating in the Capitol building, a misdemeanour. Sheehan, an invitee of Democratic Representative Lynn Woolsey, had worn an anti-war T-shirt which she kept covered with a coat until she took her seat

dent).

He mentioned new wind and solar technologies, better hybrid, electric and hydrogen cars, and production of ethanol from a wider range of agricultural produce as some of the technologies Americans needed to master to reach the goal of replacing 75% of US oil imports from the Middle East by 2025.

Bush also proposed to train 70,000 high school teachers to lead Advanced Placement courses in math and science, and bring 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms and "give early help to students who struggle with math, so they have a better chance at good high-wage jobs".

"We need to encourage children to take more math and science and to make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other nations. If we ensure that America's children succeed in life, they will ensure that America succeeds in the world," Bush said, addressing an issue that has begun to animate America in recent months.

The US President's address was notable for its strong rejection of any isolationist tendency and an assertion for continued American leadership in the world, both in the economic and geo-strategic spheres.

- ▶ Bush should be tried in public, says Ahmadinejad, Page 15
- ▶ Eco race with India, Page 15

US nod for torture ban Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. — The House approved a defence bill that bans cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of terrorism suspects in US custody, putting on the brink of congressional approval a provision that the White House had threatened to veto until President Mr George W Bush reversed course last week. On a 374-41 vote yesterday, the House sent the sweeping measure setting Pentagon policies to the Senate, which planned to pass it this week.

Meanwhile scolded by US President Mr George W Bush for failing to renew the Patriot Act, lawmakers explored possibilities for a compromise to temporarily extend portions of the anti-terrorism law due to expire 31 December. Democrats have offered to extend the expiring provisions for three months or a little longer.

In another development, US Vice President Mr Dick Cheney decided today to cut short a tour of the Middle East to return to the USA to take part in critical session-ending business in the Senate. — AP

20 JAN 2006

THE STATESMAN

Patriot Act: Bush for permanent status

Washington: As the clock runs on Congress' short-term extension of the Patriot Act, President George W. Bush met with federal prosecutors and contended that the domestic anti-terror law is vital to keeping Americans safe.

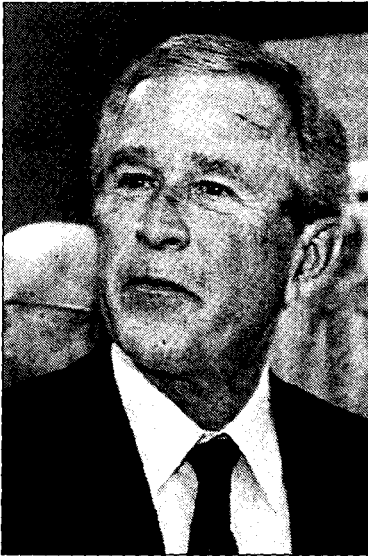
Many key provisions of the law were to expire on December 31. Amid a debate over whether the act sufficiently protects civil liberties, most Senate Democrats and a few Republicans united against legislation that would have renewed several provisions permanently while extending others for four years.

In a move the White House opposed but later accepted, Congress approved a one-month extension of the law in its current form to allow the debate to continue. The new measure expires on February 3.

Bush, his voice rising in apparent irritation, said on Tuesday that lawmakers must act on a permanent renewal of the law that expanded the government's surveillance and prosecutorial powers against suspected terrorists, their associates and financiers. Noting the Patriot Act was overwhelmingly approved not long after the 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, he said political considerations now were getting in the way.

"When it came time to renew the act, for partisan reasons, in my mind, people have not stepped up and have agreed that it's still necessary to protect the country," said the president, sitting at a table in the Roosevelt Room with federal officials and 19 US attorneys from around the country.

"The enemy has not gone away. They're still there. And I expect Congress to understand that we're still at war, and they got to



give us the tools necessary to win this war," he said.

Later, outside the West Wing, prosecutors cited several cases in which the Patriot Act had played a crucial role, from staging an undercover sting on California weapons dealers attempting to sell Stinger missiles to securing convictions of major terrorist financiers in New York.

"We use it each and every day to protect our country against terrorists and criminals," said Ken Wainstein, United States attorney for the District of Columbia.

"We believe this provides adequate safeguards in every respect," said Mary Beth Buchanan, the US attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Senator Russ Feingold, a Democrat, said Bush should spend more time negotiating about the Patriot Act with Democrats and others on Capitol Hill and less on "staged meetings with hand-picked participants" at the White House.

"Contrary to the president's misleading comments, nobody wants to see the Patriot Act expire," Feingold said. "We want common-sense changes to the act that would give the government the power to combat terrorism while protecting the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens."

The White House event drew 19 of the country's 93 US attorneys. They were contacted by officials at the Justice Department to attend, Wainstein said.

Among the provisions the renewal would make permanent are those that allow roving wiretaps so that investigators can listen in on any telephone and tap any computer they think a terrorist might use. AP

'US roped in Iraqis for WMD details'

Washington: A new book on the US government's secret anti-terrorism operations describes how the CIA recruited an Iraqi-American anaesthesiologist in 2002 to obtain information from her brother, who was a figure in Saddam Hussein's nuclear programme.

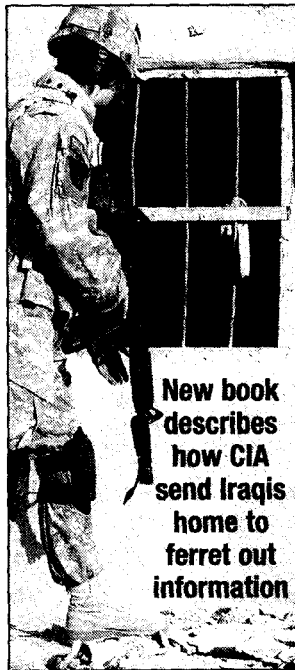
Dr Sawsan Alhaddad of Cleveland made the dangerous trip to Iraq on the CIA's behalf. The book said her brother was stunned by her questions about the nuclear programme because—he said—it had been dead for a decade.

