

Blair supports India's Security Council bid

WASHINGTON: British Prime Minister Tony Blair has come out strongly in favour of India's candidature for a permanent seat in an expanded United Nations Security Council but the United States appeared to be lukewarm to the idea "at this point."

"A Security Council which has

France as a permanent member, but not Germany; Britain, but not Japan; China, but not India — to say nothing of absence of proper representation from Latin America or Africa — cannot be legitimate in the modern world," Mr. Blair told students of Georgetown University here on Friday.

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"I used to think this problem was intractable. The competing interests are so strong. But I am now sure that we need reform. If necessary, let us agree of some form of interim change that can be a bridge to a future settlement. But we need to get it done," Mr. Blair said to a question.

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Asked to comment on Mr. Blair's statement, U.S. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said while discussions were taking place on a number of aspects related to the U.N., there was no change in the current American policy — of pushing only for Japan at the present. — PTI

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