

1995

January

Volume No

1995

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Foreign Affairs Record
VOL XLI No 1 January, 1995

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INA INDIA FINLAND IRAN KUWAIT USA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date : Jan 01, 1995

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CHINA

India, China Pact on Uranium Supply

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 05, 1995 on India-China pact on Uranium supply:

A commercial contract was concluded between the Department of Atomic Energy and China Nuclear Energy Industry corporation for supply of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS). A consignment of LEU from China was received in the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad on 5th January, 1995, where the LEU will be converted to fuel assemblies for use in TAPS.

TAPS will be operated with a fuel core of LEU and MOX (Mixed Oxide). The phased introduction of indigenously developed MOX fuel has been already initiated - two MOX fuel bundles were introduced in TAPS in June last year.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 05, 1995

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1995

FINLAND

Indo-Finnish Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1995 on Indo-Finnish Joint Commission meeting:

India has invited Finnish investment in power, oil exploration, Petro-Chemicals, food processing etc. The potentialities for Indo-Finnish bilateral trade are immense and they should be exploited. This was stated by the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, while addressing the Indo-Finnish Joint Commission meeting here today. Shri Mukherjee said that the macro-economic indicators in India were quite favourable and the response for more investments in various sectors was also very encouraging. The Finnish delegation at the Joint Commission meeting was led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Pertti Salolainen. Shri Mukherjee congratulated Finland for becoming a member of the European Union (EU), when the Finnish Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Pertti Salolainen, called on him,

The Commerce Minister said that the moot point was whether human

rights, environmental issues and international labour standards should be brought within the purview of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He said that there were serious distortions in the new GSP regime, where
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all sorts of conditionalities were being put especially the labour standards.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Finland said that India was on the threshold of a new industrial boom. He said Finland is putting greater emphasis on the Asian region than ever before.

The total volume of Indo-Finnish trade in 1993-94 stood at Rs. 312.08 crores (or US \$99.48 million). Of this, India's imports from Finland amounted to Rs. 219.42 crores and India's exports to Finland amounted to Rs. 92.66 crores.

NLAND INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Deputy Prime Minister of Finland calls on Shri N. K. P. Salve

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1995 on the meeting of Deputy Prime Minister of Finland with Shri N. K. P. Salve, Union Power Minister:

Finland has evinced interest in power development in India.

The offer was made by the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Trade of Finland, Mr. PERTTI SALOLAINEN when he called on the Union Power Minister Shri N. K.P. Salve here today. He told Shri Salve that Finland has specialised in environment friendly power generation techniques in both thermal and hydel sectors.

Shri Salve said that India will welcome any technology of power generation which does not have to depend on oil imports and can make use of the available resources within the country.

The business delegation accompanying the Finnish Deputy Prime Minister has since begun its exploratory talks for mutual

collaboration with representatives and experts in the Indian power sector.

NLAND INDIA USA

Date : Jan 11, 1995

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INDIA

International Conference on AIDS, Drugs and Alcoholism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1995 on International Conference on AIDS, Drugs & Alcoholism:

The President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, inaugurated The International Conference on AIDS, Drugs and Alcohol here.

Speaking on the occason, the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C. Silvera said that the Government was doing its best to create necessary awareness about AIDS, the latest scourge facing mankind. He added that the Government had always welcomed the participation and active cooperation of the non-governmental organisations all over the country in the efforts to combat the dangers posed by AIDS, Alcoholism and Drug Abuses.
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DIA USA

Date : Jan 23, 1995

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1995

IRAN

Eighth Session of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued by the MEA in New Delhi on Jan 02, 1995 on The Iranian Foreign Minister

meeting with Prime Minister:

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati called on the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao here today and conveyed the greetings and good wishes of President, Rafsanjani. He said the Iranian side would like to work with the Indian side to re-schedule the postponed visit of the President. The Prime Minister said that we had been looking forward to receiving President Rafsanjani and would be glad to welcome him when the visit is rescheduled.

The Iranian Foreign Minister mentioned various possibilities in Iran-India economic interaction such as the gaspipeline project. The Prime Minister told his visitor that we were ready to collaborate with Iran in this field and that the two sides should work to identify and concretise various projects. The Iranian Foreign Minister further mentioned possibilities of cooperation in the railway sector, especially in relation is transit to central Asian countries. The Prime Minister was of the view that India would be willing to collaborate with Iran with the expertise that India possessed in this field. The Prime Minister suggested that the Iranian side should work out concrete possibilities with the Indian authorities concerned.

The Prime Minister conveyed his greetings and good wishes to President Rafsanjani and asked the Iranian Foreign Minister to convey to the President that the Indian side would be working to make the President's visit to India fruitful and successful.

The Iranian Foreign Minister was accompanied by the Iranian Ambassador to India.

AN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 02, 1995

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1995

IRAN

Maritime Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 03, 1995:

A bilateral Maritime Agreement providing for expanded shipping services between India and Iran was signed by the Foreign

Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler, in Delhi today. Agreed Minutes of the various Committees of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission were also signed. However, a Memorandum of Understanding based on the meetings of the Joint Commission is presently being finalised and will be signed by the two sides on the morning of January 4, 1995.

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AN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 03, 1995

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IRAN

India-Iran Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1995 on India-Iran Joint Commission:

The 8th Session of India-Iran Joint Commission took place in New Delhi on 24 January 1995. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Iranian delegation by the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati.

In the course of his stay in Delhi, the Iranian Foreign Minister called on President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. External Affairs Minister hosted a dinner for the visiting Iranian dignitary.

A Maritime Commercial Navigation Agreement between India and Iran was signed in New Delhi on January 3, by Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler and Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Velayati. The Agreement is expected to give a further fillip to shipping services between the two countries.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the bilateral relations was undertaken. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the level of political understanding in the recent period. They expressed the hope that further momentum will be created in the bilateral relations in the period ahead. In this regard they emphasised the importance of sustained high level exchanges between the two countries.

The Iranian side has proposed an early State Visit by the President of Iran to India. The Indian side welcomed the proposal. The dates of the visit will be determined through diplomatic channels.

During the Joint Commission, the subcommittee met relating to the fields of agriculture, trade, industry, transport and communications, petroleum and consular cultural, scientific and technical cooperation.

The two sides have agreed on wideranging cooperation in the field of agriculture and rural development which include training of Iranian experts in the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) in Hyderabad, Indian assistance in training courses in fisheries in Iranian institutions, joint ventures for fishing in the Indian EEZ, deputation of Indian horticulture experts to Iran, Indian import of ewes and rams of Awassi sheep from Iran for improved milk production, exchange of research publications, sharing of experience in desertification control and prevention of sand-dune movement, visits by Iranian farmers to India to study farming methods, and Indian expertise for serum and vaccine production in Iran.

The sub-committee on trade expressed satisfaction over the expansion in bilateral trade and identify the potentials for further growth. The Iran India Chamber of Commerce will have its inaugural session in March 1995 during the visit of the President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce to India. The two sides agreed to take measures to remove all non-tariff restrictions on ships and their cargo berthing at their ports. India and Iran have also agreed to negotiate a multilateral agreement on transit trade between the two countries and Central Asia for which further discussions will take place shortly in Tehran.

The sub-committee on industry identified for joint venture cooperation certain specific areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, textiles, machine tools, auto parts, leather, etc. Iranian delegations would be visiting India to discuss concrete

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proposals. Ways and means of cooperation in the field of research, training and engineering activities in different industrial sectors also came up for discussion.

The sub-committee on transport and communication agreed that the formal contract agreement for approximately US \$ 25 million Ahwaz-Bandar-e-Imam Signalling Project to be executed by IRCON will be concluded by end-January, 1995.

The sub-committee on petroleum reviewed the progress relating to a natural gas pipeline project from Iran to India. The selection of the consultant for undertaking the pre-feasibility study will be decided by the joint working committee in Tehran later this

month. A team of Indian experts will visit Iran to examine LPG production facilities and explore the possibility of Indian investment in this field.

The sub-committee on cultural, scientific and consular cooperation decided that a cultural exchange programme for the period 1995-97 will be concluded shortly.

Discussions were held in a friendly atmosphere. The two sides shared the belief that for speedier implementation of decisions taken in the Joint Commission forum, periodic reviews would be useful. It was decided that the first such review would take place in Delhi in March/April. The next meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in Tehran.

Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati will be addressing the CII plenary session in Calcutta on January 4.

AN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 04, 1995

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1995

IRAN

Indo-Iranian Cooperation in Agricultural Research

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1995 on Indo-Iranian Cooperation in Agricultural Research:

India will provide training to Iranian agricultural students and to experts in the field of fisheries, rural development, rural cooperatives etc. This was agreed to at the Eighth Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Ministerial Commission and the meeting of the Committee of agriculture and rural development. The agreed minutes of the meeting was signed on 3rd January, 1995 by Shri G. S. Sahni, Joint Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India and Dr. Javed Mir, Director General for International Affairs of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Under the Agreement, Iran will train Indian scientists in the breeding, hatchery and culture of rainbow trout. Both sides have also agreed to set up joint ventures in the field of deep-sea fishing, subtropical forest management, desertification control

and prevention of sand dune movement. The other areas agreed for cooperation include production and expansion of vaccines of various animal diseases and exchange of germplasm of horticultural crops and animal species.

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AN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 09, 1995

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KUWAIT

Visit of Kuwaiti Oil Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1995 regarding visit of Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Abdul Mohsen Medej al-medej to India:

Kuwaiti Oil Minister His Excellency Dr. Abdul Mohsen Medej al-Medej is to begin a 4-day official visit to India tomorrow (January 11, 1995) at the invitation of Captain Satish Sharma, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas. He would be accompanied by a 9-member delegation comprising high-level officials from Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

During the visit, the two sides would hold in depth discussions about integration of the oil sectors of the two countries. The Kuwaiti Minister would be calling on the President. He would also hold meetings with Minister of Finance Dr. Manmohan Singh, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Ram Laxhan Singh Yadav and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia. H.E. Dr. al-Medej is also scheduled to address FICCI.

The supply of Kuwaiti oil and oil-products to India has an overwhelming share of the bilateral trade which stood at Rs. 3865 crores in 1993-94. (Indian exports: Rs. 331 crore; Indian imports: Rs. 3534 crore). Thanks to nearly \$ 1.1 billion worth of Kuwaiti hydrocarbons imported by India, the trade was 9:1 in Kuwait's favour. In other words, India provided nearly 10% of Kuwaiti oil revenue in the year. In the most recent period of April-September 1994 for which India's trade data is available, Kuwaiti oil related exports surged to Rs. 2147 crores.

Kuwait has shown interest in investing in joint venture

refineries in India and the discussions between IOC and KPC are at an advanced stage. The visit by Kuwaiti Oil Minister is likely to give a fillip to such tie ups.

Relevant to note that H.E. Dr. al-medej, is also ex-officio deputy chairman of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) which is regarded at world's largest government foreign investor.

WAIT INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 10, 1995

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KUWAIT

Kuwaiti Delegation to Visit India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1995 regarding visit of Kuwaiti delegation to India:

A Kuwaiti delegation led by their Minister of Oil H.E. Dr. Abdul Mohsin Medej Al-Medej is visiting India from 11th January to 14th January, 1995.

During the four day's stay in India, the visiting Kuwaiti Oil Minister is scheduled to have official talks with the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas on the possibilities of cooperation between Kuwait and India in oil and natural gas sectors. Besides the official talks, detailed discussions on various sub-sectoral areas like refining, exploration and consultancy services will also be held between the officials of the both sides on 11th and 12th January, 1995. The Kuwaiti Oil Minister is also expected to address a meeting organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 12th January. 1995.

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The visit of the Kuwaiti Oil Minister to India is expected to provide impetus to strengthen and diversify the economic and trade cooperation particularly in the oil sector between the two countries.

WAIT INDIA USA

Date : Jan 10, 1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1995 on the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mr. William J. Perry:

US Secretary of Defence, William J. Perry, will be visiting India from January 12 to 14, 1995. He will be accompanied by a number of senior civil and military officials of the US Department of Defence and State Department. This is the first visit after the end of the Cold War of a US Defence Secretary. This visit flows from our Prime Minister's visit to USA. Defence Secretary Perry had called on our Prime Minister and had suggested closer defence related cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister had welcomed the visit of Defence Secretary Perry. After discussions the agreed minutes are expected to be signed in three parts during this visit. Part I would be Service to Service. Part II would be Civil to Civil and Part III would be on joint production. Beginnings of such cooperation were made with the MOU of 1984, the LCA in 1987 and the Kicklighter proposals of the early 1990s.

Defence Secretary Perry will also visit Jodhpur and Agra for tourism and witness exercises of our Air Force and Army.

There has been rapid progress in strengthening Indo-US relations. Several high level exchanges have taken place over the full range of political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological issues. The Indo-US defence cooperation is not directed at any third country. India also does not look for external assistance to handle any of its security problems. The Indo US defence cooperation is expected to make a positive contribution to the security and stability of the region and also promote maintenance of international peace and security. The two sides will also discuss UN peace keeping operations.

No contentious issues are to be discussed and there is to be no compromise on any of our national positions or on our specific security perceptions.

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Statement on Defence Secretary Perry's visit

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1995 regarding the visit of the Defence Secretary Mr. Perry to India:

The agreed minutes is the first document between the two Defence Ministries of India and USA in the post-cold war period.

Service-to-service cooperation has already existed since the army-to-army General Kick-lighter's proposals of the early 1990s, which were later expanded to the Navy and the Air Force. These envi

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sage exchange of visits, training facilities, observing exercises, joint exercises, and participation in seminars. Civil-to-civil contacts between the two Defence Ministries is normal, and is intended to supervise and give guidance where necessary, to the service-to-service working groups. In both countries, as in all genuine democracies, civil and political leadership exercise supervision and control over the military. Joint production cooperation, which is the third aspect covered in the agreed minutes, is also not new and dates back to the mid-1980s and the important Light Combat Aircraft project in which the two countries have been working together successfully. It is hoped to expand such cooperation in other such fields of benefit to India. These fields would be determined by MOD and discussed further with USA in the context of the agreed minutes.

The agreed minutes represent a step forward and give formal shape to what is already envisaged or has been in force.

Perry's visit is in the context of Prime Minister's visit to USA last May, and the call made by Dr. Perry on Prime Minister then. It is part of a growing series of exchange of visits which, we hope, will continue in the context of "new partnership" decided in the Rao-Clinton Joint Statement.

Non-proliferation, nuclear and missile issues did not figure in

the morning's discussions.

Dr. Perry Paid a courtesy call on the Home Minister, followed by delegation-to-delegation discussions.

In the latter, Dr. Perry referred to three objectives of his visit, the first being the signing of the agreed minutes, second, discussions on peace-keeping operations, and third, readiness to be transparent and inform us of his discussions with Russia, China and Pakistan. Dr. Perry stated that he came to India "as a friend" and to strengthen the bilateral relationship. He was ready to be open about what USA was doing in their own country and what they were doing with other countries also. He felt that more discussions at official level could take place on peace-keeping operations under the UN flag, particularly on the mandate and management of these operations. He felt that defence relationship was a part of the overall atmosphere of improving bilateral ties in the economic and trade areas.

DIA USA RUSSIA CHINA PAKISTAN

Date : Jan 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Government of Pakistan T0hanks Water Resources Ministry fortimely supply of Flood Warning

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1995:

The Government of Pakistan have profusely thanked the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India for its humanitarian action in timely supply of advance information on flood flows in the rivers in Indus basin to Pakistan. It was at the behest of the Union Minister for Water Resource and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla that timely information about flood flows in the rivers was communicated on telephone and through Radio Jammu broadcasts.

Syed Jamait Ali Shah, Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters has communicated in a letter that the information on

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floods supplied by the Government of India has been very useful in flood management in the areas covered by the Indus Water

Treaty, 1960. The arrangements for providing these flood warnings were made free of cost on humanitarian ground from July to October, 1994 as a gesture of cooperation and good neighbourly relationship.

The Indus Water Treaty, 1960, between India and Pakistan provides that each party shall communicate to the other party as far advance as practicable any information it may have in regard to extraordinary discharges of water from reservoirs and flood flows that may effect the other party.

India has been providing flood warning messages to Pakistan since 1962 for rivers Jhelum, Tawi, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The warnings on low floods were communicated at an interval of every six hours, medium flood at every three hours and high flood every hour round the clock from July to October, 1994.

KISTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 09, 1995

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PAKISTAN

Statement by Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs, on closure of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1995:

As a consequence of the deplorable decision of the Government of Pakistan to close the Consulate General of India in Karachi this month, some delay in issuing visas has become unavoidable. The main sufferers will be the Pakistani nationals in the areas previously covered by our Consulate General in Karachi.

We are taking all possible measures to see that visas are issued by our High Commission in Islamabad as quickly as possible, especially in cases of proven emergency. In such cases, as a special measure, short term visas would be issued without pre-verification and on priority basis. It will also be our endeavour to see that members of divided families do not suffer unduly. We continue to be committed to promote people-to-people contact despite the obvious negativism of the Pakistani authorities.

In accordance with the 1974 visa agreement, I would like to reiterate our readiness to discuss with Pakistan the reopening of

the Khokhrapar-Munabao checkpoint so that people on both sides have this facility to travel more conveniently.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 12, 1995

Volume No

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SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan Minister calls on Shri Chaturvedi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1995 on Sri Lankan Minister for Science and Technology meeting with Shri Bhuvnesh Onaturvedi, Minister of State for Science and Technology:

A high level delegation led by Mr. Bernard Soysa, Sri Lankan Minister for
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Science and Technology and Human Resources Development called on Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Minister of State for Science and Technology here today and discussed matter of mutual interest in the areas of Wind Power Technology, Solar Energy and AIDS Research. Cooperation in Science and Technology will be further discussed at length during the meetings of the Science and Technology Sub-Commission scheduled shortly in Colombo.

Shri Soysa will visit scientific institutions in India of direct relevance to Sri Lanka's requirements. Mr. Soysa is wellknown for his pro-Indian views. He is a hero of the 1942 Quit India Movement and was honoured during the Quit India Commemoration year.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Successful conclusion of Market Access Talks with the U S A and E. C.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1995:

India has signed two separate agreements with the U.S.A. and the E.C. on 31st December, 1994, bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the Market Access consultations in textiles, which had been in progress for some time. These discussions were held with a view to facilitate trade in textile products between India and the USA and E.U. countries. At present, more than two thirds of India's total textile exports go to these countries.

These Agreements, which come into force prior to the establishment of the WTO and the beginning of the countdown for the dismantling of the M.F.A. provide very significant additional market access in these two major markets (U.S.A. and E.U.) for Indian textile products. In particular, the agreements are expected to provide a fillip to Handloom and Powerloom production and exports, which are of high priority, because of their direct linkage with employment generation. These agreements also signify the resolve of the partners to expand their trade and economic relations in a mutually beneficial manner.

Salient Features of the Agreement

INDO-US AGREEMENT

The Agreement with the U.S.A. has resulted in the following:

a) The current specific limit on category 369-0, comprising other cotton madeups, has been removed. This will amount to removal of restraints on 20% of the total quotas in the U.S.A., as this category accounts for 20% of our total quotas. This category is used predominantly for the export of handloom made-ups and will provide a considerable additional incentive for handloom exports.

b) The base level of Category 342642 (ladies skirts), for which India is the largest supplier to the U.S.A. has been increased by 5% In addition a special swing of 10% from any specific limit or the Group II limit has been allowed into this category. It has also been provided with 15% special carry forward for three consecutive years beginning in 1995. In addition, 10% special carry forward will be provided for three consecutive years beginning in 1998.

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c) The base levels for categories 218 (yarn dyed fabrics), 219 (duck fabrics), 313 (cotton sheeting) & 347348 (trousers, slacks

and shorts) have been increased by 5%.

d) Category 363 (terry towels), which is primarily a powerloom product did not have the facility of invoking any swing so far. Thus though this category is being utilised fully and there is a great demand for additional quotas, the possibility of borrowing from other categories hitherto did not exist. The U.S.A. has now agreed to provide 5% swing into category 363, from any other category, which effectively ensures 5% additional quotas for this product.

e) The swing into categories 335635 (women's and girl's coats) and 340640 (men's shirts have been increased to 7%.

f) Upon elimination of the specific limit on category 369-0, the U.S.A. has agreed to provide swing into Group-II upto 15% providing a corresponding reduction in SME's in one or more specific limits in Group-I is made. In addition, special swing of 5% shall be available into the Group-II limit calculated on the base level of Group-II) from category 369-S (shop towels) and 369-D (dish towels) only, provided a corresponding reduction in square meters equivalent in category 369-D and 369-D is made. The 5% special swing from categories 369-S and 369-D into Group-II shall be one way only. The maximum swing and special swing to categories 369-D and 369-S shall remain at 7%.

g) The base level of Group-II, which comprises more than 80 different categories of yarns, fabrics, made-ups and apparel, has been increased to 84 million square meters equivalent. This increase will help made-up and garment exports from the handloom and powerloom sectors in particular.

h) Additional 5% quotas have been given in categories 334634 (men's and boy's coats) 351651 (pyjamas and nightwear) for 100% cotton garments made of handloom fabrics.

i) A 10% special shift has been provided between categories 369-S and 369-D.

j) The special shift into category 313 (cotton sheeting) has been increased to 10 %.

k) A special carry forward of 10% has been provided for category 218 for 1994 only.

l) All outstanding issues relating to the export of "ghagras" have been resolved.

INDO-E.C. AGREEMENT

The main features of the Indo-E.C. Agreement are as follows:

- a) E.C. has removed with immediate effect, all restraints on India's exPorts of handloom and cottage industry products.
- b) Exceptional flexibilities of 7000 M.T. for the period 1995-97 and 8000 M.T. for the period 1998-2004 have been provided to India by the E.C. over and above the existing flexibilities available under the present arrangements, for any or all of the categories of Indian exports under restraint. This represents around 3.5% of our total annual level for the E.U.
- c) For the two new categories 23 (artificial fibre yarn) & 24 (nightwear), which had come under restraint in 1994, the base level provided for annual quotas from 1995 onwards is over 50% higher than the prevailing level of India's exports to the E.U. under these categories.
- d) E.C. has also made a commitment for providing special Outward Processing Traffic (OPT) quotas amounting to 10% of the overall quantitative limits under categories 7 (ladies blouses).

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8 (men's shirts), 27 (ladies skirts) and 29 (ladies suits and ensembles), which would provide for additional opportunities for Indian exports outside the restraint currently applicable.

TRADE FACILITIES GIVEN BY INDIA

In order to accommodate some of the concerns of the other side, India has agreed to give a phased tariff liberalisation schedule for certain items with the W.T.O. at varying rates, for periods commencing from 3 to 7 years. In addition, India has also agreed to open up its market for textile products, in a phased manner, in keeping with its policy of making available raw materials at internationally competitive prices as also globalisation of the economy in order to make it compete with the best in the world.

The salient features of the facilities extended by India are as follows:

a) Fibres

For all fibres listed in the Agreements, the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 35%
- iii) 1-1-2000 20%

These fibres will also be put on the O.G.L. list with immediate effect. It may be mentioned that apart from Polyester Stable Fibre (PSF), all other major fibres are already under the O.G.L.

b) Yarns

For all the yarns covered in the Agreements, the staging of tariff reduction and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 40%
- iii) 1-1-1999 20%

These yarns will also be put on the O.G.L. list with immediate effect. It may be added that except for cotton yarn and Woollen yarn, all the other

major yarn groups are already under the O.G.L. As regards cotton yarn, India is one of the major exporters and our conversion costs are also one of the lowest in the world. Besides, cotton has already been put under the O.G.L. with zero duty sometimes back.

c) Fabrics

For certain industrial fabrics listed in the Agreement, the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 40%
- iii) 1-1-2000 25%

These industrial fabrics will also be placed on the O.G.L. list with immediate effect.

For other fabrics listed in the Agreement, the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 45%
- iii) 1-1-2000 40%
- iv) 1-1-2002 35%

All these fabrics will be put on the S.I.L. list with immediate effect and on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.2000.

However, for certain select fabrics, the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 40%
- iii) 1-1-1999 30%

These fabrics will be put on the S.I.L. (Special Import Licence) list with immediate effect and on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.1998.

d) Made-ups

For made-ups listed in the Agreements, the staging of tariff

reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
 - ii) 1-1-1998 40%
 - iii) 1-1-2000 35%
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These made-ups will be put on the S.I.L. list with immediate effect and on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.2002.

However, for some select made-ups the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 65%
- ii) 1-1-1998 40%
- iii) 1-1-1999 35%

All these made-ups will be out on the S.I.L. list with immediate effect. A select few of these will be put on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.1998. The rest will be put under the O.G.L. on 1.1.2000.

e) Apparel

For apparel items listed in the Agreements, the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follows:

- i) 1-1-1995 70%
- ii) 1-1-1998 50%
- iii) 1-1-2000 40%

These apparel items will be put on the S.I.L. list with immediate effect and on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.2002.