New York Times reporter James Risen uses the anecdote to illustrate how the CIA ignored information that Iraq no longer had weapons of mass destruction. His book, *State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration* describes secret operations of the Bush administration's war on terrorism.

The major revelation in the book has already been the subject of extensive reporting by Risen's newspaper: the National Security Agency's eavesdropping of Americans' conversations without obtaining warrants from a special court.

The book said Dr Alhaddad flew home in mid-September 2002 and had a series of meetings with CIA analysts. She relayed her brother's information that there was no nuclear programme.

A CIA operative later told



New book describes how CIA send Iraqis home to ferret out information

Dr Alhaddad's husband that the agency believed her brother was lying. In all, the book says, some 30 family members of Iraqis made trips to their native country to contact Iraqi weapons scientists, and all of them reported that the programmes had been abandoned.

In October 2002, a month after the doctor's trip to Baghdad, the US intelligence community issued a National Intelligence Estimate that concluded Iraq was reconstituting its nuclear programme.

In the book, which quotes extensively from any-

mous sources, Risen said the NSA spying programme was launched in 2002 after the CIA began to capture high-ranking al-Qaida operatives overseas, and took their computers, cell phones and personal phone directories.

The CIA turned the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses from the material over to the NSA, which then began monitoring the phone numbers—in addition to anyone in contact with the telephone subscribers, the book said, saying this led to an expansion of the monitoring, both overseas and in the US.

The book said the NSA does not need approval from the White House, the Justice Department or anyone else in the Bush administration before it begins eavesdropping on a specific phone line in the US.

In another chapter on a 'rogue operation', the book said a CIA officer mistakenly sent one of its Iranian agents information that could be used to identify virtually every spy the agency had in Iran. The book said the Iranian was a double agent who turned over the data to Iranian security officials.

The book said the information severely damaged the CIA's Iranian network, and quoted CIA sources as saying several of the United States agents were arrested and jailed. AP

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Domestic spying programme essential: Bush

Senators Prepare For Hearings As White House Does Its Best To Defend The Controversial Order

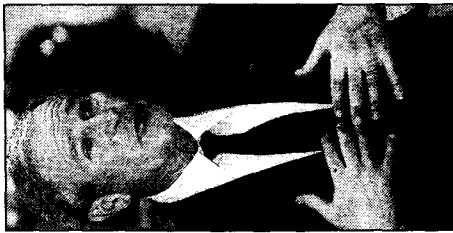
San Antonio (Texas): After spending hours visiting wounded troops suffering from what he described as the "horrible consequences" of war, President George W Bush minced no words in defending the domestic spying programme he authorised to foil terrorists.

"Some say, well maybe this isn't a war—maybe this is just a law enforcement operation. I strongly disagree," Bush said at Brooke Army Medical Centre where he answered reporters' questions about the eavesdropping programme set up after the Sept 11 attacks. "We're at war with an enemy that wants to hurt us again." In Washington, lawmakers are preparing for hearings into the domestic spying programme, which Bush contends does not involve widespread eavesdropping on Americans.

"This is a limited program designed to prevent attacks on the United States of America and, I repeat, limited," Bush said. "I think most Americans understand the need to find out what the enemy's thinking."

Four senators—two of them Republicans—indicated on Sunday that congressional hearings were appropriate for considering Bush's assertion that he had constitutional and congressional authority to authorise domestic wiretaps without a court order in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept 11, 2001.

"In the first few weeks we made many concessions in the Congress because we were at war and we were under attack," said Republican Senator Richard Lugar, the chairman of the foreign relations committee. "We still have the possibility of that going on, so we don't want to obviate all of this. But I think we want to see what, in the course of time, really works best." The New York Times reported last month that the National Security Agency had been conducting warrantless surveillance since 2002. Bush then acknowledged that he had authorised the NSA programme and pointed to informing congressional leaders and regular reviews by administration officials



I-word raises its head again

Washington: It's an explosive word that faded from the American political lexicon after Bill Clinton's presidency. But, cautiously, a few Democrats are whispering it again—Impeachment.

Could President George W. Bush be impeached—tried by Congress and possibly removed from office—for letting an intelligence agency spy in the United States without getting court approval?

That appears highly unlikely. It's debatable whether Bush broke any laws. Any decision to impeach would have to be made by Congress, which is controlled by Bush's Republican Party. And if Democrats pressed the matter, they would be taking a huge political gamble that could backfire. AP

involved telephone calls from "a few numbers" outside the United States by people associated with Al Qaida, the terrorist organisation that plotted the September 11 attacks. The White House later clarified Bush's remarks, saying he meant to say calls going to and originating from the United States were being monitored.

"It seems logical to me that if we know there's a phone number associated with Al Qaida or an Al Qaida affiliate and they're making phone calls, it makes sense to find out why," he said. "They attacked us before, they'll attack us again." Bush didn't answer a reporter's question about whether he was aware of any resistance to the program at high levels of his administration and how that might have influenced his decision to approve it.

The Times reported Sunday that a top justice department official objected in 2004 to aspects of the NSA programme and would not sign off on its continued use as required by the administration's guidelines. AP

as evidence of oversight for the programme. The justice department on Friday opened an investigation into the leak that resulted in news stories about the secret order to eavesdrop on Americans with suspected ties to

terrorists. "The fact that somebody leaked this programme causes great harm to the United States," Bush said before returning to Washington from a holiday break at his Texas ranch. "There's an enemy out there." Bush stressed that the surveillance