However, for some select apparel items the staging of tariff reductions and bindings will be as follow:

- i) 1-1-1995 70%
- ii) 1-1-1998 50%
- iii) 1-1-2000 35%

These apparel items will be put on the S.I.L. list with immediate effect and on the O.G.L. list on 1.1.2000.

SAFEGUARD (SNAP-BACK) CLAUSE

The Agreements between India and the U.S.A. and the E.C. also provide a safeguard clause. If the integration process envisaged for the developed countries in the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the Uruguay Round, does not materialise in full or is delayed for reasons inconsistent with the ATC, the tariff levels India will revert to the level prevailing on January 1, 1990.

PROVISION FOR DISCOURAGING LOW PRICED POOR QUALITY IMPORTS

In the Agreements, India has clearly indicated its intention to discourage the entry of low priced and poor quality textile products from abroad, because these would not in any way help make its industry more competitive on a global scale. This objective is going to be achieved through the mechanism of putting a specific duty as an alternative to the ad-valorem duty and making the one which is higher, applicable.

LIKELY INCREASE IN INDIA'S TEXTILE EXPORTS

India's textile exports account for around 30% of the country's total exports. Textile exports has been one of the most dynamic sectors of our economy and it has shown a steady growth during the past several years. With the signing of the Agreements, India has been assured of significantly higher access to the markets of its two most important trading partners. Of course, our exporters will also have to show the same dynamism and vigour that they have exhibited in the past, to utilise the additional access gained and add to our foreign exchange earnings. It has been worked out that if the additional quotas are utilised, it would result in additional earnings of around Rs. 1100 Crores per annum in the initial year. Because of the growth factors built into the ATC, the additional access achieved will get magnified to a certain extent in the second and third phases of integration and would provide larger earnings during these periods.

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A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC URUGUAY

Date : Jan 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Commerce Secretary's visit from 14 January

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1995 regarding U.S. Commerce Secretary's visit to India:

The US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Ronald H. Brown, is visiting India from 14th to 20th January, 1995. The visit is a sequel to

the visit of the Prime Minister to USA in May 1994 and has been categorised by the US Government as a Presidential Business Development Mission. Apart from Delhi, Mr. Brown will also be visiting Bangalore and Bombay. Mr. Brown's delegation will include senior officials of the US Department of Commerce, Energy and 25 Chief Executive Officers of the US Mega Corporations. The CEOs will be representing various infrastructure sectors like power, aviation, telecommunication and also sectors of financial services, food processing etc.

In November, 1994 Mr. Jeffrey Garten, Under Secretary in the US Department of Commerce, had come to India to prepare for the Presidential Business Development Mission led by Mr. Brown. During the official discussions at various levels, it was agreed that the two governments would work towards forging better commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries. In conformity with this thinking the mission led by Mr. Brown has largest ever business delegation visiting India. The visit assumes added significance with both India and USA having joined WTO as founding members and recent signing of the Indo-US MOU on market access in textiles on 31.12.1994.

Ministry of Commerce is the host Ministry for the visit of Mr. Brown's delegation. During his visit, Mr. Brown will be calling on the Prime Minister. He will also have meetings with Commerce Minister, Finance Minister and other Ministers.

As part of the programme, a conference of Indo-US Commercial Alliance is being organised in New Delhi. The conference will have Plenary Session followed by sectoral working groups. The five sectors identified are (1) power (2) Telecommunications (3) Financial Services (4) Infrastructure and (5) Agro business.

The highlight of the Bangalore programme of Mr. Brown is a meeting with the Chief Minister of Karnataka and a technology round-table. During the visit of the delegation to Bombay, apart from meeting the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, a Financial Business Services Round-table is also scheduled. Mr. Brown will also be interacting with Indian entrepreneurs. It is expected that the visit of Mr. Brown will give further fillip to expanding IndoUS commercial ties.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

Agreed Minute on Defence Relations between India and the United States

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1995 on agreement on Defence relations between India and the U.S.:

The Government of India and the United States of America recognize the importance of enhancing our defence cooperation as an important part of our overall bilateral relationship. Following the May 1994 meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Rao, a new partnership was directed. Our shared tradition of strong civilian control of the Military, our deep commitment to UN peacekeeping missions, and our mutual concerns about new threats to international security ensure appropriate conditions for ex-

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panding Indo-U.S. military cooperation and contacts to our mutual benefit. The growth of bilateral defence relations in New areas will be evolutionary and related to convergence on global and regional issues. The enhanced defence cooperation between our two countries is designed to make a positive contribution to the security and stability of Asia. These measures will also promote the maintenance of international peace and security in the post-Cold War world.

2. It is agreed that such defence cooperation will cover civilian-to-civilian cooperation, service-to-service cooperation and cooperation in defence research and production. All efforts will be made for concurrent progress in all three areas of cooperation. The civilian-to-civilian group will provide overall guidance to the other two elements. Existing bilateral Steering Groups within the Services of both countries will expand on their existing programmes. The defence production and research cooperation element will include a new Joint Technical Group that will follow the policy guidance established by the civilian-to-civilian group.

CIVILIAN-TO-CIVILIAN COOPERATION

3. Both sides agreed that military-to-military ties should be supplemented by periodic consultations between senior civilian officials in the Indian Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the U.S. Department of Defence within the Office of the Secretary of Defence (OSD). The MOD-OSD Policy Group meetings will include representatives, as necessary, from other government agencies on both sides, such as the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and the U.S. Department of State. These consultations would serve to review issues of joint concern such as post-Cold War security planning and policy perspectives on both sides, to provide policy

guidance to the Joint Technical Group supporting cooperation in defence research and production, to resolve policy issues that are raised by the Service-to-Service Steering Groups, and to promote senior-level civilian exchanges as well as joint seminar between the two sides on defence and security issues. The first meeting of the MOD-OSD Policy Group will take place in Spring 1995.

SERVICE-TO-SERVICE COOPERATION

4. The cooperation begun in 1990 between the Indian and U.S. armies, navies, and air forces has, been encouraging. The establishment, of Service Steering Groups, the exchanges of high level visits and the holding of several joint exercises has not only forged closer ties between the military professions of both countries but has also bolstered improvements in overall IndoU.S. bilateral relations. It was agreed that the emphasis of such Service-to-Service cooperation will be on professional contacts and functional cooperation, including increased frequency and scope of high level exchanges, the presence of observers at each other's military exercises, attendance at seminars on subjects of mutual professional interest, professional technical training and joint exercises at progressively higher levels of scale and sophistication.

5. From the Indian side, the cooperation programmes in each of the three Services will be implemented by the respective Service Headquarters. For the United States, the Service programmes will be implemented through the Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Command, who has delegated the responsibility to the component commander for each Service. This will be supplemented by senior staff officer visits by both sides, inter alia to promote interactions between the Indian Armed Forces Headquarters and other US military agencies/commands, as appropriate. The Service programmes for future cooperation should continue to be worked out in the Army, Navy, and Air Force steering groups already in existence, and should focus on implementing agreed upon exercises and other joint efforts and planning for future cooperation. The emphasis of this planning should be on elevating and expanding existing programmes, taking into account resource constraints on both sides.

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DEFENCE RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION COOPERATION

6. Defence research and production cooperation will also be an integral part of our bilateral defence relationship. Existing technical and production cooperation activities, such as the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, have been encouraging and will be continued. The scope and content of further expansion of cooperative defence research and production activities, in accordance with the laws, policies and agreements of each country, will be developed by a Joint Technical Group (JTG)

composed of senior professionals from the two countries. To ensure consistency with the development of the overall bilateral relationship, the MOD-OSD Policy Group will provide appropriate policy guidance to the JTG. The first JTG meeting will follow the MOD-OSD Policy Group meeting scheduled for Spring of 1995.

PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

7. In order to promote defence cooperation activities, the two sides will begin early consultations with a view to arriving at a bilateral agreement on the mutual protection of classified information.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Trade and Investment - A Statistical Update

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1995 on Indo-US Trade and investment:

INDO-US TRADE

The United States is India's largest trading partner, accounting for 18% of the country's export and 12% of its imports. Thus, the US plays a predominant role in India's trade. On the other hand, India accounts for only 0.6% of USA's total exports and imports.

(Value in US \$ billion)

Year	Exports	Imports	Bilateral trade	Balance
of trade				
1987-88	2.252	1.544	3.796	(+)0.708
1988-89	2.574	2.237	4.811	(+)0.337
1989-90	2.687	2.559	5.246	(+)0.128
1990-91	2.673	2.923	5.596	(-)0.250
1991-92	2.943	2.010	4.953	(+)0.933
1992-93	3.516	2.147	5.663	(+)1.369
1993-94	3.981	2.719	6.700	(+)1.262

The major items of India's exports to the US are textiles and apparels, diamonds, jewellery and precious stones, shrimps and

prawns, cashewnuts, handicrafts, naptha, dyestuffs, auto tyres etc. The major items imported from the US at present include fertilisers, aircrafts, turbo jets, aircraft parts, machinery parts, malt extracts, soyabean oil, automatic data processing machines, electronic goods, wood pulp, parts of railway locomotives etc.

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT & US INVESTMENT IN INDIA

Approvals for direct foreign investment rose from \$ 235 million in 1991 and \$ 1385 million in 1992 to \$ 2851 million in 1993 and \$ 3782 million in 1994 (upto November). Out of these, the share of USA as percentage of total direct foreign investment approvals works out to more than 31% in 1992 and more than 39% in 1993.

Year Investment approved (in US \$ million)				Percentage of total investment approved	
With US (US \$ ml)		(With all countries) (Rs. ml)			
91	81.91	1858.5	235.40	5341.1	34.80
92	438.69	12315.0	1384.85	38875.4	31.68
93	1114.11	34618.8	2851.13	88593.3	39.08
94	637.48	19998.3	3781.66*	118634.6	16.86

(upto Nov.)
 *Includes 21 proposals from GDR involving investment of Rs. 49464.88 million.
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A study of foreign collaborations with US companies shows that collaborations investments have been dominated by the fuel, financial and non-financial services and electrical equipment sector. Other sectors are food processing industry, metallurgical industries, chemicals, industrial machinery etc.

(Issued on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Ronald Brown, US Commerce Secretary, to India - 14-20 January, 1995).

New Delhi, dated January 16, 1995 (Pausa 26, 1916)

A INDIA

Date : Jan 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MOU on Indo-US Commercial Alliance signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1995:

India and the United States have agreed to set up the US-India Commercial Alliance to provide a framework for increased interaction between the private sector enterprise of both countries for expanding business relations. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for setting up of this Alliance was signed here today by the visiting US Commerce Secretary, Mr. Ronald Brown and the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The activities of the Alliance will centre around developing business-to-business links in specific sectors, which may include information technology, transportation infrastructure, food processing and packaging and power. These Business Alliances will implement trade or business development and promotion programmes including trade meetings, conferences, seminars etc. They will adopt sectoral or project oriented approaches to the expansion of business opportunities and take any other action for the achievement of their goals subject to US and Indian alliance. The initiatives for fostering the Indo-US commercial relations will be taken by the private sector under this Alliance who would develop the work plan and working procedures for the Business Alliances. The Business Alliances will report their activities to the Board of Alliance which will represent a balanced number of businessmen from India and US and the Board in turn will report to the two governments. This will provide the private sector of both countries with additional channels to communicate with officials of both the governments. The Alliance has been constituted for a period of 2 years for the present, subject to review thereafter.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mukherjee said that the Alliance signed today translated into action the shared objective of further development and strengthening of commercial, trade and investment ties between US and Indian private sectors. "It is our hope that this Alliance will lay the foundation for mutually beneficial commercial ties between the 2 largest democracies of the world", the Minister said. Mr. Brown described the Alliance as a "concrete example of the US commitment to solidify the foundations of an already growing US-Indian commercial relationship" and said "we are creating a framework by which our country's private sectors can benefit from the enormous commercial opportunities for solid investment and business, spurred by the recent reform efforts of the Indian government. We are also committing to be genuine partners as we focus on building a solid infrastructure that will support future prosperity and growth."

Earlier, during the delegation level meeting which was attended also by Shri S.S. Ray, Ambassador of India to the US, Shri

Tejendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, US Ambassador Frank Wisner and others, Shri Mukherjee urged the US to consider further extension of the generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for Indian exports to the US beyond 31st July

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as the GSP constituted an important instrument for providing access to Indian goods in the US market. Indian exports to the US under GSP amounts to more than US \$ 750 million and constitutes about 17% of Indian total exports to the US. He said the extension of GSP for a longer period would help products of interest to India and the development of its international competitiveness. Raising the issue of Indian exports being subjected to anti-dumping and countervailing duties, the Minister said that such actions created the impression of protectionist tendencies and emphasised that the spirit of the Uruguay Round was aimed at removal of barriers to facilitate the uninterrupted flow of global trade. Referring to the process of economic reforms, the Minister said that reforms were a continuing process and there was, therefore, no question of any reversal or slow down.

Accompanying the US Commerce Secretary was the 34-member high-level delegation representing Chief Executive Officers and Presidents of several leading US Companies as well as senior officials of the US government involved in international trade and finance. The delegation is on a week-long Presidential Business Development Mission led by Secretary Brown to India which includes 2 days in New Delhi and one day each in Bangalore and Bombay

During the last 3 years, Indo-US commercial relationship has shown a new dynamism with bilateral trade and investment flows showing a quantum increase. US's share of Indian exports is 18% and share imports is about 12%. In terms of foreign direct investment, USA has emerged as a leading country in terms of both commitments and actual inflows. During 1992 and 1993, investment approvals to USA amounted to more than US \$ 1.3 billion and 2.8 billion respectively. Mr. Brown's visit comes at a time that the ground work has been laid for further expansion of Indo-US trade. "It is our expectation that this interest will translate into trade and commercial ties which will provide impetus to mutually beneficial trade and economic relations", Shri Mukherjee said.

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A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM URUGUAY

Date : Jan 16, 1995

February

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SWITZERLAND TANZANIA TURKEY

Date : Feb 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

"India-Australia Council" under the auspices of the Ministry of External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Feb 10, 1995 regarding "India-Australia Council":

It has been officially decided to establish an "India-Australia
Council" under the auspices of the Ministry of External Affairs.
The Council, a Public Charitable Trust, will have representatives
of the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Council of Cultural

Relations, Indian industry and prominent individuals as its Members.

The objectives of the India-Australia Council are:

1. Broaden awareness and understanding in India & Australia of each other's culture, society and areas of excellence.
2. Encourage activities that generate economic and other benefits for India and Australia.
3. Establish new areas of contacts between India & Australia; and
4. Develop lasting links and reach a wide range of people in the two countries.

Both India and Australia are members of the Commonwealth and have a long standing and warm relationship. There is a need to develop and extend this traditional relationship, particularly in the fields of culture, Science and Technology, Academic institutional links and Sports. The Council will play an important role in enhancing the levels of knowledge of each other through the medium of people-to-people contacts and to foster awareness of the potentials of this relationship. Both India and Australia are gearing up for the next century which would open new vistas of opportunities for investors to tap into their growing markets. Given the shifts, in the global environment, both India and Australia recognise the dynamic economic growth that is taking place in Asia, the advantages of working together and the significance of developing economic links, not only between the two countries, but those in Asia.

The Minister of External Affairs has approved the appointment of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) A. M. Sethna as the Chairman of the Council.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Economic Reforms Irreversible

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1995 on Indo-Australian JBC:

The fundamentals of Indian economy are sound and there is no reason to fear slackening or slowing down of economic reforms. The process of reform is irreversible, Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, said while making his opening statement at the fourth meeting of India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission and ninth meeting of India-Australia Joint Business Council here to

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day. Shri Chidambaram said that all indicators pointed towards overall growth of our economy. Exports have gone up by 17% in the first nine months of the current financial year. There was a growth of 5.3% in Gross Domestic Product in constant prices and a growth of 3.1 % in the agricultural sector. There was great scope for raising levels of bilateral trade between India and Australia. He said the signing of 89 joint venture agreements between India and Australia. since July 1991, 24 of them in 1994 alone, augured well for the future of our bilateral trade relations. India welcomed investments in telecom, mining, agriculture, but there were also areas where India could invest through joint ventures in Australia. The two-way flow of investments will benefit both the countries, he said. He assured govenment's continued support to the Indian industry to enhance trade relations with partner countries. He stressed the need for economic reforms with emphasis on alleviation of poverty and to meet the basic needs of roads, water supply, primary education etc.

The Australian Trade Minister, Senator Bob McMullan said that during the next one year, the Australian Trade Commissioner will open three new offices in Calcutta, Bangalore and Madras. Later, Senator Bob McMullan separately called on Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, and discussed bilateral trade.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Australian Trade Minister Meets Shri Sukh Ram

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1995 on Australian Trade Minister meeting with Shri

Sukh Ram:

The visiting Australian Minister of Trade, Senator Bob Macmullan, said today that his country would actively respond to the opportunities offered by India in the telecom sector. Besides equipment and capital, the Australian telecom firms would bring in investment and set up joint ventures in collaboration with their Indian counterparts. Already a few Australian firms had entered into such enterprises with Indian firms in this sector, he added.

The Australian Minister stated this when he met the Minister for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram, here today alongwith a business delegation.

Shri Sukh Ram said that with the liberalisation and economic reforms, the Government had opened the telecom sector for private participation. This had offered opportunities for foreign investors too. "Telecom is a paying proposition all over the world and so it is in India. Moreover the gestation period is relatively shorter in this field", he added.

Referring to the demand potential, the Minister said that about 200 million people, which formed the middle income group, would need the telecom facilities. Though India had the largest telecom network in Asia, the telephone density in the country was the lowest. To meet the world average standard of 10 percent, the telephone facilities would have to be expanded in a big way, he added.

The Minister assured the visiting delegation that there would be a level playing field and transparency in the telecom sector. An independent Telecom Regulatory Authority would soon be set up to sort out problems of operators and provide justice to entrepreneurs.

Shri R. K. Takkar, Chairman, and the Members of the Telecom Commission were present at the meeting.

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STRALIA USA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date : Feb 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Australia Offers Expertise in Food Processing

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1995 on Australia offering Expertise in Food Processing:

Western Australia which has a very large food processing base has offered expertise to Indian food processing sector, especially in transportation of food products and post-harvest handling of vegetables and fruits.

The offer was made by Deputy Premier of Western Australia, Mr. Hendy Cowan when he called on to Shri Tarun Gogoi, Minister of State (IC) for Food Processing Industries, here yesterday evening. The Australian leader said that there was great scope for bilateral cooperation in the food processing sector. Australian entrepreneurs are very keen to set up joint ventures with Indian counterparts in food processing.

Welcoming the Australian offer, Shri Tarun Gogoi said that the Indian Government has declared the food processing a priority area. There were lot of opportunities in the sector for investment. He said India would like to take advantage of Australian technology in cereal processing, marine and packaging of food products. Shri Gogoi asked the Australian side to lent expertise in preparing infrastructure development plan for the North East sector to look after its horticulture and fruit products.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Indo-Australian Cooperation in Power Sector Discussed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1995 on Indo-Australian Cooperation in Power Sector:

Ways and means to promote mutual cooperation between India and Australia in the power sector were discussed here at a meeting last evening when the visiting Australian Minister for Trade, Mr.

Bob McMullan called on the Minister of Power, Shri N. K. P. Salve.

Mr Mc Mullan was accompanied by the Australian High Commissioner in India, Mr. Gribble, Mr. Mc Mullan welcomed India's policy of inviting private sector participation in power generation and transmission. He mentioned that Australian companies engaged in coal mining and power generation would like to avail themselves of this opportunity. He also offered Australia's assistance to India in improving efficiency in power generation, transmission and distribution.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

India to be Key Focus Country for Australia in 1996

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1995 on Session of Indo-Australian JBC:

The Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, has stressed the potential for greater trade and investment cooperation between India and Australia, especially Australian investment in sectors like mining and mineral based industries, telecom, power & agriculture, floriculture, horticulture etc. He said the government

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would address itself to the concerns expressed by Australia with regard to tariffs and issues relating to mining. Shri Chidambaram was delivering his address at the closing session of the Indo-Australian Joint Ministerial Commission and Joint Business Council (JBC) here today. He urged Australia to resolve visa issue on a priority basis to enable skilled personnel to obtain temporary visas to visit Australia.

The visiting Australian Trade Minister Senator Bob McMullan said that India would be the key focus country for Australia in 1996 which would greatly help boosting Indo-Australian bilateral trade. Shri Vinay Rai, Chairman of the Indian side of the Indo-Australian JBC, said that indian industrialists were greatly encouraged by the Australian response to requests for increased

bilateral trade. The President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Shri A. K. Rungta said that mining was one of the key areas where Indo-Australian partnership was required. He stressed the need for India, Australia, Indonesia and South Africa to join together to form a regional trading bloc for the Indian ocean rim countries. It will generate all round prosperity in the region, he said.

STRALIA USA INDIA INDONESIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Feb 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

President of the Liberal Party of Belgium calls on Commerce Minister

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1995 on President of the Liberal Party of Belgium calling on Commerce Minister:

The President of the Liberal Party of Belgium, Mr. Jean Gol, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, here today. Mr. Gol is the Chairman of the Asia delegation in the European Parliament. During the talks, the Commerce Minister said that India was looking forward to the visit of a team of Parliamentarians from the European Parliament in April/May, 1995.

Shri Mukherjee said that agreement has been reached with European Commission over the issue of market access for textiles. Efforts were being made to curb the use of child labour in hazardous Industries besides seeking the help of Non-Governmental Organisations, in this regard. India expected European Commission not to resort to sanctions on eco-friendly packaging material and wanted this problem to be solved through negotiations, Shri Mukherjee said. He urged investors from Belgium to invest in power, telecom, basic industries, ports, highways etc.

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LGUIM INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

BURMA

Death of U Nu Father of DAW SAN SAN Nu

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1995 regarding statement of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister on death of U Nu:

I was pained to learn about the death of your respected father, U Nu.

U Nu was a patriot and champion for the rights of the people of Myanmar in their struggle against colonialism. We in India, who share a similar history, held him in high esteem for his spiritual commitment and his dedication to the cause of his countrymen.

The Government and people of India extend heartfelt condolence to you and other members of the family at this bereavement.

RMA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Stress on Increased Industrial Cooperation between India and Ontario

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1995 on Industrial Cooperation between India and Ontario:

A delegation from Ontario (Canada) led by Mr. Robert Huget, Minister for International Trade, Government of the province of Ontario (Canada) held discussions here today with Secretary, Industrial Development, Shri M. C. Gupta to explore opportunities for enhancing economic and industrial cooperation between Ontario (Canada) and India.

Shri Gupta mentioned that the Canadian technology could help India tap hydro-power generation potential in North India. Mr. Huget said that a number of Canadian firms were interested in power generation.

Shri Gupta outlined the measures taken after the economic reforms were initiated in 1991, to attract foreign investment. He said both domestic and foreign investment intentions were very encouraging.

Shri Gupta also mentioned that Government of India in collaboration with UNIDO was organising India Intechmart next month. The major objective of the Intechmart was to bring together potential foreign and Indian investors to explore opportunities for joint collaboration in seven sectors. The sectors were food processing, leather and leather goods, chemicals and allied products, packaging industry, textiles and readymade garments, auto components, electronics including telecommunication equipment.

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NADA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Indo-German Agreement on Transfer of Equipment and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1995 regarding Indo-German agreement:

Referring to newspaper reports on the Indo-German agreement on transfer of equipment and technology, the Spokesman stated that the Government of India is aware that the EU has adopted a harmonised licensing regime for exports of dual use goods which is to take effect from March 1, 1995. As a consequence, Germany has announced amendments to its own export controls in terms of which, inter alia, the erstwhile "H-List" stands reduced to nine countries which will not include India. Contrary to what is contained in the report, it is our impression that changes in German export controls will lead to liberalisation of the existing regime regarding exports of machine tools to India. As far as the references to an Indo-German MOU on transfer of dual

use technology are concerned, it is our practice not to comment on a subject which continues to be under bilateral discussions.

RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Quality and cost competitiveness vital for Post GATT era

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1995 on International Seminar on World Trade System:

The Commerce Secretary, Shri Tajendra Khanna, inaugurated a weeklong international seminar on "the world trade system, after the Uruguay Round - prospects for South Asian countries", organised jointly by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and the German Foundation for International Development, here today. During his Inaugural address, Shri Khanna said that, today the manufacturer had to produce goods which had the best value for money. He stressed the need for quality control, cost of the product and upgradation of packaging standards. Besides, the delivery of the goods should be on schedule. While welcoming the emergence of the IIFT as a centre of excellence in the area of international trade, he urged the delegates from the East and South Asian countries to share together the knowledge and experience in the field of international trade, especially after the coming into being of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from January 1 this year. Shri Khanna said that in the area of phased domestic tariff reductions over a period of 6 years as per the WTO agreement, India had already reduced domestic tariffs in most of the items as stipulated in the agreement.

In his welcome address, Dr. P. L. Sanjeev Reddy, DG-IIFT said that the Seminar theme will deal with the emerging and evolving world trade after the Uruguay Round and future course the world trade will take. The Seminar will help in formulation of appropriate national and regional responses to issues pertaining to world trade, he said. Dr. Vijaya Katti, Chairperson of the Seminar and Dr. P. J. Thumser, Head of the German Foundation for International Development were also present.

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Volume No

1995

INDIA

IRCON Bags EEPC All India Award for 1993-94

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1995 on IRCON Bagging EEP All India Award for 1993-94:

The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has bagged the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) All India Award for 1993-94 in the category of All India Certificate of Merit -- Project Export. The Union Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee gave away the award to the Managing Director of IRCON Shri M. D. Khattar at a function organised by the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India.

Indian Railway Construction Company has been maximising exports from India for its overseas projects which has resulted in cumulative foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 28355 million. The turnover of the Company for the current year is Rs. 3913 million with foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 290.78 million.

The Company is presently executing Railway and other construction projects in Malaysia, Turkey, Nepal, Indonesia and Bangladesh after successfully completing number of projects in Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Jordan.

Some of the notable achievements of the Company during 1993-94 are the completion of Railway Bridges and Over Head Road Bridges in Malaysia, Road Improvement Project in Bangladesh and Flyovers in Indonesia.

The achievements of IRCON's experienced team of professionals have won the Company prestigious Export Awards for excellence in the construction industry since 1982-83. Given the long standing experience of 18 years IRCON has become a role model in building of Highways, Bridges and Flyovers.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM BANGLADESH INDONESIA MALAYSIA NEPAL TURKEY IRAN IRAQ
ALGERIA JORDAN NIGER NIGERIA SAUDI ARABIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Government Approves 41 More Foreign Investment Proposals Worth Rs. 500 crore

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1995 on Government approval of 41 more foreign investment proposals:

The Government has approved 41 more proposals envisaging total foreign direct investment of over Rs. 500 crore, which also includes NRI investment. These proposals recommended by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) were cleared at the meeting of the Empowered Committee, held here today, under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Some of the proposals approved today, envisage export of products worth around Rs. 2,000 crore over a period of five years.

Nine approved proposals are for setting up 100 per cent export-oriented units in areas such as computer software, printed circuit boards, diamonds, leather products and agro-based industries. Two proposals approved, are under the Software Technology Park Scheme and Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme.

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The Committee today gave clearance to the proposal of M/s Astra A. B., a leading pharmaceutical company of Sweden to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in India. The proposed Indian subsidiary would set up a Research and Development Centre for undertaking research and a manufacturing facility for synthetic drugs and pharmaceutical products. It already has "Astra Research Centre, India", which has done significant basic research work in the field of infectious diseases. It has invested 18 million US \$ in funding primary research in India, over the last seven years. The project cost is expected to be around US \$ 30 million for research and development and US \$ 45 million for the manufacturing unit. The project is proposed to be located in Karnataka. Its net foreign exchange inflow is likely to be over Rs. 21 crore over a period of seven years.

The Saraf Group, headed by a non-resident Indian with its headquarters in Hong Kong, has been permitted to set up a 5-Star

Deluxe Hotel in Delhi with an estimated cost of Rs. 160 crore. The promoters have been involved in hotel projects viz. Yak & Yeti Hotel Ltd. In Kathmandu and Hyatt Regency, Delhi and have expertise in the planning and development of hotels. The proposed hotel is expected to be a modern one with all facilities and would provide further boost to tourism.

M/s Maharaja International Ltd., engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing of refrigerators, washing machines, has been allowed to induct foreign equity from M/s AB Electrolux, Sweden to the extent of 51 per cent of its paid-up capital. The foreign collaborator is a world market leader in white goods providing the Indian company with the state-of-the-art technology, modern marketing technology and will assist it in enlarging its product range. The shares would be issued as per the guidelines issued by SEBI/RBI and it is expected to result in remittance of foreign exchange of over Rs. 40 crore.

M/s Osram of Germany had earlier been allowed to set up a joint venture for the manufacture of energy efficient lamps and a wholly-owned marketing company. These projects have become fully operational. Considering great potential for special high technology lamps, such as Metal Halide Lamps, Photo-optic Lamps and Automotive Halogen and Discharged Lamps which are currently imported in the country the German company has decided to set up manufacturing capacity in India for these specialised lamps with an investment of around DM 60 million. The project would bring in closely-guarded technology in the area and apart from resulting in import substitution may also earn foreign exchange from exports.

M/s Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Ltd., a joint sector company promoted by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation and M/s Southern Petrochemicals Industry Corporation Ltd., have been allowed to raise foreign currency resources through GDR issue of US \$ 75 million for financing their diversification programme.

DIA USA SWEDEN RUSSIA HONG KONG NEPAL GERMANY

Date : Feb 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India's position on the proposal to ban fissile material production

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1995 regarding proposal to ban fissile material production:

Responding to queries regarding press reports on India's position on the proposal to ban fissile material production, the Official Spokesman stated that it is totally Incorrect that India has agreed under US pressure to negotiations on the CTBT and on a Convention to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. These are longstanding Indian proposals. the
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one on the CTBT having first been made by Pt. Nehru in 1954, and the other as part of a comprehensive proposal on a nuclear weapons freeze mooted by India under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's leadership in 1982. We gratified that the US and other nuclear-weapon powers have at last come around to our point of view on these issues.

These Conventions will be important steps towards a nuclear-weapon free world to which India has been committed, and for which a framework was presented at the UN's Third Special Session on Disarmament by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The security of all nations, including India's would best be safeguarded by a nuclear-weapon free world.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

WTO Accord to help enlarge India's share of global market

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1995 on India's share of Global Market:

The GATT/WTO Uruguay Round agreement provides an opportunity for India to enlarge its share of the global market, Shri Tejendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, said here today while releasing a book titled "What does GATT mean for India" by Subhash K. Bijlani. He said the agreement would be beneficial for India also by facilitating upgradation of agricultural production and development and agro exports. Complimenting the author and the publishers, Shri Khanna commended the book as a useful

publication for a basic understanding of the GATT accord and its implications. The book carries a foreword by Shri Prakash Tandon, writer and management thinker, who was also present on the occasion.

The 69-page publication is described as an attempt to bring to the fore the various aspects of GATT and present it in a proper perspective. The book includes an introduction to GATT and the Uruguay Round and covers various aspects such as non-tariff barriers; agriculture including opportunities for India; textiles; the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs); Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) etc, and concludes that the major impact of the Uruguay Round agreement is that it enables a further strengthening of the multilateral trading process and is essentially aimed at lowering trade barriers and increasing trade among nations. For developing countries like India with per capita income of less than \$1000, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) opens the door to global markets and GATT is just one of the instruments we must learn to use to our advantage, it says.

DIA URUGUAY USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Exports up by 16.8% Foreign Trade Data for April-December 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1995 on Foreign Trade Data for April-December 1994:

Exports in April-December, 1994 are estimated at US \$18327.65 million as against US \$ 15681.35 million during April-December, 1993 signifying a growth of 16.88%. The compound growth of exports during April-December 1994 over corresponding periods in 1992-93 and 1991-92 work out at 18.39% and 13.17% respectively. In the current year, export growth is on a continuous rising path from April-August, 1994.

Imports during April-December, 1994 are estimated at US \$20339.11 million as against US \$16413.00 million during corresponding period in 1993-94. This shows a growth rate of 23.92%. Compound

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growth rates of imports during April-December, 1994 over April-December, 1992-93 and April-December, 1991-92 are 10.59% and 12.53% respectively. POL imports during April-December, 1994 estimated at US \$4201.03 million as against US \$4291.77 million during the corresponding period in 1993-94, show decline of 2.1%. Non-oil imports show an increase of as much as 33.14% during this period. POL imports constitute nearly 21% of total imports.

The trade deficit during April-December is higher at US \$ 2011.46 million compared to US \$ 731.65 million during April-December, 1993.

Exports during December, 1994 estimated at US \$ 2288.94 million are higher than exports of \$ 1774.13 million during December, 1993 and show an increase of 29%. Exports during December, 1994 is a record one, and have surpassed export level in any previous month. Imports during December, 1994 estimated at US \$ 2544.57 million is also the highest ever monthly figure and show growth of 27.88% over that of December, 1993 estimated at US \$ 1989.79 million.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Second Meeting of the ASEAN-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AIJSCC)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1995 on Second Meeting of the ASEAN-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee:

The Second Meeting of the ASEAN-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AIJSCC) was held in New Delhi and Panjim, Goa, India, February 13-17, 1995. It was jointly inaugurated by the Minister of State of External Affairs of India, Shri R. L. Bhatia on behalf of the External Affairs Minister and by Dato Ajit Singh, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

2. The ASEAN delegations were led by H.E. Dato Ajit Singh, Secretary General of ASEAN and included Director-General of ASEAN Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN-Indonesia, ASEAN-Malaysia and ASEAN Singapore ASEAN-Thailand, the Acting Director-General of

ASEAN-Philippines and members of the ASEAN-New Delhi Committee (ANDC), representatives of the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC), members of the ASEAN-India Experts Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation (AIEGTIC).

3. The Indian delegation was led by Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary of India and included Special Secretary (ER), representatives of Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce, Health, Science, Technology and Tourism.

4. In his inaugural statement Shri R. L. Bhatia, described the indo-ASEAN partnership as a positive sum equation with each providing to the other a basis for demand growth in areas where each side had marked strengths. He expected that the AIJSCC would take ASEAN- India economic relations on to a higher level of intensity and symbiosis through cooperation in the four agreed areas of trade, investment, science and technology and tourism. This in turn would be reflected in an upgradation of the ASEAN-India partnership in the near future.

5. Dato Ajit Singh suggested several specific initiatives to bridge the information gap and promote trade and investment such as convening of ASEAN-India Round Table Conference, India's participation in Growth Triangles' and cooperation among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He said that both sides should have the vision to see the potential of increased ASEAN-India Cooperation and to seize new opportunities. With imaginative government policies and dynamic entrepreneurs, ASEAN-India Sectoral Relations can enter a more energetic phase.

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6. The Meeting reviewed the implementation of decisions of the first AIJSCC Meeting and worked out the programme of future cooperation in four agreed areas of trade, investment, science and technology and tourism.

7. On trade and investment, the AIJSCC considered the recommendations of the ASEAN-India Expert Group and ASEAN India Business Council. The meeting recognised that the policy environment was now more favourable to trade and investment expansion both in the immediate as well as the long-term. In order to positively motivate business to exploit opportunities which have been identified in the competitive sourcing of goods and services and in terms of investment opportunities, the meeting agreed to close the information gaps and undertake promotional work. The plan of action addressed institutional mechanisms for information networking, business match making and policy consultation. Indian and ASEAN business would be fully involved in this effort. The AIBC made the following specific proposals .

i) The respective Chambers would exchange information on companies and business in India and ASEAN. Based on this, a

compilation of ASEAN-India private sector data bases providing information on investment policies, ongoing and potential projects and information on industry sectors would be established.

ii) The Singapore component of the AIBC would convene the first ASEAN India Round Table and Conference. This would be held in the third quarter of 1995 and would involve participation of captains of industry and Government policy makers from both sides. The Round Table would be expected to provide a forum for information exchange, trade and investment promotion and business match making.

iii) Periodic investment fairs would be held where approved project proposals would be presented to create investor interest in the ASEAN and Indian business communities. Greater mutual participation in Indian and ASEAN trade fairs would be promoted.

iv) A programme for cooperation in the small and medium industries to effectively provide linkages between identified national and regional focal points was agreed.

v) The Indian partners of the AIBC accepted the invitation of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry to attend its meeting to be held in Manila in March 1995. The AIBC would also hold its Executive Committee meeting at the same time.

8. The Meeting considered the report of the first meeting of ASEAN COST-India Collaboration in Science and Technology (held in New Delhi on 6-10 February, 1995) and noted that it had helped in forging closer understanding and exchange of the knowledge base between ASEAN and Indian scientists. Specific areas and modalities of cooperation including exchange of scientists, techno-market surveys, workshops and development of project in the three leading edge technology areas, namely advanced materials, biotechnology and information technology were identified. The Meeting agreed on finding appropriate financial arrangements to support these activities.

9. The Meeting discussed the possibilities of tourism promotion and investment on the basis of an action plan and specific proposals presented by India and ASEAN. The Meeting agreed to the implementation of a Reciprocal Familiarization Programme for travel agents and tour operators for promoting Indo-ASEAN tourism, joint marketing in third countries and tourism related investment in India. In addition the ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) will assist in organising a workshop with full involvement of the private sector to work out a programme of cooperation in the above areas. On the

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policy aspects there was a discussion on civil aviation and visa policies and their implications for tourism promotion. On civil

aviation policy, the Indian side made a detailed presentation indicating a flexible approach. The Meeting recognized the importance of favourable visa policies for achieving necessary growth in Indo-ASEAN tourism.

10. A second contribution of approximately US \$ 190,000 was announced by India to the ASEAN-India Fund to support activities in the agreed areas of the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

11. The Meeting discussed the establishment of bank branches in ASEAN and India and expressed the hope that both sides would further encourage this development in the interest of promoting trade and investment expansion.

12. The Meeting recognised the need for increased air traffic between ASEAN and India to promote greater flow of goods and services.

13. The Meeting decided that the Third Meeting of the AIJSCC will be held in Indonesia in 1996 at a mutually convenient time.

DIA BRUNEI INDONESIA MALAYSIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE THAILAND PHILIPPINES

Date : Feb 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Setting up of Paradip Coal Handling Project

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1995 on setting up of Paradip Coal Handling Project:

Asian Development Bank has provided a loan of US \$ 285 million for ParadipEnnore Coal Transportation Project which included \$ 134.85 million for creation of Mechanised Coal handling facilities as Paradip Port.

The broad terms of the loan agreement are that the Government of India would pay an interest to the ADB at the rates fixed by the Bank from time to time and also the commitment charges at the rate of 0.75 per cent per annum on the amount of loan sanctioned and remaining undrawn. The repayment period of the loan is 15 years including a grace period of 5 years. Goods and services to be procured from the proceeds of the loan are subject to the provisions of the procurement guidelines of Asian Development

Bank.

So far no amount has been drawn from the loan account.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Government Approves 48 more Foreign Investment Proposals Worth Rs. 400 Crore

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 20, 1995 on Government approval of 48 more Foreign Investment Proposals:

The Government has approved 48 more proposals envisaging total foreign direct investment of over Rs. 400 crore. These proposals were cleared at the meeting of the Empowered Committee, held here today, under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Some of the proposals approved today, envisage export of products worth around Rs. 2,500 crore.

Seven approved Proposals are for setting up 100 per cent export-oriented units in sectors such as software, textiles, floriculture and food processing industries. Two proposals approved are for setting up projects, one each under the Software Technology Park Scheme and Electronic Hardware Technology Park Scheme.

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The Committee today gave clearance to the proposal of M/s Asea Brown Boveri for investment of US \$ 16.5 million in the capital of M/s ACC Babcock Ltd., a BIFR company as per the revival plan worked out with the agreement of all concerned parties for the company. The foreign company would require 76 per cent equity shareholding in the company and the remaining 24 per cent would be held by financial institutions, Government of India and the existing promoters. M/s ABB are already investing in manufacture of turbines and generators and this proposed investment is part of their plan to expand their manufacturing base in India for offering total turnkey solutions for power plants in the country.

M/s Western India Petroleum Ltd. and M/s Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan have been permitted to set up a joint venture in India for establishing infrastructure facilities so as to be able to import, store, distribute and market superior kerosene oil within India, Nepal and Bhutan. This project will provide requisite infrastructure facilities to private companies entering into the parallel marketing route. The Committee also gave clearance to the proposal of Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation and M/s Hindustan Domestic Oils and Gas Ltd. for setting up a joint venture for LPG Bottling plants in ten districts of Punjab in collaboration with the Vital Group, who are in the business of trading of crude oil and refined products and are one of the largest independent traders in the world. The supplies to be made by this project will be on the parallel marketing route.

The Committee gave clearance to the proposal of M/s BCO Services India Ltd. for setting up a joint venture with M/s European Crystal Organisation, Belgium to manufacture high quality military and telecommunications At-Cut-Crystals for which no facility is presently existing in the country. The project would be located in Haryana. The foreign company would be buying back a part of the production.

M/s Emerson Electric Company, USA one of the world's leading industrial corporation, which has already established five joint ventures in India with Indian industrial groups, such as Tatas, Kirloskar, etc. have been permitted to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in India. The proposed Indian subsidiary, apart from supporting the existing joint ventures of the USA company, would operate in new areas, such as ultrasonic cleaning and welding, non-destructive testing, industrial motors and drives etc. The total investment to be made by the USA company in its subsidiary will be around US \$ 30 million over next few years and the project is expected to generate direct employment for 3500 personnel.

M/s Finolex Cables Ltd. has also been permitted to set up a joint venture with M/s AT & T Corporation of USA for manufacture of optical fibre cable in Maharashtra. The project is being set up with an installed capacity of 10,000 Sheath Kilo Meters. The project will cater primarily to the domestic requirements of the product.

The Committee gave clearance for foreign direct investment in two companies of M/s Atul Glass Group for setting up a greenfield unit for manufacturing laminated safety wind screen glass in India and to upgrade the existing facilities of the two Indian Companies. The foreign investment is being made by M/s Securit SaintGobin, France to the extent of 26 per cent of the paid-up capital in each of the two Indian companies, namely, M/s Atul Glass Industry Ltd. and M/s Maharashtra Glass and Agro Ltd. The foreign company has a worldwide presence with annual sales of US \$ 13 billion in 1993. The proposed collaboration will upgrade

technical capabilities of the two Indian companies to meet requirement of Indian Automotive manufacturers. It will also enable compliance with the Central Motor Vehicle Rules through use of laminated safety wind screen glass that has been mandated to be used on all vehicles.

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M/s Reebok, a leading designer, marketer and distributor of sports, fitness and casual footwear with a turnover of nearly US \$ 3 billion, has been permitted two projects in India with a view to develop India as a base for their major global sourcing requirements for high quality footwear and apparel products. One of the projects, namely, Reebok India Technical Services will be implemented as a wholly owned subsidiary to perform project development services, quality assurance and other technical services to the Indian manufacturers. These services will be performed under technical services contract with the Hong Kong subsidiary of M/s Reebok who will pay the Indian company a service fee of 8.5 per cent of the actual cost and will also reimburse the total amount of such cost. The expected foreign exchange earnings on this account are estimated at Rs. 148 crore in 5 years. M/s Reebok will also set up a joint venture company which will market and distribute products on a retail and wholesale basis in India. They will Purchase their stock from the independent Indian manufacturers.

DIA USA RUSSIA JAPAN BHUTAN NEPAL BELGIUM FRANCE HONG KONG

Date : Feb 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Treaty series since Independence

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 21, 1995 on India Treaty series since Independence:

In 1993 the Ministry of External Affairs decided to publish an India Treaty series since Independence. The series was envisaged to contain bilateral treaties and agreements signed by India with various countries. The project is to cover the period 1947-90 in successive phases. Thereafter, the project envisages annual or biennial publications. The initial set of three volumes of the series entitled "India: Bilateral Treaties and Agreements" covering the first phase of 14 years i.e. 1947. 1960 was

published in January, 1994.

The second phase of the project covering the period 1961 to 1970 has now been completed. The Foreign Secretary presented a set of volumes IV, V and VI of the series to the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on 21 february 1995. With the presentation, this set of three volumes of the book "India: Bilateral Treaties and Agreements" covering the period 1961-1970. has been released.

Only 'perfected' agreements, that is, agreements not only signed but ratified and or brought into force have been included in these volumes. Thus, each document where relevant also contain the particullars regarding the date of ratification and or entry into force. However, the inclusion of any treaty or agreement in this publication is no indication of its present status or validity as several of them may have expired either by operation of their provisions or otherwise been terminated by the parties or even replaced by subsequent agreements.

It is hoped that these volumes along with the earlier volumes already published will meet the needs of academics, government officials, research scholars and others who are interested in the field of international relations in general and India's relations with other countries in particular.

The process of publishing India's bilateral treaties and agreements will continue with the years 1971-1980 and thereafter.

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DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of ExternalAffairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1995 on meeting under the chairmanship of External Affairs Minister:

The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs met under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee today. Ministers of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia,

and Shri Salman Khurshid, assisted the Minister in the proceedings of the Committee.

The Agenda of the meeting included relations with South Africa, World Social Summit, NPT Review, and relations with Russia. Hon'ble Members raised a number of queries and sought clarifications as well as gave their views on each of the agenda items. They welcomed our growing relations with South Africa, especially in the context of President Mandela's recent visit to India. They also reiterated the view that India should continue to expand her bilateral relations with Russia which had been an old and trusted ally always, and urged the Government to further increase our trade, economic and political relations with that country. The Hon'ble Members felt that the World Social Summit was an important conference and welcomed the idea that it would be attended by Our Prime Minister. They laid emphasis on the eradication of poverty as an important element which would be discussed in the World Summit. They further felt that education and health should be given priority in India's own programme of development. They also cautioned the Government against accepting conditionalities linked with market access and trade regulations.

On the NPT, Hon'ble Members stressed the view that India must retain its independent thinking on the subject and not succumb to any pressure from outside powers. India's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes, but we should be vigilant, keeping on mind our security and threat perceptions.

In response, External Affairs Minister Shri Mukherjee and the Ministers of State mentioned that due note had been taken of the comments and views of the Hon'ble Members of the Consultative Committee. On South Africa, the Committee was informed that India proposed to assist that country under an ambitious ITEC programme in the field of re-construction and rehabilitation, including areas like smallscale industry, health and housing, and that our programmes would be closely harmonised with South Africa's own internal plans. A Joint Commission meeting was expected to be held soon in May, which would concretise further areas of mutual cooperation. A Festival of India has also been proposed to be held in South Africa and a Cultural Centre set up in Johannesburg, with an extension in the city of Durban. There has been a highlevel exchange of visits at several levels and both countries have every intention to develop closer relations.

On the NPT, the Hon'ble Members were informed that we unequivocally support the objectives of the Treaty, i.e., to pursue the goal of general and complete disarmament, but we are opposed to signing the same in its present form because it was discriminatory. The only logical approach for India was a global one that must be universal and comprehensive and non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Responding to a question on the Regional Space Technology Application Centre for Asia and the Pacific, the

Hon'ble Members were informed that a series of meetings have been held in this
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respect and that in December, 1994, the UN judged India's offer to be the most suitable. A meeting was held in Bangalore with other countries, including China, who have agreed to India hosting the Centre.

As regards reports on fissile material cut off which have appeared recently, the Hon'ble Members were informed that India would not accept any suggestions for unilateral capping or stopping production of fissile material.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM SOUTH AFRICA RUSSIA USA CHINA

Date : Feb 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Consultative Committee meeting with respect to Russia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1995:

With respect to relations with Russia, Members of the Consultative Committee raised issues relating to the internal situation in Russia, arms sales to Pakistan, the Indo-Soviet and Indo-Russian treaties, relevance of Moscow declaration, implementation of the agreements signed during Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, working on the Rupee-Rouble agreement and the unity and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation in the context of developments of Chechnya.

Responding to these points the Minister of State for External Affairs. Shri R. L. Bhatia explained that while the internal situation in Russia continued to evolve, there was a national consensus among all shades of public opinion about the importance of good Indo-Russian Relations. Russia had not sold arms to Pakistan and Prime Minister Mr. Chernomyrdin had stated publicly in Delhi that it would not do so. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation had been replaced by an Indo-Russian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation which was signed during President Yeltsin's visit to India, in January 1993.

External Affairs Minister said that India support the unity and integrity of Russia and this had been conveyed to the Russian side at various levels including by Indian Parliamentary Delegation during its recent visit to Russia. This has been appreciated by the Russian side.

Indo-Russian trade is increasing and difficulties which existed earlier in relation to the Debt Repayment Agreement were being sorted out. An agreement has been signed on purchases of tea, tobacco, soyabean and pharmaceuticals by Russia and it had been agreed that Rupee funds could be utilised for investment in agreed projects.

DIA RUSSIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Joint Press Statement on the Establishment of India-Brunei Joint Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1995, regarding India-Brunei Joint Committee:

Dato Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam is in New Delhi on an official visit (23-26 February) as the Head of a Brunei delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is the first ever official visit to India by any Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. Official bilateral discussions were held on 24 February 1995 between the two sides with the delegation of India being led by Shri Salman Haidar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. Dato Lim Jock Seng also called on the External

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Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Ministers of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia and Shri Salman Khurshid and Foreign Secretary Shri K. Srinivasan. There were wide-ranging talks between the two sides on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. The talks were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere.

2. Keeping in mind friendly relations between the two countries, both delegations agreed to promote closer bilateral cooperation.

In particular, they recognised the potential for expansion of cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, civil aviation, manpower supply etc.

3. In view of the above, both delegations agreed to establish a Joint Committee, to be known as India-Brunei Darussalam Joint Committee to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

4. It was also agreed that the Committee would be at the level of senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and that it would meet periodically and alternatively in each others capital.

DIA BRUNEI USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Jakarta meet notes India's interest in Joining APEC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1995 on Jakarta meet notes India's interest in Joining APEC:

The 3rd Senior Officials Meet on economy and trade relations between India and Indonesia took place in Jakarta on January 30-31, 1995. The Indian delegation at the meeting was led by Shri Tejendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, while the Indonesian delegation was led by the Director General of Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. Wisber Loeis. The discussions relating to multilateral issues were full and frank and revealed a wide area of common interests. India's expressed interest to join the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was referred to and rapid progress made on the ASEAN - India Sectoral Dialogue started 2-years ago was welcomed.

The meeting took a series of substantive decisions and expressed the hope that as a result of these decisions, the current 2-way trade between India and Indonesia of approximately US \$ 450 million would increase to \$ 1 billion in the near future. The decisions arrived at were as follows: (i) to increase the exchange of trade missions from both sides to explore trade and trade-related opportunities and to promote participation in fairs

and exhibitions held in either country; (ii) to designate a nodal point on both sides within government for facilitating interaction by business representatives of either country with their counterparts and other organisations of interest to them; (iii) the Indian side offered to help Indonesia to establish a pilot software project to develop and export software through joint ventures involving Indian investment and significantly, in view of the frequently perceived competition between the two countries in this respect; (iv) to exchange list of foreign investment approvals granted by each country on a quarterly basis; and (v) FICCI and

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ECAII (Economic Association of Indonesia and India, a private body) agreed to establish an office in Jakarta to disseminate trade and investment information in response to enquiries on both sides and to organise regular workshops on trade and economic cooperation alternately in Indonesia and India at intervals of about six months.

The meeting took place after a gap of over six years from the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting which was held in New Delhi on 3-5 August 1988. During the interim period, the Indian economy has undergone a radical process of economic reforms and globalisation. While a similar transformation initiated in the mid-80s in Indonesia has accelerated its pace in recent years. These developments in the background contributed to a brisk and business-like atmosphere in the discussions which covered a range of issues from trade to investment, technical cooperation and cooperation in multilateral and regional fora. A notable feature of the meeting was the first time inclusion of several representatives from the private business as full-fledged participants who made effective practical contributions to the discussions.

INDONESIA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Visit of the President of Italy, Dr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro from 9-12 February 1995

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1995 regarding visit of the President of Italy:

The President of Italy, Dr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro will be paying a State visit to India from 9-12 February, 1995 at the invitation of our President. This will be the first ever visit by an Italian Head of State to India. The Italian President will be accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Susanna Agnelli, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Dr. D'Urso and a high-level Italian business delegation.

The visit is coinciding with Italian participation, for the second time in a decade, at the India Engineering Trade Fair 1995. Italian participation is poised to be the biggest ever participation by a "Partner Country" at this prestigious fair. It is expected that about 400-600 businessmen and industrialists will visit the Fair, including the President of CONFINDUSTRIA, Mr. Luigi Abete and the President of a number of Regional and Sectoral Industry Associations. Almost 150 Italian companies will be represented in the Italian pavilion at IETF. The Fair is expected to contribute significantly to boosting Indo-Italian trade, investment and new joint ventures and collaborations. The Italian companies would also have an exposure to the vast variety of quality products being manufactured in India, and it is hoped that this will lead to increased Indian exports to Italy.

The Italian's President's programme in New Delhi includes a meeting with our President and calls by the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of State for External Affairs. The Italian President, along with our President will also be inaugurating the 11th India Engineering Trade Fair on 11th February. The Italian

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President will be paying a visit to Agra on 12 February, before departure for Italy scheduled for the same day. In New Delhi, he will also inaugurate an exhibit "Italy -Past and Present" at the National Museum.

The programme in New Delhi also includes a separate meeting between the Italian Foreign Minister, Ms. Susanna Agnelli and the Minister of State for External Affairs

ALY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of Director of Japanese Foreign Office to Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1995 regarding visit of Director of Japanese Foreign Office:

We have ongoing discussions with Japanese Foreign Office, as with others, on bilateral issues, the agenda of the UN General Assembly and on disarmament. As part of this exchange of visits, a Director of Japanese Foreign Office has come to Delhi to discuss all aspects of the Security Council reform, which is an issue now under discussion at the United Nations in New York.

PAN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAWIAN

Human Resources Development Programmes of Nationals of Southern African States

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1995 regarding Human Resources Development Programmes;

India has offered to initiate human resources development programmes of the nationals of Southern African States under The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme. This was stated by Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, in the annual consultative conference of the Southern African Development Community in Malawi capital Lilongwe. The two day conference ends on 4th February.

Shri Grover pointed out that Africa continued to be the major thrust area under the ITEC and the special commonwealth African Assistance Programme (Scaap), also executed by Government of India, ITEC is India's principal instrument for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries, of the 1350 slots under ITEC in 1994-95, around 770 were reserved for Africa including over 275 for SADC member states. Shri Grover said that human resources development was the main focus under ITEC SCAAP in Africa. In addition to execution of projects, supply of technical

equipment, conducting of feasibility studies and
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extension of consultancy services, etc., a number of which are already in existence in SADC region. He also offered to share India's considerable experience in running institutions by deputing Indian experts to assist in the process of institution building in SADC countries. He also said that India would welcome establishing joint ventures with SADC member states. Shri Grover noted that the conference is taking place at a historic moment after a series of significant political developments like the emergence of a multi-racial democratic South Africa, the first multiparty elections in Malawi and Mozambique and peace accord in Angola. He recalled India's role in fight against apartheid, in launching the Africa fund and on other issues connected with this region through the Non-aligned Movement.

While Lilongwe, Shri Grover had separate meeting with a number of foreign dignitaries like the Zimbabwean minister of agriculture and water resources, Mr. Kangai and the Malawian minister of External Affairs, Mr. E. C. I. Bwanali to discuss bilateral economic cooperation in various fields. He also hosted a luncheon meeting for the South African deputy Finance Minister Mr. A. Irving.

LAWI INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE ANGOLA

Date : Feb 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAWIAN

Delegation of the ICRC visited Jammu & Kashmir from March 21 to 30, 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1995 regarding visit of delegation from ICRC to Jammu & Kashmir:

Referring to newspaper reports on talks with the ICRC, the Spokesman clarified that a delegation of the ICRC visited Jammu & Kashmir from March 21 to 30, 1994. The team visited hospitals and migrant camps.

In keeping with its policy of transparency and openness in promotion and protection of human rights, the Government of India has been engaged for sometime in a dialogue with ICRC. This has

been made known to the media previously.

ICRC's access in Jammu & Kashmir is under consideration of the Government. The on-going dialogue is aimed at according greater access to ICRC in J & K in keeping with Government's policy and not a result of any international pressure.

LAWI INDIA USA

Date : Feb 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, of Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1995 reg. visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Nepal, Mr. Madhav Nepal, will be visiting India from February 6 to 10, 1995. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Nepal and a high level Nepalese delegation which includes the Minister of State for Water Resources and Industry, Mr. Hari Prasad Pandey, members of the Nepalese Parliament, the Nepalese Foreign Secretary and other senior officers. During his

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stay in New Delhi, Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Nepal will call on the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India. The Indian delegation to the official talks will be led by the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherji, who will host a lunch in his honour. In addition, Deputy Prime Minister Nepal will be meeting with the External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh, Home Minister Shri S. B. Chavan and the Leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee.

2. The visit to India of the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal is a goodwill visit which provides an opportunity for both countries to jointly discuss bilateral issues, the further development of India-Nepal relations, the situation in Indian sub-continent and other questions of mutual interest. The two sides will also utilise the opportunity to prepare for the subsequent visit to India of the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari, which is likely to take place later this year.

PAL INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

NORTHERN IRELAND

Statement on Recent Development on Northern Ireland

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1995 regarding statement on recent Development on Northern Ireland:

In December 1993, we welcomed the Joint Declaration issued by the British Prime Minister and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland aimed at creating conditions for an end to violence and suffering in Northern Ireland and the initiation of a peace process designed to culminate in an overall political settlement. As a consequence of this Joint Declaration, progress has been made towards ending the cycle of terrorist violence and conflict from which the people of Northern Ireland have suffered for over two decades. We welcome the document "Northern Ireland -a New Framework for Agreement" jointly released by the British Prime Minister and the Taoiseach of Ireland on 22 February, 1995. We pay tribute to the vision of the leaders of the UK and Ireland for their demonstrated willingness to seek all avenues to secure peace.

ELAND INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Ms. Benazir Bhutto's Address on 5-2-95 on the Occasion of "Solidarity with Kashmir Day"

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of

the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1995 regarding Ms. Benazir Bhutto's address on 5-2-1995:

Responding to Ms. Benazir Bhutto's address on 5-2-95 on the occasion of "Solidarity with Kashmir Day", the Kashmir Day, the Official Spokesman said that this annual ritual by Pakistan is further clear evidence of Pakistan's rejectionism, obstructionism and negativism about ties with India. In contrast to our constructive approach, there are no positive or
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practical proposals made by Pakistan, only rhetoric and bombast, along with references of very questionable taste to political personalities in India. The citizens in the State of Jammu & Kashmir have come to realize that their interests are not served by Pakistan's agenda of fomenting terrorism and militancy resulting in wanton killings, untold sufferings and human rights violations.

DIA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Nepal

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1995 regarding visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal:

The Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, arrived yesterday on an official visit to India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister. His delegation includes the Minister of State for Water Resources of Nepal, Mr. Hari Prasad Pandey, three senior Members of Parliament, the Foreign Secretary and senior officials of Nepal. He is also accompanied by his wife. This is his first visit abroad in his present capacity.

Earlier this morning, Mr. Nepal called on the Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. This was followed by delegation level talks with the Indian delegation led by the Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. During the talks, Mr. Nepal said that the new government of Nepal is committed to maintaining an excellent

relationship with India based on cordiality, mutual respect and understanding. The delegation level talks covered a wide range of issues of mutual Interest.

Later during the day, the Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister called on the President, Vice President and Prime Minister.

During his call on the President, Mr. Nepal expressed his deep appreciation for the warm and cordial welcome accorded to him in India. He said that Nepal had age old ties with India which were nurtured by regular high level contacts. The President said that India looked forward to Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari's visit as an important event in our relations He also recalled the recent visits of the King of Nepal to India. The President noted that our two countries enjoy a wide ranging and close relationship at the popular and other levels.

When the Nepalese DPM called on the Vice President, the Vice President said that India was committed to developing cooperative relations with friendly Nepal, recognizing both countries' interests. Mr. Madhav Nepal sought India's support in accelerating the process of economic development in his country. The Vice President observed that India was Willing to cooperate and suggested that both sides should prioritise and jointly concentrate on a few achievable projects.

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia, also called on the Nepalese DPM. Bilateral and regional issues of common interest including SAARC matters. came up for discussion.

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PAL INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the President of Italy Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1995 regarding visit of the President of Italy:

Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao called on the President of Italy H.E. Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro today. The Italian

President conveyed his country's desire to strengthen economic and political relations between India and Italy. He expressed concern over the growth of fundamentalism and terrorism and said that India and Italy should work together and should maintain solidarity in combating the challenge posed by this fundamentalism and terrorism. The Italian President also expressed his country's interest in expansion of Scientific and Cultural exchanges between India and Italy. He said that his presence on the occasion of Italy's participation in Indian Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) as partner country stressed the importance Italy attached to the development of Indo Italian trade and investment. The Italian President looked forward to welcoming Prime Minister in Italy.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ITALY INDIA

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Ms. Susana Agnelli

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1995 regarding visit of the Minister of Yoreign Affairs of Italy:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Ms. Susana Agnelli.

Both sides agreed to work together and cooperate on the United Nations Security Council reforms. There was similarity of views in this regard as both India & Italy believed that a hasty solution was neither desirable nor would it contribute to the democratisation of the UNSC.

Views were also exchanged on the situation in Europe, especially, former Yugoslavia. Shri Khurshid briefed the visiting Minister on our relations with China, the situation in South Asia, our views on disarmament issues and Pakistan's support to terrorism in Kashmir.

A communique was also signed by the two Ministers on consultation

between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

ALY USA INDIA YUGOSLAVIA CHINA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

A meeting of Senior Officials of Ministry of External Affairs convened under the Chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister Shri pranab Mukherjee

The following is the text from Of Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1995 regarding meeting of seviior officials of Ministry of External Affairs:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that at a meeting of
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senior officials of Ministry of External Affairs convened under the Chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee reviewed a whole range of foreign policy issues and gave his views on the conduct of foreign policy today and the needs of the changing & dynamic new world order. While underlining the need to focus India's role on economic and political issues as they were emerging, he spoke of the relevance of non-alignment as the keystone of our policy emphasizing that the goals of freedom from imperialism and colonialism had been achieved. Today, it was necessary to work within the movement for global economic liberalisation, greater benefits of trade and investment flows to developing countries and the establishment of a just and equitable economic order.

The Minister also warned of the dangers of fundamentalism and terrorism which affected many parts of the globe, including parts of India where such forces were being encouraged, especially in Kashmir, from across the border.

Shri Mukherjee apprised himself of the general functioning of every Division in the Ministry and desired that he be individually briefed on sensitive issues He encouraged officers of the foreign service to come forward with new ideas, mentioning that he would give every consideration to new inputs and

thoughts. India itself had undergone tremendous change in the past few years. He emphasized that the need today was to integrate our foreign policy to suit the needs of development, employment and social justice for all.

In conclusion, the Minister said that India would never compromise on its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

ITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Feb 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

RWANDA

Visit of Four-member Delegation of the Rwandan Patriotic Front(RPF)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1995 regarding four-member delegation from Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF):

A four-member delegation of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) led by the RPF Secretary General Maj (Dr.) Theogone Rudasingwa is on a five-day official visit to India. The delegation called on Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs today and held delegation level talks with an Indian delegation headed by Shri Vinod Grover, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Rwandan delegation briefed the Indian side on the situation in Rwanda following the disturbances in that country last year which had claimed nearly a million lives. The Rwandan delegation explained the efforts being made by the present Rwandan government to bring Peace and stability to the country and to launch a resettlement and reconstruction programme. The matter of Indian assistance to Rwanda in this regard was also taken up. A number of areas of possible Indian assistance to Rwanda were identified by the two sides. These include assistance in training of Rwandans in India in

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various fields to enable them to acquire managerial and administrative skills, taxation, business and financial management, etc., assistance under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Programme in the fields of agriculture, low cost housing, including deputation of Indian

experts to Rwanda in these areas, and supply of some transport vehicles and agricultural machinery to Rwanda.

The Rwandan side expressed appreciation for the role of the Indian battalion as part of the UN peace keeping operations in Rwanda, the UNAMIR.

The Rwandan delegation has also visited the Seed Farm, Buffalo Research Institute, and Agricultural University at Hissar, and have shown keen interest in the scientific research being undertaken in the field of agriculture in India. The delegation also met the Federation of Indian Export Organisations and invited Indian businessmen to increase bilateral trade with Rwanda and invest in their country. The delegation's other engagements include a visit to the defence exhibition at Pragati Maidan, a meeting at the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

ANDA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Vice President calls on Shri Narayanan

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1995 on Swiss Vice President Calling on Shri Narayanan:

Mr. Jean Pascal Delamuraz, Swiss Vice President and Federal Councilor for Economic Affairs met Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India, here today. Shri Narayanan pointed out that the basic economic policies and process of liberalisation in India were not introduced as a tactics or an opportunistic measure but they arose out of the needs of the society and compulsions of the stage of development and are, therefore, irreversible. He said rapid advances in the field of technology demand freedom of management, relaxation of controls and freer international trade-constituting the rationale of liberalisation the world over.

Mr. Delamuraz said that globalisation of the world economy makes it difficult for any reversal in this trend. He, however, pointed

out that along with liberalisation there is a need to pay attention to social and environmental values. Shri Narayanan emphasised the need to provide social safety network in those sectors and areas where liberalisation could have deleterious effect on the standard of living of the masses. The two leaders agreed that there were vast opportunities for two countries to cooperate in the trade and commercial sector particularly in the areas of pharmaceutical, cement, machinery and watches.

The Swiss Vice President conveyed admiration for the high speed of transformation in India and said that they have noted the encouraging results of economic reforms. The Swiss delegation firmly hoped that there will be a speeding up of its investment in India in the near future. During the hour-long discussions the two leaders also had a detailed exchange of views on the structure and functioning of the democratic institutions in the two countries.

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ITZERLAND INDIA TUNISIA USA

Date : Feb 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Visit Of Mr. Yona S. M. Killagane, Managing Director of Tanzania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1995 regarding visit of Mr. Yona S. M. Killagane of Tanzania:

Mr. Yona S. M. Killagane, Managing Director of Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation and Mr. J. P. Singh, Executive Director (Planning and Development, IFFCO) initialled a preliminary agreement on 2.2.95 on General Principles for setting up a Joint Venture Fertiliser project in Tanzania using Tanzania Songo-Songo natural gas to manufacture 2,200 metric tonnes of urea per day on production-sharing basis, under complete Indian Management subject to economic viability of the project. The estimated cost of the project is about US D 400 million. The Tanzanian delegation will visit IFFCO in India on mutually convenient date in March/April 1995 to discuss economic viability and finalise the detailed MOU. Mr. Killagane and Mr. J. P. Singh, have also signed Agreed Minutes of their meetings on this subject.

NZANIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Indo-Turkish Joint Commission to meet in April 1995

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1995 on Indo-Turkish Joint Commission:

The Indo-Turkish Inter-governmental Joint Commission is likely to meet in April 1995 to discuss bilateral trade and other issues. This was indicated during the discussions between the visiting Turkish Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Bakir Sami Dace and the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee when the Turkish Minister along with some other members of his delegation called on him here today. Both the Ministers underlined the vast potential for increasing the volume of 2-way trade and for enhancing it to the targetted level of US \$300 million. In this context, the Turkish Minister proposed the setting up of a Joint Business Council (JBC) between India and Turkey to facilitate closer trade and economic cooperation. Shri Mukherjee said that proposals for joint ventures and exports to third countries could also be taken up in detail at the meeting of the Joint Commission scheduled tentatively in April this year.

The Turkish Minister said that India and Turkey shared common values and historic ties. He appreciated the work done by the Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) in successfully completing the railway electrification projects in Turkey.

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Indian exports to Turkey amounted to Rs. 110.74 crores during April-October 1994-95. During the same period, imports from Turkey amounted to Rs. 171-04 crores. Indian exports are mainly concentrated in iron ore, textiles, basic chemicals, engineering goods, leather manufactures etc., while imports include crude minerals, organic chemicals, plastic materials etc.

RKEY INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date : Feb 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Visit of the President of the British Board of Trade Mr. Michael Heseltine

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1995 regarding Mr. Michael Heseltine's visit:

Mr. Michael Heseltine, the President of the British Board of Trade, called on External Affairs Minister this afternoon. Satisfaction was expressed at the intensification of Indo-UK relations in both political and economic fields. There was a comprehensive exchange of views on bilateral relations in the area of trade and investment. Mr. Heseltine stressed that the forward momentum generated by IBPI (Indo-British Partnership Initiative) on trade would continue to be maintained by the UK's Department of Trade and Industry. On investments, he conveyed that the British business and industry leaders were increasingly emphasising the importance of India as an investment destination, given India's democratic polity and strong legal system. External Affairs Minister, on his part, emphasised that India's economic reforms enjoyed widespread consensus in their favour, and were irreversible.

External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Heseltine on our perceptions regarding the situation in J&K, and reiterated Government's determination to hold elections in that State. He also conveyed our assessment of Indo-Pak relations, underlining our repeated offers of bilateral dialogue and continuing Pak negativism. External Affairs Minister also briefed Mr. Heseltine on prospects for SAARC cooperation, particularly in the economic field.

External Affairs Minister and Mr. Heseltine also exchanged views on the role of WTO. Mr. Heseltine conveyed that the UK shares India's views on the need to keep the so-called "Social Clause" out of the WTO agenda.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Comments of the US Assistant Secretary of State John Shuttuck on the Human Rights Violations in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1995 on comments of US Assistant Secretary of State:

In response to queries on the comments of the US Assistant Secretary of State John Shuttuck on the human rights violations in India as well as a report presented by the US State Department to the State Department, the Spokesman clarified that India has been second to none in its commitment to human rights. We do not shy away from making this

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clear. We do not accept any linkages or conditionalities in our relationship with foreign countries.

As far as the report is concerned, there can be differences in perceptions between India and the USA. Both are friendly countries. We do see that the report has recognized the role played by terrorists in killings and abuses of human rights. We are also glad that unlike last year's report, they have recognized that the National Human Rights Commission (of India) is functioning very well and is playing an important role.

The Spokesman added that we have adequate safeguard built into our system, like the free press and judiciary, NGOs, the NHRC and other bodies which safeguard human rights and we have nothing to be ashamed of our record.

As far as Amnesty International's report is concerned, we have given adequate responses. Amnesty had listed 732 cases to us and in a matter of ten days, we gave responses in respect of 432 cases. We know what Amnesty has done in its December issue where the photograph of girl from Tamil Nadu was shown as girl from Kashmir. They have been interested in their own publicity rather than in human rights violations. As far as suspected officials who have been reported to have violated human rights are concerned, investigations are carried out and action taken against the guilty.

As far as discussions with Amnesty are concerned, they have come to India twice and have even gone to Bombay and we are carrying on discussions with them. They do not do in-depth reporting and once they come out with something like the photograph, it casts aspersions on their own credibility. And in order to divert attention, they are trying to lay the blame on India and becoming

more and more shrill in their responses.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Article on February 11, 1995 on 'US PUSHING INDIA INTO NPT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR'

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1995 regarding article on 'US Pushing India into NPT through the back door':

Responding to queries on Indian Express Article on 11 February 1995 on 'US PUSHING INDIA INTO NPT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR', the spokesman said, India's nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes. Until a satisfactory 'Convention to prohibit the production of fissile material for weapons purposes enters into force, there is no question of India unilaterally capping the production of fissile material, or accepting restriction on its programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It needs to be pointed out that several nuclear weapon powers, who are the principal focus of concern for the international community, continue to produce fissile material, specifically for weapons purposes.

The tenor of recent articles on this theme reflects the Western confusion between the NPT and non-proliferation.

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India inscribed non-proliferation as an item on the General Assembly's agenda in 1964, and drafted the Resolution on 'A Treaty to Prevent the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon adopted in 1965, which provided the mandate for the negotiations of the NPT. India rejected the NPT because, instead of the Universally applicable disarmament treaty which had been anticipated, it legitimised nuclear weapons in the hands of a few.

India has continued to press for comprehensive, universally applicable disarmament treaties. It has been vindicated when Conventions negotiated after the NPT on other weapons of mass destruction have banned biological and chemical weapons.

The Convention now under negotiation to prohibit the production

of fissile material for weapons purposes with similarly apply to all countries, and will meet India's dlobal non-proliferation objectives.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMMRICA

US Energy Secretary calls on Union Power Minister

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1995 regarding US Energy Secretary Calling on Union Power Minister:

The US Secretary of Energy, Ms. Hazel O'Leary, accompanied by the Ambassador of USA in India, Mr. Wisner called on the Union Minister of Power, Shri N. K. P. Salve, here this morning.

After a detailed discussion on the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy. the two Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the pace and direction of the collaboration set in motion particularly after the last visit of the US Secretary of Energy to India in July, 1994. It was noted that US firms have expressed interest in setting up 23 power generation projects having a total capacity of 13129 M Ws and costing Rs. 52411 crore. These proposals are at various stages of consideration. The two Ministers also agreed to have an exchange of experience between the two countries in developing private power industry and setting up of regulatory reforms particularly at the state level.

A INDIA

Date : Feb 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

Exports of CIS up by 17%

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1995 on exports to CIS:

India's exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), i.e., the former USSR, has increased to Rs. 1209.60 crores during April-September 1994 as against Rs. 1029.81 crores during April-September 1993, signifying a growth of 17.46%. Imports from the CIS during the period have also gone up to reach a level of Rs. 732.90 crores as against Rs. 512.37 crores during April-September 1993, thereby registering an increase of 43.04%. Bulk of the trade continues to be with the Russian Federation accounting for about Rs. 1109.75 crores worth of

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Indian exports and Rs. 520.50 crores worth of imports. India's total exports to East Europe as a whole during April-September 1994 amounted to Rs. 1436.02 crores, while imports from East Europe during the period were valued at Rs. 1010.95 crores, indicating an increase of 6.07% and 31.03% respectively over the corresponding period of 1993.

Thus India's trade with East Europe (including the former USSR), after reaching the all time low of Rs. 3887 crores in 92-93 has started picking up gradually again. The current year 94-95 has been marked by a steady revival in exports while imports from the region have also shown a similar trend. Thus India's trade with East Europe during the first 6 months of the current financial year, April-September 1994, has reached a level of Rs. 2446.97 crores. The steep decline in trade with the region was a result of the rapid changes in the former USSR and subsequently in the East European countries. The major factors contributing to reversal of the declining trend in trade included compulsion of the transition process in India's trading arrangements with these countries, a formal end to 4 decades of rupee trade, flow of Indian exports to Russia on the rupee debt repayment track, relatively low cost of infrastructure and operational costs, the potential of a huge market for Indian consumer and other goods aided by availability of multiple credit lines and aid and assistance from multilateral organisations etc.

A pro-active strategy was adopted by the government to adapt to the new situation and reverse the declining trend. The principal thrust of the strategy for promoting India's trade with East Europe included substitution of rupee payment trade by hard currency trade on internationally competitive pricing and norms and adoption of counter trade and other international trading practices; promotion of direct business contacts; promotion of economic cooperation including through joint ventures:

indentification and development of more viable transport and transit routes; evaluation of a more liberalised credit policy vis-a-vis the CIS and building up of the image of Indian goods through focus on quality, launching of brand names
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DIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 02, 1995

March

Volume No

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FRANCE PERU PHILIPPINES QATAR PAKISTAN SRI LANKA SYRIA TAIWAN OMAN ROMANIA
TURKMENISTAN

Date : Mar 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Power Projects in Private Sector in Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on
Mar 21, 1995 on Power Projects in Private Sector in Bangladesh:

Union Minister of Power Shri N. K. P. Salve has assured that India would help Bangladesh set up power projects in private sector. Bangladesh Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandaker Mosarraf Hossain, alongwith officials of his Ministry, called on the Power Minister here today. Both the Ministers discussed various areas of mutual interest in the power sector. The Bangladesh Minister has said that his country has recently opened the Power sector to the private investors and so far 30 investors expressed their desire to set up power projects. Dr. Hossain requested Shri Salve to share with Bangladesh India's experience in establishing power projects in private sector.

BNGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Mar 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

Indo-Belgian Joint Commission Meeting Concludes

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1995 on Indo-Belgium Joint Commission Meeting:

India and Belgium have identified several new areas of cooperation including cooperation in the agricultural and processed food sectors. Belgium has agreed to extend technological support in the areas of standardisation and quality control specially for perishables. upgradation of packaging, port management, environment and renewable sources of energy, This was indicated in the joint statement of the 8th Session of India-Belgium Joint Commission which concluded here today marking the beginning of cooperation in several new areas which have assumed special significance in the context of the emerging global trade scenario, particularly emphasis on quality and eco-standards. The 2-day Joint Commission, which is also the first since the new Agreement on Economic, Industrial and Technological Cooperation between India and Belgium was signed in March 1990, was co-chaired- from the Indian side by Shri Tejendra Khanna, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and on the Belgian side by Mr. J. M. Noirfalisse, Administrator Director General Foreign Economic Relations. The Belgian side also responded positively when the Indian delegation highlighted the possibilities of cooperation in the agro sector (specially perishables) some of which are major items of India's exports to Europe including Belgium. While the Joint Commission took place in a cordial and purposeful atmosphere on 27 & 28 March, 1995, a high-level Belgian delegation, led by Crown Prince Philippe and Mr. Robert Urban, Trade Minister of Belgium, is also in India from 26th March -49>

to 1st April, 1995 to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Joint Commission noted with satisfaction that India's trade with the Belgium Luxembourg Union (BLEU) had grown impressively during the last 2 years and Belgium in 1993 was, in fact, the most important exporter to India ahead of Germany and UK. While expressing the hope that the positive trends would continue, both sides noted the predominance of one commodity, namely, diamonds in the overall trade and stressed that though the percentage share of diamonds had come down in the recent past, concerted efforts were needed to diversify the bilateral trade further. In this connection, Shri Khanna referred to thrust products like agro items, engineering and electronic goods, chemicals, automotive components etc. that could be considered for exports from India to Belgium.

It was proposed to the Belgian side to examine funding export promotion projects with India on the lines of the ones India has at present with some EU States so that trade between the two countries could be expanded and diversified. It was also agreed

that both sides would mount buying missions from and to their respective countries. The Belgian side has agreed to organise awareness seminars in different parts of Belgium to expose the Belgian business community to the new business opportunities offered by India. India has also stressed that Belgium, being the hub of West Europe, could be of great help in matters affecting India's exports to the, European Union countries.

The Commission noted that the number of joint ventures between India and Belgium had been growing, with 42 joint venture cooperation agreements having been signed since 1992. The majority of these joint ventures were technical tie-ups and larger financial investments were likely to flow only now. While recognising the considerable progress made in the restructuring of Indian economy which had facilitated foreign investments, the Belgian side expressed the hope that India would conclude a bilateral investment protection agreement for the promotion and protection of investments made by Belgian investors. While India was asignatory to MIGA, bilateral agreements were also been entered into with other countries.

The two sides noted the importance of the bilateral agreement on avoidance of double taxation for further growth in trade and investment and agreed to expedite necessary formalities for early implementation of the agreement. It was decided that the next meeting of the Indo-Belgian Joint Commission would take place at Brussels in the second half of 1996.

LG IUM INDIA USA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM MALI

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

WAPCOS Bags Environmental Consultancy for Santokh Project inBhutan

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1995 on WAPCOS Bagging Environmental Consultancy for Santokh Project in Bhutan:

Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. (WAPCO), a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Water Resources have been awarded the environmental assessment and socio-economic studies for the Santokh Multi-purpose Project in Bhutan. The giant Project (earlier estimated cost Rs. 2000

crores) is envisaged to provide irrigation
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and hydro-power benefits and is presently being investigated by the Central Water Commission under an agreement between the Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan. WAPCOS study on EIA is to be carried out in a period of 11 months. WAPCOS has carried out similar studies for major hydro-power developmental projects in Bhutan and in India.

WAPCOS have also produced guidelines related to environmental studies in Water Resources Sector which have been recognised by the World Bank. WAPCOS expertise in the environmental field covers water resources development projects, coastal facilities and pollution monitoring including air Pollution at cement and thermal plants. They are currently active on EIA studies for major private industries and other utilities.

UTAN INDIA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Mar 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

CAMBODIA

Cambodia Seeks India's help in Railway Sector

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1995 on Cambodia seeking India's help in Railway Sector:

Cambodia has requested India's assistance in strengthening its rail transport system. The request was made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia His Excellency Mr. Ing Kiet at a meeting with Minister of Railways Shri C. K. Jaffer Sharief here today. Mr. Ing Kiet who is also the Transport Minister of Cambodia has sought India's help in augmenting its railway rolling stock particularly flat cargo wagons. The Minister of Railways Shri Jaffer Sharief assured the visiting dignitary that his request would be given due consideration after examining the issue in detail.

The Chairman of Railway Board Shri Ashok Bhatnagar and Member Engineering, Railway Board Shri Raj Kumar were also present at the meeting.

MBODIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Canadian Secretary of State calls on Commerce Minister

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 16, 1995 on Cambodian Secretary of State's calling on Commerce Minister:

The Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada, Mr. Raymond Chan called on the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, here today. They discussed matters of mutual interest relating to bilateral trade between India and Canada. Mr. Raymond Chan is accompanied by a large business delegation. The two sides also discussed prospects
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of isvestments by Canadian businessmen in India. They agreed that there was vast scope and potential for increased bilateral trade between the two countries.

The visit by the Canadian Secretary of State is preparatory to the forthcoming visit of the Canadian Prime Minister to India.

NADA INDIA CAMBODIA USA

Date : Mar 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Telecom

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on

Mar 16, 1995 on Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Telecom:

"India offers opportunity both in manufacturing and services in Telecom Sector in a big way", conveyed Shri Sukh Ram to the Canadian business delegation led by Mr. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State, Asia Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada.

Shri Sukh Ram assured the Canadian business delegation that India was committed to providing a level playing field. An independent Telecom Regulatory Authority would be constituted shortly to ensure full justice to all investors, he added. He further said that in the wake of the new economic policy, there was a very big unexploited potential in India for business in the telecom sector.

The Minister informed the visiting dignitary and the accompanying business delegation that with a telecom density of less than one percent, India would require huge capital resources and the latest technology to come to the world average of 10 per cent. The potential for growth in this area can therefore be well imagined", he added.

The delegation evinced keen interest in Indo-Canadian Cooperation in Telecom-Sector in all fields - investment, manufacturing research and training and services. Mr. Chan said that his country intended to invest in telecom sector in India in a big way.

NADA INDIA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Mar 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India and China Discuss Cooperation in Agriculture

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1995 on India and China discussing cooperation in Agricultural:

The Union Agriculture Minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar has called for strengthening of ties between India and China in the agriculture sector. In a meeting today with His Excellency Mr. Han Deqian, Vice-Chairman of Science and Technology Commission of China, the

Minister said that India and China had deep-rooted historic ties and should cooperate with each other to improve agriculture production and meet the demands of the growing population.

Outlining the thrust areas in this sector, Dr. Jakhar said that new avenues for agro industries such as food processing, mushroom farming, and aquaculture must be explored. The Chinese leader informed
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the Minister about the role of the Science and Technology Commission of China in coordinating technological support for various development programmes in China.

During their stay, the Chinese delegation will visit the National Dairy Development Board, Anand to study the Indian White Revolution and the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. They will also visit the Indian Agriculture Research Institute and the National Bureau for Plant Genetic Resources.

India and China have signed an MOU for cooperation in agriculture in 1942. The MOU provides for Scientific and Technology Cooperation between the two countries by means of exchange of training study visits exchange of material trainees scientists. It also provides for joint agriculture research programme, exchange of results of research and experiments.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India-China Protocol on Tiger Conservation

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1995 on China Protocol on Tiger conservation:

India and China have signed a protocol to cooperate on the protection of Tiger and make joint efforts to halt the trend of decimation of tiger population to ensure the survival and sustainable development of the species.

The protocol was signed today in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing by the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal

Nath on behalf of India and the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of China, Mr. Song Jian for his country.

In the Eight Article Protocol, the two countries agree to take measures jointly to crack down on the illegal activities of poaching of tiger, smuggling and selling tiger, tiger bones and other parts as well as its derivatives. It has also been agreed to establish bilateral research and training programme and exchange between the two parties appropriate technologies and research data for scientific wildlife management, especially the management of the tiger and its habitat.

The two countries will encourage, on an experimental basis, captive breeding activities, with a view to release the species into the wild. They will provide reports to each other on measures taken to stop the current trade in the parts and derivatives of tiger. The impact of the measures taken for the protection of the species will be reviewed and assessed periodically.

Both the countries will launch a national and worldwide educational programme to stop illegal activities of poaching, smuggling and selling of tiger parts and its derivatives.

The tiger parts, especially the bones were found being illegally smuggled to China where they are in great demand for the use in medicines, wine and some formulations. Since China does not have many tigers to fulfil the demand, the poachers in India found it quite lucrative to kill the tigers in reserves and smuggle out their bones via Ladakh and Tibet.

The Indian authorities seized huge quantities of bones and skins of tigers and other wildlife species over the last two years. The Government of India felt that unless the Chinese Government takes steps to curb the demand in their country, all the good results of the Project Tiger launched 20 years ago would be lost. The population of tigers, following the Project Tiger, had increased enormously and India is home to three-fourth of world's total tiger population. But the pressure of poaching on the tiger population brought

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down their numbers considerably during the last two-three years.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests organised an international symposium last year at the end of which the Delhi Declaration was issued which, among other things, recommended the setting up of a Global Tiger Forum. The first meeting of the Global Tiger Forum was also hosted by India.

The Government of India took up the matter with the Chinese Government and it was agreed to sign a Protocol on Tiger by the two countries.

During his visit Shri Kamal Nath would also be meeting the Chinese Minister for Forestry, Mr. Xu Youfang and discuss with him matters of common interest.

INA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Mar 02, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Third Session of India - China Expert Group

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1995 regarding Third Session of IndiaChina Expert Group:

The third meeting of the India-China Expert Group was held in New Delhi on 2-4 March, 1995. The Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Wang Chungui, Deputy Director General, Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and comprised experts from their concerned departments. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Shivshankar Menon, Joint Secretary (North East) Ministry of External Affairs. It consisted of representatives from the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs, the Army Headquarters and the Survey of India.

2. The Expert Group reviewed the progress made at its first sessions held in February and April 1994, and continued deliberations on the tasks assigned to it under the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India - China Border Areas. The mandate of the Expert Group includes assisting the Joint Working Group in clarification of the line of actual control (LAC) between India and China, reduction of military forces along the India -China LAC, other confidence building measures and verification methods.

3. At the third meeting, both sides were pleased to note that the situation along the India - China LAC was peaceful. They also expressed satisfaction that the confidence building measures already in place between them were working well. Recognising the importance of effective confidence building measures, they held discussions on further such measures.

4. The two sides had a useful exchange of views on the drafts

prepared by the Indian side on prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusions across the India - China LAC.

5. The two sides also agreed that additional designated points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries will be established at Nathu La in the Sikkim sector and a point to be agreed in the middle sector of the India China border areas. (At present, the border personnel of India and China hold scheduled and flag meetings at Bum La and Spanggur Gap in the Eastern and Western Sectors respectively.)

6. Both sides adopted a pragmatic and forward-looking approach in these discussions which were held in a friendly atmosphere.

7. The next meeting of the Expert Group will be held in Beijing at a mutually convenient date in 1995, and will be preceded by a meeting of the Joint Working Group in New Delhi.

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INA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

Visit of Ambassador Vantias Markides, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 22, 1995 regarding visit of Ambassador Vantias Markides:

Ambassador Vantias Markides, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, is visiting New Delhi from 21-24 March, 1995. On 21 March, he called on M O S (SK) and held talks with Foreign Secretary and Secretary (West). Both sides took the opportunity to underline the excellent relations between India and Cyprus, as well as their desire to further intensify bilateral cooperation in both political and economic fields. Ambassador Markides conveyed the perceptions of Cyprus on recent developments related to the Cyprus issue and prospects for progress towards a lasting solution in terms of the relevant UN resolutions. He expressed appreciation for India's consistent and principled support to Cyprus and conveyed that on its part, Cyprus would remain steadfast in its understanding and support for India's concerns. In bilateral delegation level talks between

Ambassador Markides and Secretary (West), regional and international issues were discussed as well as cooperation in multi-lateral fora. There was a close identity of views on almost all issues. During Ambassador Markides' meeting with Foreign Secretary, it was agreed to institutionalise regular Foreign Office consultations between MEA and the Cypriot Foreign Office at the Foreign Secretary level. During his stay in Delhi, Ambassador Markides will also be addressing a Symposium on "Cyprus, United Nations and Conflict Resolution" being organised by JNU and the IndoCyprus Friendship Association on 22-23 March.

PRUS USA INDIA

Date : Mar 22, 1995

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

EFA Review at Copenhagen Summit

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 06, 1995 on EFA Review at Copenhagen Summit:

The progress towards achieving Education For All in the nine high population countries will be reviewed during the world summit on social development at Copenhagen. The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and the Education Secretary, Shri S. V. Giri will be accompanying the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to the summit. The Prime Minister will chair the EFA-9 meeting on March 10, 1995 in the Danish capital to review the progress since the first education summit held in December 1993 in New Delhi. The meeting is likely to be attended by the leaders of the nine countries including President Suharto of Indonesia, Prime Minister

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Le Peng of China, Begum Khalida Zia of Bangladesh and President Zedillo of Mexico. Besides, a symposium, which Shri Scindia will attend, is being sponsored by the Centre for the Study of the Global South on March 9, 1995 to articulate expectations of the South from the Summit.

The status paper on EFA achievement brought out by the Department of Education on the occasion of the social summit presents an overview of the educational progress made in the country and the

challenges ahead for attainment of EFA. While the goal of providing basic education to all is yet to be achieved, the progress so far and the programmes under implementation for Universal Elementary Education (UEE) and total adult literacy are clear pointers that the EFA would be achieved in the near future. Literacy rate since independence has nearly trebled, the number of teachers has risen five fold and the number of schools three times. The outlay on education in the 8th Plan is 128 times that of the First Plan expenditure. Special emphasis has been laid on girls education. The rate of growth of female literacy in the last decade was higher than of male literacy. The girls enrolment in schools has gone up from 6.1 million in 1950-51 to 62.4 million in 1991-92.

The main thrust for achieving UEE is likely to be from the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) with focus on essentially educationally backward districts, girls and disadvantaged groups. The 73rd and the 74th constitutional amendments have paved the way for greater role of local communities in educational management as envisaged in the DPEP. Detailed parameters for decentralised management of education have since been worked out.

An area identified at the EFA summit for joint initiative was distance education which is set to expand manifold. An innovative project has been formulated by the National Open School for providing alternative schooling to neo-literates and drop-outs from schools and the non-formal system. The project is expected to benefit 2 to 3 million neo-literates.

NMARK INDIA INDONESIA BANGLADESH CHINA MEXICO USA MALDIVES

Date : Mar 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Trade and Economic Cooperation with East European Countries

The following is the text of a Press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1995 on Trade and Economic cooperation with East European countries:

The Government of India has adopted a pro-active customised strategy to expand trade and economic relations with East European nations. The principal policy thrust in this regard

being followed by Ministry of Commerce is outlined below:

Signing of new bilateral framework agreements on trade and economic cooperation with the emergent countries of the former Soviet Union and East Europe and substitution of rupee payment trade by standard convertible currency trading agreements;

Evolution of a more liberal credit policy vis-a-vis CIS states (credits worth US \$55 million have already been advanced to Central Asian Republics);

Liberalisation of the counter-trade regime with East European Countries;

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Identification and development of more viable transport and transit routes - Commissioning of a multisectoral study team to study transit routes to Central Asia via Iran; initiatives on development of the port Novorossik for trade with Russia;

Liberalisation, in consultation with RBI, of consignment exports and warehousing regulations;

Conclusion of bilateral air traffic agreements and commencement of direct flights to the new capitals of CIS;

Encouragement to establishment of direct business contacts inter-alia through participation in trade fairs etc.;

Setting up of Joint Commissions, Joint Committees and holding of meetings;

In the special case of Russia, a number of initiatives have, been taken which include;

- a) activation of the Joint Commission and holding of its successful first meeting followed by intensive follow-up;
- b) high level visits including by the Prime Minister and Commerce Minister to intensive discussions with the top Russian leadership;
- c) reiteration by the Russian side of the commitment to evolve a mechanism to use debt repayment funds and import of tea, tobacco etc., on a long term basis;
- d) formation and meeting of a subgroup on transport to address all transport related matters;
- e) impetus to Joint Venture Banks etc.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Visit of the Vice President of the European Commission Mr. Manuel Marin Gonzalez to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1995 regarding visit of Mr. Manuel Marin Gonzalez:

The Vice President of the European Commission, Mr. Manuel Marin Gonzalez, is visiting India from 27-29 March at the invitation of External Affairs Minister. Mr. Marin held talks today with External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister. He also called on the President and the Speaker, Lok Sabha. Mr. Marin will be meeting Minister of State for Commerce tomorrow.

During Mr. Marin's meeting with External Affairs Minister, relations between India and the European Union in both their political and economic dimensions were reviewed in detail. Satisfaction was expressed at the healthy growth of
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Indo-EU trade and it was felt that potential for further enhancement was very considerable. Mr. Marin underlined the EC's keenness to promote the increased presence of European companies in the Indian market through investment and joint ventures. He complimented India for the success of its economic reforms and lauded GOI policies designed to balance the need for economic growth with continued emphasis on social aspects and protection of the needs of the most vulnerable elements of Indian society.

On the political side, Mr. Marin stressed the need for intensified political dialogue between India and the EU, in order to promote greater understanding of each other's perspectives and of India's role in both Asian and global contexts. External Affairs Minister outlined India's priorities in the post cold war era and stressed the fundamental convergences between India and the EU in terms of shared belief in democracy and individual liberties under the rule of law. It was agreed that India and the European Commission would continue to work together to further strengthen political and economic relations.

During Mr. Marin's meeting with Finance Minister, prospects

for Indo-EU economic relations were reviewed. FM underlined the importance of greater access for Indian exports in the EU market, in particular, at a time when India was opening up its own market to the EU.

DIA

Date : Mar 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

India and France Sign Agreement for Explormation of Gold andPrecious Stones in Karnataka

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1995 on India and France signing an agreement on exploration Gold and precious stones:

India and France signed an agreement here today for a project for preparation of a Regional Geochemical Inventory for selected areas of the Karnataka Craton Greenstone Belts. The project is meant for exploration of gold and precious stones in Karanataka state. The value of the project is about Rupees six crore

The agreement was signed between Shri D. B. Dimri, Director General, Geological Survey of India and Mr. F. Le Lann, Senior Vice President of BRGM in the presence of Shri A. C. Sen, Secretary in the Ministry of Mines.

The agreement was signed under the ongoing Indo-French Collaboration on Mineral Exploration and Development.

The present agreement for preparation of a Regional Geochemical Inventory is focussed on the Karnataka Cration Greenstone Belts in Southern India which are thought to have considerable geological potential and may contain large deposits of gold. It is proposed to divide the project in four phases. In the first phase, there would be a fairly intensive orientation phase to select priority areas within an area of 150,000 to 250,000 sq. kms. Once priority areas have been identified, a regional exploration over 15,000 sq. kms. for selection of areas for even more detailed exploration would be carried out. Phase three and four would involve detailed. exploration of areas identified to have

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the highest potential which would include evaluation by drilling and the data collected would be then compiled and analysed.

The idea behind this project is to make basic exploration data available, which may be utilised by investors, both in the public sector and private sector, to take up detailed prospecting mining for gold. The duration of the project would be 24 months from the date of starting of work. It is expected that work on this project would commence from May 1995.

It may be recalled that last year, six projects of a total value of 17 million French Francs were signed between BRGM, Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and the Government of Kerala respectively for different projects for mineral exploration and development.

ANCE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Opposes Changes in Climate Change Convention

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1995 on India opposing changes in climate change convention:

The Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has said that India will oppose any effort of the developed countries to water down or rewriting the Convention on Climate Change. He said, such a move is against the very grain of the consensus reached at Rio and would amount to the re-opening of the entire environment\development debate.

Shri Kamal Nath referred to some developed countries' proposal of a Protocol in order to limit emissions in developed countries and also to rope in "more advanced developing countries" by which they mean India, China and Brazil. He said, India will oppose any such move tooth and nail. He said, he discussed the matter with the climax authorities during his recent visit to China.

Shri Kamal Nath was inaugurating, here today, a Consultation on the Convention on Climate Change as a part of preparations before the First Convention of Parties to the Convention scheduled to be

held at Berlin, Germany at the end of this month. A number of NGO representatives and Ministry officials participated.

The Minister regretted that the developed countries have not taken any steps towards fulfilling their financial commitments and technology transfer. They are not coming forward in the spirit of the treaties. The Climate Change Convention is very important because on its implementation depend the implementation of the other conventions on biological diversity and desertification and the Montreal Protocol.

Shri Kamal Nath said that existing Climate Change and emissions stabilisation policies in India are sufficient to meet our aims, goals and present obligations under the convention.

Shri Kamal Nath said that the questions of political implications in terms of sovereignty and Joint Implementation, financial and economic implications and reliable methodologies to determine the base scenario of emissions for calculating the actual avoidance of emissions have to be addressed.

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He stressed that the participation by the developing countries in Joint Implementation is voluntary and not as a result of compulsory commitments. It cannot be used as an excuse by the countries of the North to continue their present consumption patterns, while putting a plug on the South and continue to eat into the environmental space of the South, he said.

Shri Obrey Mayer of the Global Commons Institute, London, in his presentation said that the issues of survival and equity have to be addressed. He said, one-third of the global population (North) has access to 94 per cent of the resources in hard currency terms and they are the "Environment Debtors" while the twothird of the population in South are the Environmental Creditors as they have access only to 6 per cent of resources. He said, the tradable emissions, the way it is being offered, will not help.

DIA PERU USA BRAZIL CHINA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

International Seminar on Conservation

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1995 on International Seminar on Conservation:

A five-day international seminar on stone conservation began here this morning. It has been jointly organised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and UNESCO. It is being attended by experts from India and abroad.

Opening the meet, the Culture Secretary, Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra emphasised that the problem of conservation of monuments could not be studied in isolation. It should be seen in the context of industrial development. The Government is trying to reconcile the varying trends of economic transformation, promotion of tourism and the need to preserve our cultural heritage and bring culture to the centre-stage of all development efforts, he said.

Dr. Mahapatra pointed to the diversity of India's stone sculpture and said that the problems of conservation differed from region to region. He lauded the role of UNESCO in creating awareness about conservation of heritage and was hopeful that the present seminar would provide an opportunity for interaction among the experts about the modern techniques.

DIA USA

Date : Mar 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India to Host Meeting on Ramsar Convention

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1995 on India hosting Meeting on Ramsar Convention:

India is hosting a two-day Meeting of the Asian Region of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, on March 23-24, 1995 in Delhi. Thirtyone countries have been invited for participation in the meeting. They include Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Srilanka, Nepal, Philippines, Israel, Combodia, Myanamar, China, Japan, South Korea, Afghanistan UAE, Kazakistan, Kyrghyzstan, Tajikistan Turkmanistan, Uzbekistan, Russia and Hongkong.

The Asian Regional Meeting will initiate discussion on several

issues of regional cooperation and its implementation. The discussions will be largely conducted in two Working Groups besides the presentation of country reports. A Delhi Declaration is likely to be issued at the end of the Meeting.

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Major issues before the Group I would be the 'Wise Use of Wetlands And Listed Sites'. It will include the inventory on wetland resources and data base, conservation of wetlands and guidelines for management planning; local community participation, education and awareness; environment impact assessment, wetland policy and legislation, increase in number of Ramsar sites and their conservation.

Group II will go into the aspect of International Cooperation which will cover resolutions and recommendations from Kushiro and other meetings, Wetland Conservation Fund, Financial Resources for Wetland Conservation, Regional Cooperation Relationship of Ramsar Convention with others Global Conventions and Preparations for the Conference of Bureau of Parties to be held at Brisbane, Australia next year.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, since its adoption in Iran in 1971, is one of the major global inter-governmental treaties on the conservation of wetlands. So far, 772 wetlands have been designated as Wetlands of International importance, covering an area of 44 million hectares.

Asia has about 120 million hectares of Wetlands. These are among the most valuable ecosystems in Asia and a source of many benefits to millions of people. The region has enormous variation in climate and topography, resulting a great diversity of flora and fauna, but wetlands are being lost and degraded rapidly. In this scenario, the regional cooperation will enable useful exchange of information and experience among the countries to formulate the course of action required to be taken to ensure wise use of the wetlands.

DIA BANGLADESH IRAN INDONESIA MALAYSIA NEPAL PAKISTAN THAILAND CHINA ISRAEL
JAPAN PHILIPPINES AFGHANISTAN TAJIKISTAN KOREA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES RUSSIA
UZBEKISTAN USA AUSTRALIA PERU

Date : Mar 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Enters International Space Market

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1995 on India entering International Space Market:

The most significant event of the year 1994-95 was the successful launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-D2, on October 15, 1994. It demonstrated India's capability to launch IRS class of Indian remote sensing satellites. PSLV-D2 placed the 804 kg. IRS-P2 satellite into the intended polar sun-synchronous orbit. The 283 tonne, 44 m tall, PSLV is designed for launching 1,000 kg class of remote sensing satellites into 900 km polar sun-synchronous orbit. This has been highlighted in the 1994-95 Annual Report of the Department of Space. The report revealed that the next developmental flight, PSLVD3, is planned in 1995 and it will launch IRS-P3 satellite. Three more continuation flights of PSLV have also been approved.

During the year India's achievements in the development and application of space-based remote sensing technology has drawn worldwide attention. The US company, EOSAT Co, has entered into a commercial agreement with the Antrix Corporation of the Department of Space (DOS) to receive and market the data from IRS Satellites on a global basis. The company has already augmented its ground station at Norman, Oklahoma, USA with the assistance of the DOS and commenced receiving data from the presently operational IRS-IB satellite in June 1994. Several more stations, covering other parts of the world, are being augmented to receive data from the present and forthcoming IRS satellites.

The SROSS-C2 satellite, launched by ASLV-D4 in May 1994, carrying two scientific payloads, the Gamma-Ray Burst (GRB) experiment and the retarding
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Potential Analyser (RPA), is providing valuable data to the scientific community. Several interesting celestial gamma-ray bursts have been detected which are being analysed by the scientists. The National Mesosphere - Stratosphere - Troposphere Radar Facility (NMRF), Gadanki near Tirupati is providing valuable data for the atmospheric studies. The X-ray payload to be flown on IRS-P3 is sure to benefit research in high-energy astronomy.

Considerable progress has been made in the development of GSLV. A number of advanced technologies have qualified and fabrication of most of the vehicle hardware have been initiated. The successful development and qualification of the silicon phenolic throat for the GSLV liquid propellant engine is another significant achievement during the year. The L-40 liquid propulsion of GSLV

is now getting ready for its qualification in 1995.

INSAT-2C is scheduled for launch in 1995 and INSAT-2D, a year thereafter. INSAT-2E, slated for launch in 1997-98, will have additional spectral channel and improved coverage for its meteorological payload.

Substantial progress has been made during the year in the realisation of IRS-1C scheduled for launch in 1995. Work on IRS-1D, similar to IRS-1C, is also progressing well. IRS-1C and IRS-1D incorporate advanced features such as the LISS-III camera, a Panchromatic camera (PAN) and a Wide Field Sensor (WIFS) enabling better spectral and spatial resolutions than their predecessors thereby enhancing the application potential of these satellites. These satellites have capability for stereo viewing and on-board recording.

The remote sensing applications continue to grow and cover more and more disciplines. Many of these applications like crop acreage and yield estimation, drought monitoring and assessment, flood mapping, land use and land cover mapping, wasteland mapping, ocean/marine resources survey, urban mapping, mineral prospecting, forest resources survey, etc., have become an integral part of the resources management system in the country. The Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development (IMSD), launched in June 1992, now covers 157 districts which have been identified for generation of action plans for locale-specific development using, mainly, IRS data.

India continues to strengthen cooperation in space with space agencies all over the world. During the year, cooperative agreements were signed with the Ukrainian National Space Agency and the Russian Space Agency. India hosted the 15th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing during November 1994 in Bangalore.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

International Seminar on Commercial Biotechnology

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1995 on International Seminar on Commercial

Biotechnology:

International Seminar on Commercial Biotechnology was held here today. It was organised by Biotech Consortium India Ltd., Bombay as the biotech component of the MANTECH-the International Exhibition of Manufacturing Technologies. It is the first ever Seminar on Commercial Biotechnology to be held in India.

Speakers from India, US, Canada, Russia, Europe, Asia and Pacific representing industry, research, chambers of commerce and International developmental organisations presented the commercial opportunities of biotechnology and the various issues like technology transfer, intellectual property rights, market opportunities, technology projections etc.

The Managing Director of Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) Dr. S. Chandrasekhar said that resource allocation by the Government and industry in the developing countries for research and development are not commensurate with the potential benefits received from Biotechnology applications. But there is enough scope of its application in the field of agriculture, environment, medicine and health care in these countries. He said that in India the Government, in the recent budget, has provided incentives for venture capital to the potential investors. He said that Biotech industry in India is still in its infancy and the infrastructure created should be improved for the growth of biotech and pharmaceutical industries.

In the keynote address Dr. Werner Behrens, Managing Director, UNIDO said that global market for biotechnology products has been estimated at over \$ 100 billion in the year 2000. International scope of biotechnology broadened to include new countries who recognize the value of developing this technology. He said that by 2000 AD India's biotech industry would register a four-fold increase and the value of biotech products in the country would reach a level of around Rs. 5500 crore.

President of FICCI, Shri A. K. Rungta welcomed the participants and said that the private sector industries has shown great initiative in the area of Biotechnology.

DIA RUSSIA CANADA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

MANILA

Visit of Mr. Roberto R. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1995 regarding Indo-Philippine Cultural Exchange Programme:

Mr. Roberto R. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines (Foreign Minister) and Mrs. Shyamala B. Cowsik, Ambassador of India to Philippines, signed the Indo-Philippine Cultural Exchange Programme for 1995-97 at a ceremony held at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Manila, on 27 March, 1995.

The Cultural Exchange Programme -the latest in a series of two year work programmes - was concluded within the framework of our bilateral cultural agreement of 6 September, 1969, which was signed by General Carlos P. Romulo, the then Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Shri Dinesh Singh, the then External Affairs Minister of India.

The Cultural Exchange Programme is not limited to the usual provisions for educational, academic and cultural exchanges, both of scholars and of data, microfilms, audio-visual material etc. It includes substantive provisions for technical and scientific interaction, as in the fields of AIDS research, pharmaceuticals and traditional medicine.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Romulo noted that Indo-Philippine Cultural links & exchanges in the field of education and art had been very extensive and that our two countries would work, as partners, to tackle with the same vigour & enthusiasm the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in trade & investments.

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ILIPPINES INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Mar 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Althani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1995 regarding visit of the Foreign Minister of the state of Qatar:

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar will be paying an official visit to India from 2-3 April, 1995 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He will hold extensive talks with his Indian counterpart on the international, regional issues and bilateral subjects of mutual interest. During the visit he is expected to call on the President and Prime Minister.

TAR INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Foreign Secretary with the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 29, 1995 regarding meeting of our Foreign Secretary with Pakistan High Commissioner:

Foreign Secretary met the Pakistan High Commissioner today and apprised him of the protocol lapses by the High Commission towards Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs at the reception on the occasion of the Pakistan National Day. Foreign Secretary also conveyed the strong feeling expressed in Parliament on this incident and asked the High Commissioner to convey the feelings expressed in the House to the Government of Pakistan.

Responding to a query about the Ministerial representation at the reception through only a Joint Secretary level officer from the Foreign Office had represented Pakistan at the Indian Republic Day Function in Islamabad, the Spokesman stated that over the last one year, India has extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan and reiterated its readiness for a bilateral dialogue. It was in this spirit of accommodation that Shri R. L. Bhatia went to the Pakistan High Commission.

Responding to yet another question about the delay of 5 days in reacting to the incident. the Spokesman clarified that the Government was alerted by the Press report and some time was naturally necessary to make enquiries and act in the matter.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Mar 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1995 regarding visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India:

Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, will pay a State visit to India from March 25-28, 1995.

During the visit, President Kumaratunga will call on President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. There will be official talks with our Prime Minister on 25th March, 1995, followed by a luncheon meeting.

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The Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan, and the Minister for External Affairs will call on the visiting dignitary. She will also communicate with leaders of Indian business and industry in the meeting which is being hosted by CII. This is the first State visit abroad of the Sri Lanka President after assuming Office. She will be accompanied by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, and the Trade Minister, Mr. Kingsley Wickranaratne, and senior advisers and officers. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Kadirgamar visited India in December, 1994, immediately after Mrs. Kumaratunga assumed the Office of the President.

The visit will further strengthen the cordial ties between India and Sri Lanka and expand our bilateral cooperation. Both countries accord high priority to maintaining close and friendly bilateral relations and effective regional cooperation.

I LANKA INDIA USA
Date : Mar 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The Statements relating to J&K made by the President of Pakistan at a Press Conference at Copenhagen on March 12, 1995

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1995 regarding the statement relating to J & K made by the President of Pakistan:

Government have noted the statements relating to J&K made by the President of Pakistan at a press conference at Copenhagen on March 12, 1995. We strongly object to these unwarranted references which are totally out of context with the world Social Summit in Copenhagen, an occasion that brought world leaders together in a cooperative not divisive spirit.

It is regrettable that the Pakistan President has taken recourse to such misleading statements at a time when India & Pakistan ought to enter into a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue to resolve all outstanding differences peacefully & bilaterally. We believe that the Simla Agreement is the appropriate framework within which India & Pakistan can work towards building up a harmonious relationship. Kashmir remains an integral part of India and the only unfinished agenda of Partition is the vacation of territories illegally occupied by Pakistan through aggression.

The core issue in J&K is the unabated and active support extended by Pakistan to militancy. Pakistan should, therefore, cease its state sponsorship of terrorism.

NMARK PAKISTAN INDIA USA
Date : Mar 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indian Cultural Week organised in Damascus

The following is the text from the Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on March 15, 1995 regarding Indian Cultural Week organised in Damascus from Mar 12, 1995:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that under the ongoing bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme, an Indian Cultural Week will be organised in Damascus from March 12, 1995. The events will open with the inauguration of an Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Paintings, Sculptures and Graphics, by Dr. Najah Al-Attar, Syrian Minister of Culture. The exhibition, sponsored by the Lalit Kala Akademi, will be on view for two weeks. Simultaneously an Exhibition of Syrian Paintings will open at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi on March 24, 1995.

From March 12, for almost ten days, the Syrians will witness a comprehensive display of various facets of India's diverse culture. An Indian Film Week will open
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in Damascus from March 15 which includes a retrospective of five films of the well-known Director Mrinal Sen. On the same day, ICCR-sponsored Kuchipudi troupe of well-known dancer Alkehya Punjala and a Shehnai and Flute ensemble of Rajendra Prasanna will be performing in Damascus. After Damascus, the films and the Dance\Music troupe will perform in Aleppo, Syria's second largest city.

A bilateral Seminar to promote tourism has been organised on March 18, which would be inaugurated by the Syria Minister of Tourism. To go with it, an Indian Gastronomic and Cultural Week will open on March 15, in the Meridien Hotel, Damascus. Selected Chefs from Meridien Hotel, New Delhi will be in Damascus, as also the well-known Bombay-based Sitarist, Rafat Khan to perform during the week.

It is expected that these cultural events will enhance people-to-people contact between India and Syria which have a long history of close and friendly ties.

This Indian Cultural Week is being arranged with the support of the Department of Culture, Lalit Kala Akademi, ICCR, Directorate of Film Festival and other organisations.

DIA SYRIA USA

Date : Mar 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Taiwan Relations

The following is the text from the Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1995 regarding IndoTaiwan relations:

The Government of India have seen reports in today's newspapers to the effect that India and Taiwan have decided to establish relations and exchange representative missions. These reports are factually incorrect. Government of India are aware that certain non-governmental bodies are to establish a presence in Taiwan or in India for promoting trade, investment and tourism. The Government of India recognises the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate government of China.

IWAN INDIA CHINA

Date : Mar 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Statement made by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shri R.L. Bhatia on the maintenance of Sikh Shrines in Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 07, 1995 regarding statement made by the Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia on the maintenance of Sikh Shrines in Pakistan:

We have received several complaints that Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan are not being properly maintained and are in a sad state of disrepair.

This matter has been taken up on several occasions with Pakistan. We have made certain specific suggestions relating to gurdwaras

in Pakistan. We have pointed out that Indian public bodies are ready and willing to take on the responsibility for the maintenance of the shrines. We hope that our offers would be viewed in a positive and constructive spirit by the Pakistani authorities. Our purpose is purely religious in intent. The gurudwaras are of great emotional significance to our people and we are doing our best to ensure their proper upkeep.

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KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Mar 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Romania keen to promote trade with India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1995 on Romanian keenness to promote Trade with India:

A Romanian delegation led by Mr. Ion Ban, Director of Asia Oceania Division, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Romania, accompanied by a 44-member delegation paid an official visit to India from 23rd February to 10th March, 1995. The members of the delegation were drawn from Ministry of Transport, Industry, Foreign Affairs, Romanian Central Bank, Commercial Banks and various public sector and private companies of Romania. The delegation had meetings with business Chambers in Bombay and Delhi apart from one-to-one meeting with their business counterparts in India. Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) was closely involved in the discussions. During his visit, a symposium on Romania sponsored by FICCI\ASSOCHAM was also held.

Mr. Ban also called on the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, on 9th March, 1995 and discussed matters relating to bilateral trade between the two countries.

Mr. Ban with some of his ministerial colleagues also met Shri Ashok Pradhan, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, on 7th March, 1995 wherein the areas of common interest on further possible cooperation between the two countries were discussed. These include issues such as setting up of joint ventures in sectors such as oil\petroleum, textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals and metalurgical industries; counter-trade between the two countries, liquidation of rupee balances, allocation of space to

India in the Constanta Free Trade Zone for construction of warehouses, joint ventures, etc., issue of visas etc. Mr. Ban conveyed that Romania was looking forward to holding the 11th Session of the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission in Bucharest this year.

Both sides taking note of the dip in the level of bilateral trade in the recent past, agreed that all efforts would be made to double the trade volume in the near future to a level of US \$ 150 million to US \$ 200 million.

AN ROMANIA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

Action Plan for South Asian Seas Regional Programme

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1995 on Action Plan for South Asian Seas Regional Programme:

The Plenipotentiaries of the South Asian Maritime Countries of Bangladesh India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met here today to discuss and finalise a Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region. They discussed on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Regional Contingency Plan for tackling
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marine pollution, Human Resource Development and problems of land-based sources of marine pollution. According to the draft institutional arrangements, all the five countries will contribute on the SAARC scale to the South Asian Seas Trust Fund which will be constituted for this purpose. The Final Act was signed today by the representatives of the five countries in the presence of representatives of UNEP and other UN organisations.

The South Asian Seas Region consists of the northern Indian Ocean and the adjoining seas of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Earth Summit at Rio, both emphasised the need to protect the marine environment in the oceans within and outside national jurisdiction and conserve its resources both living and non-

living.

The External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee in his inaugural address stressed the importance of regional cooperation among coastal states of the South Asian Region in the interest of marine environment. He mentioned that a framework of regional, sub-regional and international cooperation to promote the peaceful use of oceans is indeed the need of the day. According to him, the protection of the marine environment is particularly important in the South Asian Region which has a long coastline and set with numerous islands which support very fragile ecosystems.

The Minister of State of Ocean Development expressed happiness that the South Asian Maritime countries could come together to discuss and adopt an Action Plan for the protection and management of marine and coastal environment in the South Asian Seas Region. He exhorted the UN environmental agencies and funding institutions to come forward with adequate funding for the programmes that will arise out of the Action Plan. Ocean Development Secretary Dr. P. Rama Rao and senior officials of concerned ministries participated in the deliberations.

The meeting was attended by Smt. Srimani Athalahmudali, Sri Lankan Minister of Transport, Environment and Womens Affairs, Shri Asif Shuja Khan, Director, Environment Protection Agency, Pakistan, Mr. M. Abul Quasem, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Bangladesh and Mr. Hussien Shihab, Director, South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme from Maldives. Mr. Peter Schroder, Director, United Nations Environment Programme and officials from other international organisations attended the meeting.

DIA BANGLADESH MALDIVES PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Indo-Sri Lankan Relations

The following is the text of a press relaease issued in New Delhi on Mar 27, 1995 regarding Indo-Sri Lankan relations:

Government have seen newspaper reports indirectly sourcing some

comments to the External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee in connection with Indo-Sri Lankan relations. These alleged comments attributed to sources close to Shri Mukherjee are totally speculative and have no basis in facts.

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I LANKA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

TURKMENISTAN

The \$ 5 Millon Credit Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Turkmenistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1995 regarding Agreement between India and Turkmenistan:

The \$ 5 million credit Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Turkmenistan was signed in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) on 24th March, 1995.

Dr. V. P. Sharma, Ambassador of India, signed the Agreement for the Government of the Republic of India and Mr. Velory G. Olchertsov, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet of Minister of Turkmenistan, signed for the Government of Turkmenistan.

RKMENISTAN INDIA

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Speech by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, at World Summit for Social Development

Your Majesties,
Mr. Prime Minister,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government
Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and privilege to be present at this historic gathering of world leaders to consider a subject of unparalleled importance to humankind, namely, social development. It is of special importance to be in Denmark, a country which has been a path-finder in conceptualising and articulating progressive thoughts and programmes crucial to genuine social development. I would like to express my gratitude to the people and Government of Denmark for their warm hospitality. May I also convey India's warm appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary General of the United Nations and to his colleagues, especially Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, who have worked so hard and so purposefully to organise this unique Summit.

Today, the world stands at the crossroads of history even as it struggles to free itself from the attitudes of the Cold War era. We are at the cross-roads because we know that certain paradigms of development which placed the State alone at the centre did not succeed. There is now a swing to the other side, namely the tendency to put an untrammelled Market alone at the centre. While the new enthusiasm sweeps over the countries, one cannot help the uneasy feeling that what is needed really is a certain Market Plus; otherwise, the poor and the weak are likely to suffer exclusion due to the imperfections of the Market. The inadequacy in both these approaches stems from the failure to place the people at the

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centre. This centrality of the people is extremely important. We have to empower the people themselves as the central strategy to social and economic development to sustain human progress. That, in my view, is the vision we should adopt today. I am glad that the Draft Declaration and Programme of Action to emerge at this Summit recognize this basic need. The main import is the empowerment of every disadvantaged class and group, in fact of every single disadvantaged person. This is possible only if certain rights fundamental to human development are guaranteed to people, such as the rights to food, work, shelter, education, health and information through national determination and international Cooperation. International cooperation is very important for more reasons than one. In the first place, all countries the world over are in need of social development and integration. The dominant causes for discord may be different in different countries, but no society today can claim to be fully developed and integrated. And the whole of humankind is what we are talking about at this Summit, as I understand it. Besides, the emergence of the so-called "cultural faultlines" even if it is not accepted as the solitary problem facing the world, is increasingly a menacing phenomenon and is truly world-wide. It

can and does lead to terrorism, not unoften exported from neighbouring quarters and spell disruption in peace and development. The core issues of poverty eradication and social integration cannot be addressed credibly without adequate resources, non-discriminatory access to markets and the availability of technologies that are relevant to these core issues. At the national level, countries have to commit the resources required to realise the rights for the poor in terms of institution building, formulation of policies, designing of strategies and above all, mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation that make implementation sustainable. The rights I have just mentioned are fundamental to development in its broadest sense. They act as a corrective to the distortions of the State and the Market severally and also complement the efforts and the achievements of both. It is this harmony that we would seek to develop in the context of the reforms that we have embarked upon presently in our own country, as a means to our goal of eradication of poverty.

How do we do this?

Our leader Mahatma Gandhi mobilised the masses of our people in our struggle for freedom. He inspired an impoverished nation to win freedom from the world's mightiest empire, by non-violent means. As India struggles towards its second freedom-from want, disease and ignorance, we go back to Mahatma Gandhi and his technique of social mobilisation of the people. Our strategy goes well beyond representative governance and endeavours to bring in more and more people's participation at the grass-roots level. To this end, in the last couple of years, we amended our Constitution to provide for decentralised, participative, village level democratic institutions with statutory representative to the socially disadvantaged groups of our people, with a third of all elective representative posts reserved and earmarked for women. It is our resolve to make the concerns of gender and the rights of the child, the adolescents and the youth the center of all our decision making, including economic decision making. This is the mutually reinforcing social and economic vision that would inform our development strategies during the rest of this decade and into the next century, side by side with a massive effort to achieve maximum industrialisation and growth in order to make India a modern, competitive and technologically front rank nation. We do not underestimate the very real and practical difficulties involved in bringing about this combination. Yet, we have no alternative, nor a better combination to address our massive problems. For the past three and a half years we have embarked on a truly revolutionary reform of our economic and industrial policy. The process is irrever

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sible, with a national consensus backing it. At the same time, those sections of the people who cannot, in the very nature of things, reap the benefits of the policy reform directly and in

the short run, would certainly need a helpful, caring and enabling dispensation so as to attain the levels of eligibility and capacity to find entry into the new system on equal terms. This would mean a massive and well coordinated programme, backed with commensurate resources and other efforts, to lift the huge base of the pyramid to those levels within a reasonable time-frame. The magnitude and complexity of the task in the Indian context, as well as that of many developing countries, can easily be imagined, particularly when it is seen as integral with the reforms process, which it really is.

When reforms are undertaken, what really happens is deeper than the mere economic impact of the reforms. The fact is that in poor societies, there is a lowlevel equilibrium which prevents internal tensions and creates an interdependence of sorts, even in that environment of overall poverty. I am sure those who belong to developing societies are aware of this situation. It is only when economic development brings in prosperity, along with certain disparities that the equilibrium tends to get disturbed. When those disparities go beyond the point of toleration, we run into conflicts and strife. Obviously, since we have to end poverty through these very reforms which we have chosen after due deliberation, it follows that the paradigm of our development must necessarily contain an effective component of social justice and harmony, in order to succeed in the long, or even the short, run. I may venture to add here that this need for a modified paradigm, applies to developed countries as well.

This is the Age of Information. Legitimately, the engines of global information should not be confined to a mere exchange or transfer of information relating to money and business, as is generally the case today. Going far beyond this scope, information must become the instrument of knowledge and wisdom that promote the spiritual oneness of humankind. That is what social integration is about and should be at all levels. However, social integration is not cultural domination or homogenization. This is where certain effects of globalisation notwithstanding its obvious merits, should be stoutly resisted, especially by the societies of the developing world, drawing upon their own civilisation strengths. There is no dearth of these in our Societies. This is indeed important in the context of material life-styles and consumption levels, whether in the rich countries or in the rich islands within poor countries. A commitment to self-discipline and restraint in consumption should emerge from this Summit as the first step of cultural and spiritual solidarity in our effort at poverty eradication and social integration. This sentiment has been expressed often in the past, but it has hardly happened anywhere in the world. There is nothing surprising in this since the attention of the whole world was occupied by wars, hot and cold, in almost the entire twentieth century. It is only now, at the fag end of the century, that the leaders of the world have begun to think of how to live, rather than how to kill, or escape killing. The new task is truly

new and stupendous. Copenhagen is only a beginning and if what men could do for destruction is any indication, what they can also do for a changed Agenda of construction does hold immense hope for humankind. After all, it is the technology of living, that is waiting to be developed for universal adoption in the twenty-first century.

What is being referred to as a "Good Society", wherein values are not lopsided or unduly weighted on the basis of a single factor such as wealth or military strength, needs to emerge in the world. This cannot happen by itself. In my view, it will need a constant effort on the part of leaders of societies, not necessarily confined to leaders of governments. A beginning had to be made somewhere, even in a small way, and I hope that this Summit

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will initiate serious thinking on this very important aspect of life on this planet. The presence of a large number of Nongovernmental organizations at this Summit is a welcome feature that will help focus attention on the people themselves, rather than their relation with their Governments. Even if final answers are not forthcoming at this Summit, and old attitudes peep through the deliberations, there is no need to be daunted. After all, considering the time taken in perfecting the processes of destruction, I am sure the construction of a new society, which is that our new task amounts to, will take less time and much less strain. It would also contribute to the integrity of our environment, which is at peril today. And that is another story that compels our attention.

Our vision for the Summit should go beyond the Summit itself, so as to translate the vision into action. Commitments must be backed by the will to act. As for India, we intend to set up a suitable and effective mechanism for Social Development at the national level. This would be a Commission. This will be as a first step in the action to achieve tangible results within a time-frame, in all the three core areas addressed by this Summit.

Excellencies, we know that poverty and peace are interlinked. Poverty and distress anywhere in the world have the potential to threaten world security. Equity and unity within and among nations are therefore a moral as well as practical imperative. Nowhere would the inter-dependence of nations be put to greater test in the years to come than in the area of poverty eradication and social integration. We therefore need goodwill and cooperation from all sides. I have no doubt that the current generation of world leaders would be found equal to this task as we rise to meet the challenges of the remaining half decade of this century and into the next.

Thank you

Date : Mar 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Agreement between Geological Survey of India and BRGM-France

This Agreement, made in 2 parts on this 28th day of March 1995

by and between:

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (GSI) with its principal office at Jawaharlal Nehru road, 27, Calcutta 700 016, India (therein after referred as GSI), which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or contrary to the meaning, thereof, include its successor and permitted assigns, of the one part,

and:

BRGM, with its principal office at Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai Andre Citroen, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France (therein after referred to as BRGM), which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or contrary to the meaning thereof, include its successor and permitted assigns of the other part,

hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

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WHEREAS:

A. GSI is in charge amongst several tasks of the preliminary mineral exploration studies and hence of the exploration work for locating new mineral deposits.

B. Discussins were held between BRGM, the Department of Mines and GSI on the need for improving the analytical and exploration facilities of GSI.

C. The contents of a Regional geochemical inventory concentrated on the Karnataka craton were subsequently examined by BRGM with GSI during a meeting held at New Delhi on September 18, 1990, during the meetings of the Indo-French Working Group on Mineral Exploration and Development and confirmed during the 7th meeting of that Working Group which was held at New Delhi

on 26-27 July 1993.

D. In the light of these discussions BRGM submitted to GSI in November 1993 a proposal for carrying out a Regional geochemical inventory of the Karnataka craton greenstone belts.

E. GSI confirmed on 17 February 1994 its acceptance of the proposal submitted by BRGM.

F. The present Agreement will be financed up to a total amount of 11,087,175 FRF corresponding to the BRGM input to the project under the financing terms and conditions of the financial Protocol signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of France, on December 1, 1994.

NOW THEREFORE

As per mutual covenants and premises herein set forth, the Parties agree as follows :

ARTICLE 1 - TITLE

The title of this Agreement shall be: "Regional geochemical inventory of selected areas of -the Karnataka craton greenstone belts".

ARTICLE 2

The main objective of this Agreement shall be:

- * to carry out a targeted geochemical inventory over selected areas of the greenstone belts of the Karnataka craton,
- * to identify at the end of that programme targets worth of further development by Indian institutions or by either Indian or foreign Investors,
- * to Prepare Promotional files on these targets,
- * to ensure a maximum transfer of know-how from BRGM to GSI during the course of the project, and granting to GSI a user license for the Synergis-SDESMO software package under the conditions detailed in Part 2 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 - SCOPE OF THE WORK

The scope of the work to be performed under this Agreement by a Joint Team of GSI and BRGM specialists shall be as defined in the Annexure 1 attached to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4 - TEAM OF EXPERTS

A Joint team composed of GSI and BRGM experts will be set up for

carrying out the work defined under this Agreement. The BRGM experts attached to that team as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1 will include:

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- * one economic geologist, head of project on the BRGM side,
- * one exploration geochemist,
- * one exploration geologist, expert in GIS system (SYNERGIS),
- * one software engineer,
- * one remote sensing expert, one exploration geologist,
- * one geophysicist and various experts in gold and other metals deposits according to the requirements for a total of 11 months.

The GSI team will include counterparts specialist to the BRGIM ones:

- * one senior experienced economic geologist as Head of Project for GSI,
- * two geochemists, in charge of geochemical-data processing and interpretation. One should be an experienced geochemist whose main concern will be liaison with the field and interpretation of the data; the other should be a computer-literate geochemist whose main concern will be digitizing data and computerized data-processing.

one exploration geologist, will experience, whose tasks will be regional exploration and organisation of the sampling work. one remote-sensing specialist.

other specialists, according to the needs of the project and provisionally estimated at three man-months.

The other staff to be attached by GSI to the project will be as indicated in the Annexure I attached to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5 - WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme to be carried out under this Agreement is detailed in

Annexure 1, part of this Agreement, which also specifies the reports to be submitted by BRGM.

ARTICLE 6 - SCHEDULE

According to the scope of work and to the methodology outlined in Annexure 1, the work will last and shall not exceed 24 months. Both GSI and BRGM have agreed on the time schedule which shall

bind both BRGM and GSI.

ARTICLE 7 - OBLIGATIONS OF GSI

The obligations of GSI shall include the following:

7.1 Attach to the project the Indian specialists needed for an optimum performance of the work.

7.2 Provide at its own cost all infrastructural and associated facilities for the performance of the work and for using the SYNERGIS software package to be installed under this Agreement.

7.3 Contribute to the work according to the technical specifications and to the state-of-the-art procedures.

7.4 Bear all travel, living, conveyance, insurance and other associated expenses and costs of Indian experts if any who would visit and stay in France under this Agreement.

7.5 Bear all domestic travels (in India), conveyance, vehicles, drivers, hospitality (single accommodation in hotels) of BRGM or suppliers' experts visiting India under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 - OBLIGATIONS OF BRGM

The obligations of BRGM shall include the following :

8.1 Seeding of BRGM experts into the Joint Team set up as per Article 4 and as per the time schedule in Annexure 1.

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8.2 Contribute to the work in France and India as per the time schedule and as per the state-of-the-art techniques.

8.3 Transfer BRGM expertise to GSI during working together on the job in India.

8.4 All BRGM specialists in India will be fully supported at all times by the facilities of the BRGM technical centre at Orleans, where any specialised study, demanded by its experts, will be carried out forthwith.

8.5 Supply to GSI in India the SYNERGISSDESMO software package as per the conditions detailed in Part 2 of this Agreement and part of this Agreement.

8.6 Bear international travel costs for BRGM experts travelling to and from India under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9 - REMUNERATION TO BRGM

For the services and for the supply of an abbreviated version of the SYNERGIS software package (SYNBASE and SDESMO), under the

present Agreement, BRGM shall as per the terms of payment in Article 10 of the present agreement, be paid a total remuneration of 11,087,175 FRF as per the breakdown detailed in the following table:

ARTICLE 10 - TERMS OF PAYMENT

The remuneration due to BRGM under this Agreement as defined in Article 9 shall be paid to BRGM in accordance with the financing conditions set forth in the financial Protocol signed between the Governments of the Republic of India and France. Payments shall be made in the following manner:

10.1 Services

10-1.1 Within 30 days from the date of signing of this Agreement a down payment of FRF 2,187,435 (two million one hundred eighty seven thousand four hundred thirty five French Francs) which are 20% of the total value of services as per the table in Article 9, will be paid upon presentation to the French bank and to the French Credit National of a BRGM invoice for that amount.

10.1.2 Upon presentation by BRGM of invoices in French Francs, along with reports, to the French Bank and to the French Credit National, approved by the GSI Authorized officers, whose signatures specimen will be provided to the French Bank and to the French Credit National, payment of:

10.1.2.1 5% (five per cent) which are FAR 546,858.75 of the total value of services as per the table in Article 9 on submission by BRGM of a progress report on the work carried out at the end of the 3rd month following the date of starting of work, as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.2 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in Article 9 on submission by BRGM of the report of the phase 1 at the end of the sixth month following the date of starting of work as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of this Agreement.

10.1.2.3. 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in Article 9 on submission by BRGM of the progress report of the work carried out during phase 2, which is at the end of the 9th month, as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1. part of the present Agreement.

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10.1.2.4 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in article 9 on submission by BRGM of the progress report on the work carried out during phase 2, which is at the end of the 12th month, as per the

time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.5 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in article 9 on submission by BRGM of the progress report on the work carried out during phase 3, which is at the end of the 15th month, as per the time schedule included in Annexur 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.6 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in article 9 on submission by BRGM of the progress report on the work carried out during phase 3, which is at the end of the 18th month, as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.7 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,717.5 of the total value of services as per the table in article 9 on submission by BRGM of the report of the phases 2 and 3 at the end of the 19th month, as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.8 10% (ten per cent) which are FRF 1,093,171.5 of the total value of services as per the table in article 9 on submission by BRGM of the progress report on the work carried out during phase 4, which is at the end of the 21st month, as per the time schedule included In Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement.

10.1.2.9, the balance of the total value of services which is FRF 546,858.75 on submission by BRGM of the report of the phase of 4 at the end of the 22nd month, as per the time schedule included in Annexure 1, part of the present Agreement against a certificate of receipt of that report, duly signed by the GSI authorized officers.

10.2 Software

The Payment of BRGM of a licence fee for the software licence agreement as detailed in Part 2 of the present Agreement amounts to a total of FRF 150,000 considering that it will be the second license acquired by GSI for that software; it shall be made in the following:

10.2.1. Within 30 days from the signing of the payment of FRF 3000 crores ponding to 20% (twenty per cent) of the value of the synergies licence amounting to FRF 150,000, upon presentation to the French Bank and to the French Credit National of BRGM invoice.

10.2.2. A sum of FRF 112,500 corresponding to 75% (seventyfive per cent) of the value of the Synergis licence on submission by

BRGM to the French Bank and to the French Credit National of an invoice alongwith a receipt of delivery by Mail "CHRONO POST".

10.2.3. The balance of 5 %o (five per cent) which is FRF 7,500 derived from 10.2.1. and 10.2.2. on submission of an original minute of acceptance of the Synergis licence signed by the GSI authorized officers, alongwith an invoice for that amount to the French Bank and to the French Credit National.

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10.3. Payments

All payments under articles 10.1. and 10.2. will be made to the account opened by BRGM at:

SOCIETE GENERALE
12, rue de la Republique
BP 1639
45006 ORLEANS CEDEX

Compte BRGM n° 000 2 00 27 669
-Code Banque 3 0003
Cle : REB 85 - Code Guichet :01540

ARTICLE 11 - VALIODITY AND DURATION

(Date of "Coming into Force" and date of "Starting of work")

11.1 This Agreement shall be valid from the date of signature by the parties hereto.

11.2 This Agreement shall "Come into Force" on the date:

11.2.1. It has been taken on record by the concerned Authorities.

11.2.2. BRGM confirms receipt of the down payments of BRGM's remuneration as per articles 10.1.1 and 10.2.1.

11.2.3. The Financial Protocol between the Governments of India and France has been implemented.

11.2.4. All Credit Agreements (Credit National and French Bank) have been signed.

11.3 This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 24 (twenty four) calendar months from the date of "starting of work" (i.e. no more than one month after the date of "coming into force") unless extended for a further specified period by mutual consent in writing.

ARTICLE 12 -

Both GSI and BRGM agree to review the technical programme on completion of the Phase 2 of the project. Any amendment will be

made by mutual consent by exchange of letters, being understood and agreed upon between the parties that the total budget allocated to the project remains unchanged. The amendments, if any, may concern the final detailed content of the phases 3 and 4 which depend on the results of the preceding phases. Reallocation of personnel, rescheduling of work and reappropriation of funds, would be permitted within the framework of the total cost of the project including provision for analytical equipment to achieve the objectives of the project.

ARTICLE 13 - TAXES

13.1 All remuneration due to BRGM under this Agreement is net and free of all present and future Indian taxes, levies, duties and penalties related thereto.

13.2 If any payment to BRGM under this Agreement shall be subject to any Indian taxes, levies, duties, etc., of any kind which BRGM is required to pay and/or GSI is required to withhold, GSI shall pay such remuneration to BRGM as to yield to BRGM in France, after payment and/or withholding of such taxes, levies, duties, penalties, etc., the full amounts agreed to as amounts net and free of such taxes, duties, levies.

13.3 GSI shall bear and pay promptly any and all Indian taxes, levies, duties levied, withheld or imposed on BRGM and its personnel for any work contemplated under this Agreement. GSI shall pay such amounts promptly, including penalties, if any, and send to BRGM, on time, a proof of such payments, and also obtain a "No objection certificate (clearance certificate) from the Indian authorities.

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13.4 Relief under Double Taxation - Avoidance Agreement

In consideration of GSI having paid on behalf of BRGM all taxes, duties, levies in India, BRGM shall promptly claim Tax Credits and/or Rebates from the French Tax Authorities under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and France and shall remit the credits and/or rebates if obtained to GSI.

To enable BRGM to claim such credits and/or rebates from the French Tax Authorities, GSI shall provide BRGM with certificates of taxes levied by Indian authorities and payments made by GSI to the Indian Tax Authorities.

ARTICLE 14 - SECRECY

BRGM shall be bound to professional secrecy. All data that may be obtained under this Agreement shall be deemed absolutely confidential and in no circumstances be disclosed or revealed. All drawings, designs, reports, documents, maps, photographs, lists, specifications, etc., relating to the execution of his

Agreement shall be deemed to be the exclusive property of GSI which will deal with them in any manner it likes.

ARTICLE 15 - FORCE MAJEURE

Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other Party for any failure of or delay in Performance of its obligations due to any cause or which is beyond its reasonable control and may not reasonably be prevented. In the event of delay of performance caused by Force Majeure the resulting delay shall not be considered default or failure to Perform and the agreed time for performance may be extended for a period not more than the duration of such Force MaJeure.

ARTICLE 16 - ARBITRATION

Any dispute arising between GSI and BRGM in regard to the execution or interpretation of the Agreement shall be mutually settled through attempts of conciliation.

Failing amicable settlement it shall be finally settled under the rules of Conciliation and Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by one or more Arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said rules.

ARTICLE 17 - LAW

This Agreement shall be governed by the Indian Law.

ARTICLE 18 - LANGUAGE AND MEASURE

English language shall be the governing language in all cases or text references such as technical reports, letters for settlement of dispute, arbitration, correspondence, etc.

All measures will be in the Metric System.

ARTICLE 19 - PERSONNEL REPLACEMENT

BRGM shall replace at its own expense any member of the BRGM personnel in case of death, disablement, sickness or expulsion by the Indian Government for violating the Indian laws and regulations.

ARTICLE 20 - MISCELLANEOUS

20.1 This Agreement shall accrue to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties and their successors and assigns, but neither party may assign this Agreement to any person, other than any person who succeeds to substantially all of the assets and liabilities of the assignor, without the prior written consent of the other party.

20.2 The parties hereto acknowledge that each has read this Agreement, understands it, and agrees to be bound by its terms.
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20.3 This Agreement supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous oral or written communications with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which are merged herein. It is expressly understood and agreed that no employee, agent or other representative of BRGM has any authority to bind BRGM with regard to any statement, representation, warranty, covenant or other expression unless the same is specifically included within the express terms hereof. BRGM and GSI further agree that this Agreement may not in any way be explained or supplemented by any prior or existing course of dealing between BRGM, or its representative, and GSI, by any usage of trade or custom, or by any prior performance between BRGM, or its representative, and GSI pursuant to this Agreement will be permissible.

Made in two original copies in New Delhi, India.

FOR GSI	FOR BRGM
SD/-	Sd/-
D.B. DIMRI	F.LE LANN
DIRECTOR GENERAL	Senior vice-President
	International

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ANCE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Date : Mar 28, 1995

April

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NICARAGUA OMAN PAKISTAN PORTUGAL QATAR RUSSIA

Date : Apr 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

COLOMBIA

Visit of Colombian Minister of External Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Apr 17, 1995 regarding visit of Colombian Minister of
External Relations:

The Colombian Minister of External Relations, Mr. Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena accompanied by a delegation will be arriving on 20th April 1995 in New Delhi on a 3-day visit to India at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. He will hold official talks with the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid. He would also call on the President and the Prime Minister. He is scheduled to address a meeting being organised by FICCI.

Colombia is a friendly country in South America. It is an important member of the Non-Aligned Movement and will host the forthcoming NAM Summit. Colombia is a large country with an area of over 1.1 million sq. kms. and a population of nearly 36 million. Colombia is a medium-sized economy in Latin America with a GDP of about US \$50 billion (at 1980 prices). Its rich natural resources include oil, natural gas, coal, gold, silver, platinum, iron ore and limestone, coffee, bananas, cut flowers, cotton and tobacco are major agricultural produce which are exported.

India has a trade agreement with Colombia. The trade between the two countries is growing. Sugar and primary steel and pig iron-based products are the major items of import from Colombia while transport equipment and other engineering products are the main items of export from India to Colombia.

India also has a cultural agreement with Colombia. There is a fund of good-will for India in Colombia. Indian culture, literature and the arts are popular in Colombia.

The visit of Mr. Rodrigo Pardo is expected to give a new impetus to the existing bilateral relations including the flow of trade between the two countries.

COLOMBIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

COLOMBIA

Joint Press Statement between the Republic of Colombia on the occasion of the official visit of the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Colombia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Apr 21, 1995 on Joint Press Statement between India and Colombia:

Keeping in view the traditionally close relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Colombia and their shared desire in developing and strengthening these bonds of friendship, and in response to the invitation extended by H.E. the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, H.E. Dr. Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Colombia, paid an official visit

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to the Republic of India from the 20th to the 23rd of April, 1995.

During the visit, H.E. Dr. Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena called on H.E. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the President of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Minister of External Affairs.

These meetings provided the occasion for an extensive review of bilateral relations, as well as discussions of the ways in which these relations could be further strengthened and enlarged. Colombia and India welcome the widening of their bilateral relations through the re-opening of the Embassy of India in Bogota in 1994 and through noticeable growth in bilateral trade in the last few years.

The two sides had a detailed exchange of views on international political issues. They recognised that the inter-dependence and globalisation of the world economy provide opportunities for interaction between peoples and governments. In this context, Colombia and India are continuing to deepen and diversify their relations.

Colombia and India respect the principles of peaceful co-existence, of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, the need for peaceful solutions to disputes through dialogue, and the right of all people to choose their own destiny. For this, they agree on the need for all countries to promote national unity and democracy.

Colombia and India reaffirm their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights within the framework of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. Human rights should be promoted in the Vienna spirit of cooperation and consensus.

Colombia and India, exercising their right to self-determination, have established by law sovereign, pluralistic and free States. Throughout the territories of their respective countries, the

will of the people has been expressed through participation in a regular process of representative democracy.

Colombia and India believe in the urgent need for international relations to be made more transparent and democratic. In this, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, it is necessary for all its member States to work towards reforms that will make the UN a more efficient instrument for the international community in the furtherance of international cooperation and world peace.

The Ministers exchanged views on UN reforms, and in particular, the restructuring of the Security Council. They agreed that the UN's functioning should be made more democratic, and an eventually expanded Security Council should have an adequate and equitable representation of the developing countries.

The Ministers agreed that, in contemporary circumstances, the Non-aligned Movement retained its relevance. The Non-aligned countries seek the establishment of a durable, just and equitable world order. The global nature of emerging problems makes it imperative that the Movement should continue to address issues of North-South and South-South cooperation, and in particular, issues such as the environment, human rights, drug-trafficking, terrorism and social problems.

Colombia and India agreed that drug-trafficking is a problem of the international community which should be tackled through the concerted efforts of all countries in all its aspects: consumption, production, distribution, money laundering and trade in its primary materials. The Ministers denounced the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups, drug traffickers and other armed criminal groups, which have threatened to under-mine the democratic institutions of States, and violated basic human rights.

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The Ministers agreed to take necessary steps to negotiate an agreement on technical, scientific and technological co-operation and expressed their mutual interest in negotiating an agreement of co-operation in the area of peaceful uses of atomic energy which is under the consideration of the Government of Colombia.

LOMBIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA AUSTRIA

Date : Apr 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

CROATIA

Visit of Dr. Mate Granic, Vice President & Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1995 regarding visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia:

Dr. Mate Granic, Vice President of the Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia will pay an official visit to India from 27-29 April 1995.

During the visit, Dr. Mate Granic will hold talks with the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, will call on the Minister during his stay in India.

Dr. Mate Granic is also expected to call on other leaders of the Government of India.

It is also expected that during the visit, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs, and Dr. Mate Granic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, will sign a Protocol for regular consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

Dr. Granic's delegation, which will come in advance, will include officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including those incharge of Trade and Economy. A group of Croatian businessmen will also be accompanying the Minister.

OATIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Apr 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

New Exim Policy and Public Notices now available on Computer Network (NICNET)

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1995 regarding New Exim Policy and Public Notices:

The Electronic Version of the Export-Import Policy and Input-

Output Norms, processed on computer, have been released simultaneously on NICNET for countrywide access. The Export-Import Policy and subsequent notifications by the DGFT would also be available on NICNET for countrywide access in query mode.
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Arrangements are made for simultaneous release of Public Notices on this Network for countrywide dissemination.

The Revised Export-Import Policy and Input-Output Norms Databases along-with software for on-line query are also available to Trade and Industry on computer processable media on payment of Rs. 425/-. This can be obtained from any of the State Centres of National Informatics Centre or from NIC Headquarters. A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003. (Tel. No. 4361098).

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce, dated 4th April, 1995.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Demands Reduction in Global Warming Gases

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1995 on India demanding reduction in Global Warming Gases:

India has asked the industrially developed nations to fulfil their commitments to reduce their emissions of Global Warming Gases to the 1990 level to which they had agreed at the Rio Earth Summit three years back while signing the Climate Change Convention. India rejected the insidious moves by some developed nations to water down the provisions of the convention which amount not only to re-writing the Convention but also reopen the entire environment versus development debate.

Addressing the First Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention at Berlin, Germany today, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath decried the move to divide the developing countries into new categories. He said, equitable burden sharing in emission reduction has no meaning

unless it is preceded by equitable burden sharing of environmental space. Even at a conservative estimate, the privileges enjoyed by the North for excess emissions are worth 100 billion dollars annually. This is the 'environmental rent' that ought to be paid to the developing countries every-year in lieu of 'eating' into their environmental space. 'Even as we talk here, the North free riding on the back of the South', he said.

Shri Kamal Nath pointed out that it is not merely a question of emissions that have to be reduced, but the atmospheric concentrations have to be stabilised and reduced. Just during the negotiations phase, between 1990 and this Conference, the North Countries have emitted greenhouse gases which would suffice India's development needs, even at an accelerated pace, for the next 50 years. There should be no comparison between the 'survival emissions' of developing countries and the luxury emissions's of the developed, he said.

Referring to the draft protocol by the Small Island States, Shri Kamal Nath wholly sympathised with their concern. He said, India itself is by no means a small island state, but it has many small islands, infact two of its federal units are entirely made up of groups of islands in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. India has also a coastline stretching to more than 7000 kms. He said, even a marginal increase in sea levels would displace tens of millions of people, increase soil salinity and adversely affect the food production in India. India, therefore, is eager to involve in drawing up of a time-table for enhanced commitments for reduction of greenhouse gases provided the increased commitments are only for the developed countries, he said.

Shri Kamal Nath said that the vulner-ability of our people extends beyond the more obvious effects of sea level rise. The

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capacity of the poor to withstand catastrophic impacts is much less than that of the rich. There is the whole question of adaption to the changing global climate and as time passes by, the constraints on development alternatives and policy options open to us keep on increasing. How to generate power, how to use land, what crops to grow-the options available to us become increasingly less. How are developing countries to be compensated for this, the not so obvious and yet, the more drastic of the effects of climate change? Delays in emission reduction by the North increasingly diminish the opportunities and options available to the South.

The Minister regretted that the commitment targets were woefully inadequate to meet the terrible prospect that confronts the humanity and the action taken so far gives little optimism and there is no commitment to even stabilise the emissions after the year 2000.

Shri Kamal Nath said that the Climate Change Convention is not merely about the control of greenhouse gases. Eradication of poverty, avoiding risk to food production and sustainable development are three principles quite explicit in the Convention. The alleviation of poverty and the prospect of sustained and sustainable growth by themselves would serve to improve qualitatively the environment in developing countries and, by implication, the global environment. Poverty remains the central issue and the challenge is to find a development path that is not only sustainable but which is also socially just and culturally acceptable, he said.

On the issues of Joint Implementation of the convention, Shri Kamal Nath said the South is willing to go along with a pilot phase provided it is unambiguously recognised that the commitments for emissions are only for developed nations, participation for developing countries is voluntary, bilateral and not linked with any commitments and it does not dilute the principle of common but differentiated responsibility which was a milestone at Rio. He said, it is most important that the Joint Implementation is not used as an excuse by the North to continue with their present profligate consumption and production patterns which are at the root of the "unsustainable mess we find ourselves in".

India has taken the lead role to articulate the viewpoint of the developing countries at the Conference. India has proposed a fresh draft paper to break the deadlock. Indian Delegates Shri T. P. Srinivasan and Shri Anthony De Sa have been appointed Spokesmen for the developing countries on the issues of Adequacy of Commitments and Joint Implementation.

The Indian Draft is receiving wide support and has been termed as 'Green Paper' by the Media, NGO's as well as many countries and is being used as a base paper for negotiations.

DIA USA PERU GERMANY FRANCE

Date : Apr 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Shri R. L. Bhatia inaugurates India International Travel & Tourism Show

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on

Apr 07, 1995 regarding Shri R. L. Bhatia inaugurating India International Travel & Tourism Show:

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia has said that India is a modern nation spearheading technological revolutions in virtually every sphere, specially now with a liberal economic policy and new outlook to life. The Minister stated this while inaugurating the India International Travel & Tourism Show at Pragati Maidan here today. In the course of his address Mr. Bhatia congratulated the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad for being one of the leading figures in the growth of Indian tourism. He compliment-

ed all the organisations involved for having brought this organised event together.

Shri Bhatia highlighted India's traditional hospitality and colourful mix of friendly people who despite speaking hundreds of different dialects had made this country unique on earth. He summed up India as being, Old, Young and Beautiful.

DIA

Date : Apr 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Export Growth 17.27% Foreign Trade Data for April-February 1994-95

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1995 on Export Growth:

India's export during April-February 1994-95 are estimated at \$ 23248.35 million as against \$ 19825.19 million during April-February, 1993-94 signifying a growth of 17.27%. The compound growth of exports during April-February, 1994-95 over corresponding periods in 1992-93 and 1991-92 work out at 18.91% and 13.29% respectively. In the current year, export growth is on a continuous rising path from April-August 1994.

Imports during April-February, 1994-95 are estimated at \$ 25062.65 million as against \$ 20335.03 million during corresponding period in 1993-94. This shows a growth rate of 23.25%. Compound growth rates of imports during April-February

1994-95 over the corresponding periods in 1992-93 and 1991-92 are 12.10% and 12.44% respectively. POL imports during April-February 1994-95 estimated at \$ 5108.37 million, as against \$ 5185.07 million as reported during the corresponding period in 1993-94, show declines of 1.48%. Non-oil imports show an increase of 31.71% during this period. POL imports constitute nearly 20.4% of total imports.

The trade deficit during April-February 1994-95 is higher at \$ 1814.30 million compared to \$ 509.84 million during April-February, 1993-94, but lower than deficit of \$ 3504.42 million during the corresponding period in 1992-93. Estimated trade deficit during April-February 1994-95 is also lower than deficit of \$ 1837.41 million during April-January, 1994-95 and \$ 2011.46 million during April-December 1994-95.

MONTHLY TREND

Exports during February, 1995 estimated at US \$ 2305.68 million are higher than exports of \$ 1995.19 million during February 1994, and show an increase of 15.6%. Imports during February 1995 estimated at US \$ 2230.70 million show growth of 21.9% over that of February 1994 estimated at US \$ 1830.86 million.

ASSESSMENT

From August, 1994 in the current year, export growth rate has been continuously increasing.

Promotional measures taken by the government have helped the sustained high growth rate of exports. These included greater flexibility in imports of inputs, speedy grievance redressal, simplification of procedures and initiatives taken to strengthen infrastructure.

The sustained growth rate in exports has been reflected in the reduced number of commodities showing negative growth rate. Items such as tea, oilmeals, spices, tobacco, rice; and iron ore had adverse effect on export growth.

The overall growth rate of non-POL imports at 31.71% is an indicator of import of mass consumption goods and export-linked imports, as also buoyant growth of industry. Major part of imports is constituted by raw materials, intermediate inputs and capital goods.

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Among essential items for public consumption, imports of pulses amounted to \$ 147 million, sugar \$ 718 million, edible oils \$ 151 million and cotton (and waste) \$ 127 million. Imports of aircrafts amounted to \$ 417 million. Imports of gold, through trade channels, are estimated at \$ 327 million upto January, 1995 in the current year.

The provisional estimates of India's foreign trade for April-February 1994-95 available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), detailing performance of exports, imports and trade balance in Rupee and Dollar terms is available in published form.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

FDI Approvals worth Rs. 8960 crore in 1994

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 24, 1995 on industry recording impressive growth FDI approvals worth Rs. 8960 crore in 1994:

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Industry put the overall industrial growth rate at 7.8 per cent for the first quarter of 1994-95 (April-June) with manufacturing sector growing at 8.8 per cent. The capital goods sector recorded an impressive growth of 18.3 per cent during April-June 1994 as against (-11.1 per cent) during the same period last year. Consumer durables showed a growth of 12.6 per cent from April to June, 1994.

According to the report the six infrastructure industries comprising electricity, coal, saleable steel, crude petroleum, petroleum refinery products and cement recorded a growth of 7.2 per cent, during April-October, 1994. Industries which have contributed to this rise include electricity generation (7.3 per cent), coal (2.2 per cent), cement (7.6 per cent) crude petroleum (17.4 per cent), refinery products (4.6 per cent) and saleable steel (7.7 per cent). The overall industrial growth depends to a great extent on the growth of the infrastructure industries.

Ministry of Industry is optimistic about the likely rates of growth of industrial production, and industry expectations have been buoyant. The Central Statistical Organisation has forecast a rate of growth of 5.4 per cent in value addition from industrial sector including water supply and construction during 1994-95, continues the report.

In the capital market, the new issues activity expanded in 1993-

94 with total amount by all entities, including banks and financial institutions, increasing by 27.6 per cent over the amount issued during the preceding year. The rise was partly due to spurt in capital issues of banks and financial institutions in the public sector, through four major issues of equities and bonds. Rs. 4,738 crore has been raised through 520 issues upto August, 1994.

The PSUs floated capital issues for an amount aggregating Rs. 5,311 crore through issues of equity, PSU bonds and other bonds during 1993-94 showing a rise of Rs. 3,119 crore or 142.3 per cent over that in the previous year, states the Report.

Utilising the opportunities presented by the access to the international markets, Indian companies mobilised funds abroad through Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) on a substantial scale. The Government of India issued guidelines for the issue of FCCBs/GDRs in November 1993 and announced modifications to these guidelines in May and October, 1994. So far, more than US \$ 3 billion have been raised by Indian companies through Euro-issues and FCCB's.

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According to the Report, the total number of Investment Intentions filed in the post policy period upto December, 1994 were nearly 19,000 with a projected investment of about Rs. 3,90,000 crore. Over one third of these intentions were in the backward areas was over 40 per cent. Nearly 20 per cent of the investment intentions had so far been implemented, and other 20 per cent were at various stages of implementation. Direct employment generated by these projects was estimated to be about 1.4 million persons. This would mean an addition of employment of over 20 per cent in the manufacturing sector since the New Industrial Policy.

In 1994, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved was Rs. 8960 crore. This excluded approval of GDRs of Rs. 5230 crore. Over 80 per cent of the approvals of FDI were in priority areas like power, oil refineries, electronics and electrical equipment, chemicals, food processing industries, telecommunications, etc.

All India Financial Institutions recorded an impressive increase in sanctions and disbursement in 1993-94. Over all sanctions at Rs. 42,019 crore recorded an increase of 26.8 per cent. Total disbursements likewise at Rs. 26,180.5 crore in 1993-94 were higher by 17.1 per cent. In 1994-95, upto August, 1994, sanctions of term loans by these institutions has recorded a further growth 67 per cent. The disbursement also recorded a moderate growth of 7.1 per cent during this period mainly because of availability of alternate cheap funds obtained through international capital market, says the report.

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Press for Additional Safeguards at ICAO

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1995 on India pressing for Additional Safeguards at ICAO:

India has successfully pressed for in-corporation of certain additional safeguards in the recommended practices of International Civil Aviation Organisation to prevent disruption of air transport services in case any Member State is affected by the outbreak of an epidemic or infectious disease.

A high level Government delegation, headed by Secretary (Civil Aviation), Mr. Yogesh Chandra, presently attending the 11th Session of the Facilitation Division of ICAO at Montreal, has convinced the Organisation that certain safeguards are necessary to help avoid unilateral decisions to suspend flights in case of any health problem in a Member State.

The Facilitation division of ICAO has appreciated India's view point and recommended approval of the additional recommended practices for consideration of the ICAO for inclusion in the Chicago Convention. The suggested safeguards are:

i. Subject to International Health Regulations of the World Health Organisation, the contracting States, on grounds of public health, shall not interrupt air transport services with a country where there is outbreak of epidemic or disease. Where such suspension is under consideration in exceptional circumstances, the contracting States shall first consult the WHO and the Health Authorities of the State of occurrence of the disease, regarding the health measures to be taken for entry and departure of aircraft, passengers and their baggage, transit traffic and cargo and other articles; and

ii. the health measures to be taken in such situations shall not be in excess of those laid down in the International Health Regulations.

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This facilitation Division has also recommended to ICAO Secretariat to contact the World Health Organisation for providing joint guidelines to avoid adoption of excessive health measures by Member States, which might result in disruption of international air transport services in case of outbreak of any epidemic or disease, subject to international Health Regulations.

Government of India had raised the matter with the ICAO in November, 1994 that the unilateral decision to suspend flights from India and restriction of entry of Indian passengers at the time of outbreak of plague in Surat, infringed upon the rights and privileges available under bilateral air services agreement and international conventions.

Following Press reports about incidence of pneumonic plague in Surat Gujarat, in September-October, 1994, several countries imposed ban on operation of flights to and from India and restricted entry of Indian passengers to their territories suddenly and unilaterally without consultation with India. Over 800 scheduled flights including 434 flights of Air India were cancelled resulting in a loss of about US \$ 100 million to the airline industry. The cancellation of flights also dealt a severe blow to the economy by its adverse impact on tourism and travel industry, imports and exports etc. and caused considerable economic loss to India and hardship to the travelling public.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Countries having favourable balance of trade with India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1995 on countries having favourable balance of Trade with India:

The major countries with which India had surplus trade balance during 1993-94 are Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Singapore, Thailand and USA. The major countries with which India had deficit trade balance during the same year are France, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and UK.

Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade,

industry and other relevant interests. The government is striving to make the environment of policies and procedures more export-friendly. The measures include grant of income tax exemption on export profits, access to cheaper export credit designated in convertible currency, and assistance to Export Promotion Councils for export market development.

DIA USA RUSSIA HONG KONG ITALY JAPAN REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SPAIN THAILAND
FRANCE KOREA NIGER NIGERIA SWEDEN SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

I.G.I. Airport to see off a large group of Indian proceeding for the Haj pilgrimage

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 27, 1995 regarding a large group of Indians proceeding for the Haj pilgrimage:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia today visited Indira Gandhi International Airport to see off a large group of Indians proceeding for the Haj pilgrimage. In a brief send-off ceremony, Shri R. L. Bhatia was received by the Chairman of the Central Haj Committee, Shri Salamatullah who, in his speech on the occasion, thanked the Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of India at large for all the assistance provided to the Haj pilgrims. Shri R. L. Bhatia also addressed the gathering and assured the pilgrims of Government's endeavours for the continued amelioration of the conditions of the pilgrimage as comfortable as possible.

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DIA

Date : Apr 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Foreign Direct Investment

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 27, 1995 on Foreign Direct Investment:

The foreign investment policy has evoked considerable and sustained interest among foreign investors as evident from the foreign investment approvals shown below:

Year	No. of proposals involving foreign investment received and approved	Foreign investment envisaged
1991	289	534.11
1992	692	3887.54
1993	785	8859.33
1994	1062	14187.19
	(including approvals for Euro issues)	

This information was given by the Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi in a written reply to a question by Smt. Malti Sharma in the Rajya Sabha today.

DIA USA

Date : Apr 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1995 regarding visit of the President of Iran:

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hajjatol-eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is paying a state visit to India from 17th to 19th April, 1995. The President will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation including Foreign Minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Petroleum, Mr. Ghulam Raza Aghazade, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mr. Mustafa Mirsaleem

and Minister of Science and Technology and Higher Education, Mr. Hashemi Golpaigani, apart from members of the Iranian Majlis and senior officials of various economic ministries.

During the visit President Rafsanjani will have discussions with President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, on issues of bilateral interests as well as regional and international situation.

President Rafsanjani will formally inaugurate the Indo-Iran Friendship Society. He is also expected to meet representatives of various public and religious bodies.

President Rafsanjani will address a joint special session of the Parliament. The President's itinerary also includes a day long visit to Lucknow.

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AN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Indo-Iranian Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1995 on Indo-Iranian Joint Commission:

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati called on External Affairs Minister today at 1745 hrs. The 30-minute discussion focussed on the issues of bilateral cooperation. The status of various proposals falling within the ambit of the Indo-Iranian joint commission came up for detailed review.

External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that the two countries will give economic content as the main thrust in economic relations. External Affairs Minister briefed Dr. Velayati on the high potentials of the two countries collaborating in the specific projects under consideration in the railways sector. There was an exchange of views also on the proposals in the oil and natural gas sector. External Affairs Minister conveyed to Dr. Velayati India's interest in cooperating in the development of oil fields in Iran.

Today's discussions will be followed up in a further session later in the evening.

Dr. Velayati underlined that Iran is extremely keen to boost the economic content in the relations. He characterised President Rafsanjani's visit as a milestone in this regard.

AN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of Shri Rafsanjani President of Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1995 regarding visit of President Rafsanjani of Iran:

External Affairs Minister called on President Rafsanjani today. External Affairs Minister said that the President's visit is a landmark event which will expand the bilateral relations between India and Iran.

President Rafsanjani said that his primary objective is to expand on the bilateral relationship which reached qualitatively high level as a result of Prime Minister's visit to Iran in September 1993. The President said that India and Iran are today endowed with high capabilities and potentials in the technological, scientific and industrial spheres and this enables the two countries to realise vastly increased cooperation. The President emphasised that Iran attaches high value to the cooperation with India in the international arena.

External Affairs Minister said that the potentials of commercial relations can be better realised through joint ventures and the proposals for Indian participation in projects in Iran. External Affairs Minister specifically referred to the proposals under consideration in the railways sector.

External Affairs Minister said that the post Cold War era has opened up new opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. External Affairs Minister conveyed India's hope to work closely with Iran in the international forums.

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AN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Details of the Documents being signed on Apr 18, 1995

I. Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between the government of India, Iran and Turkmenistan.

The document will be signed by External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati and the Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Shikh Muradov.

The MOU reflects the shared aspirations of the three countries for improving trade and economic cooperation amongst themselves and for increasing the flow of traffic in transit between the Central Asian Republics and India through Iran. The MOU provides for the international carriage of goods by road and rail from the Central Asian region to Iran and in transit through Iran to India by using vehicles, registered in any of the three countries. The MOU also authorises the carriers of the three countries to establish offices and to appoint representatives and agencies in their territories. It provides for the formation of a trilateral commission to supervise the implementation of the MOU and to expand the cooperation in this sphere.

The Foreign Ministers of the two countries who met in Delhi on 18 April, 1995 have also decided that within the next six months, a full-fledged treaty or agreement, as appropriate, will be negotiated to establish the parameters of cooperation.

II. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Tourism.

The MOU will be signed by Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shri Gulam Nabi Azad and by Iran's Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mr. Mostafa Mirsaleem.

The MOU envisages the development of cooperation between the tourism organisations in the two countries, exchange of information and technical expertise in respect of tourism

promotion and publicity, tourism industries and tourism development projects. It commits the two countries to exploring the possibility of joint ventures in the tourism sector as well as to cooperate in the management of hotels and other types of tourist accommodation, protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources as sites of tourism attraction, exchanging professionals for tourism training, etc. Under the MOU, a working group has been established comprising government representatives and members of the private tourism sector to work out the details of implementation of cooperation.

III. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Telecommunications and Postal Services.

The MOU will be signed by Minister of State for Communications, Shri Sukhram, while from the Iranian side Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati will be signing.

The MOU relates to a new era of bilateral cooperation and envisages the setting up of a working group comprising the representatives of the postal and telecommunication agencies of the two countries. The working group will chalk out the parameters of future cooperation and will meet alternatively in New Delhi and Tehran. To begin with, the MOU identifies certain areas of cooperation such as development of postal and telecommunications services, training and exchange of experts, cooperation in the establishment of Bureau-Fax and facsimile service, etc.

IV. Memorandum of Understanding on the Prevention of Illicit Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

The MOU will be signed by Shri M. S. Sivaraman, Secretary, Department of Revenue, and from the Iranian side by
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Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Allaeddin Broujerdi.

The MOU reflects the shared concern of the two countries over the illicit cultivation, production, processing, trafficking in illicit drugs in the region and calls on all countries and areas in the region to adopt a comprehensive, integrated and collaborated approach to control the menace. Specific areas of cooperation identified within the ambit of the MOU include activities such as exchange of information on operation and technical aspects of the issue, mutual assistance in operational matters, etc. The MOU envisages the setting up of a working group comprising the nodal agencies of the two countries which will hold periodical meetings alternatively in the two countries. During the discussions relating to the MOU, it was decided that India and Iran will negotiate and conclude a fullfledged agreement relating to this area within the next six months.

V. Memorandum of Understanding on Environment.

The MOU will be signed by Minister of State for Environment and forest, Shri Kamal Nath and by Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati.

The MOU relates to diverse issues of cooperation pertaining to environment such as management of natural resources, conservation of semi-tropical forests, mangroves, wetlands, control of soil and water erosion, afforestation, conservation of wild life, stabilisation of sand dunes, waste management and waste recycling technologies, etc.

VI. Cultural Exchange Programme for 1995-97

The CEP will be signed by Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haider and by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Allaeddin Broujerdi. The CEP is a comprehensive document containing over 50 proposals of cooperation in the cultural, scientific and technological fields. The highlights of the CEP include exchange of faculty members of universities and higher educational institutions, nomination of professors of Persian literature to India and of Sanskrit and Indian history to Iran, Iranian offer of post graduate scholarships to Indian nationals for study in higher educational institutions in Iran, exchange of classical, traditional, folk music and photographs/slides, publications of performing arts; training facilities in the National Archives of India for Iranian scholars, exchange of experts on conservation of museum materials, exchange of exhibitions of contemporary art, exchange of radio, TV programmes and documentary films and exchange of journalists as well as professionals in the electronic media.

AN INDIA TURKMENISTAN UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Apr 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

India, Iran to Expand ties in Education, Culture

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 19, 1995 on India, Iran expanding ties in Education, culture:

India and Iran are to expand co-operation in areas of human resource development. The desire of the two countries to further strengthen their relations was expressed when the Iranian Minister for Culture and Higher Education Dr. Syed Mohd. Raza Hashmi Golpaygani called on the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia here today. The two countries signed a cultural exchange programme yesterday envisaging increased cooperation in art and culture, education, sports and mass media.

The issues raised by the Iranian Minister included collaboration in the emerging areas of technology, formation of a committee to explore the possibilities of further cooperation, exchange of students and cooperation on UNESCO

matters. He was also keen on Iranian PHD students coming to India for higher studies.

Emphasising the importance of Indo-Iranian relations Shri Scindia said that increased exchanges between the two countries would be mutually beneficial.

Pointing out India's achievements in higher and technical education with several centres of excellence, he expressed the hope that enhanced collaboration in areas of human resource development would pave the way for the strengthening of bilateral relations.

AN INDIA

Date : Apr 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Joint Press Statement on the visit of H.E. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Apr 17, 1995@(@)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 19, 1995 on Joint Press Statement on the visit of President of Iran:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjatol-islam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, paid a State visit to

India from 17 to 19 April, 1995. The Iranian President was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation which included Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Oil & Petroleum, H.E. Mr. Ghulam Reza Aghaladeh, Minister for Culture & Islamic Guidance, H.E. Mr. Mostafa Mirsaleem and Minister of Culture & Higher Education, H.E. Mr. Hashemi Golpaigani.

2. H.E. Hojjatol-eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, called on President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, and held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Iranian President addressed a special meeting of the Parliament. Talks were also held between the delegation of the Iranian President, and the Indian delegation, headed by Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao, External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee called on the visiting dignitary. President Rafsanjani paid a day-long visit to Lucknow.

3. The two sides affirmed the great significance of the visit of President Rafsanjani, being the first Presidential visit from Iran to India.

4. The discussions focussed on bilateral relations, and extended to an exchange of views on the regional and international situation, especially the possibilities of enhanced cooperation in international and regional forums.

5. The two sides recalled the many positive developments in bilateral relations in the recent period which had seen a series of high level exchanges. The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao visited Tehran in July and September, 1993. These high level visits were followed by several important exchanges from both sides during 1993 and 1994. The Seventh and Eighth sessions of the Joint Commission were also held in Tehran and New Delhi in the same period. Both sides reaffirmed that these exchanges and the work of the Joint Commission had significantly enhanced the potential for cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields and opened up the possibilities of future cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, energy, transportation, communications and environment.

6. The two sides affirmed that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs is a fundamental principle of co-existence among States. They called upon all States to cooperate constructively for the prosperity and progress of the region.

They were

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convinced that through sincere and sustained dialogue, all outstanding differences and issues in the region can be peacefully resolved. They agreed to work together to strengthen peace and stability in the region, and emphasised that terrorism

is an impediment in the realisation of this objective.

7. The two sides recalled the historical links and civilizational affinities between India and Iran which further strengthened the growing impulses towards mutually beneficial and multi-faceted bilateral cooperation.

8. The two sides reviewed the post Cold-War international situation and agreed to strengthen their cooperation for safeguarding the interests of developing countries in different areas involving issues of peace and development. They re-affirmed their commitment to working together in international forums, including the United Nations, G-77 and Non-aligned Movement.

9. The two sides exchanged views on UN reforms, and in particular, the restructuring of the Security Council. They agreed that the UN's functioning should be made more democratic, and the Security Council should be expanded so that it is truly representative of the membership of the United Nations. The two sides emphasised that, in this process, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected, and developing countries from Asia should be fully represented in the restructured Security Council. They also agreed that the reform and the expansion of the Security Council should be an integral part of a common package.

10. The two sides reviewed the regional situation. They affirmed the importance of preservation of peace and tranquility in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf. Both sides stressed the importance of working together in further enhancing the mutually beneficial trade and economic linkages with the Central Asian States as well as in promoting regional economic cooperation which would be a factor of peace and stability for the entire region.

11. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the objective of general and complete disarmament essential for maintenance of international peace and security especially in respect of weapons of mass destruction. They emphasised the importance of universal and non-discriminatory measures for general disarmament. They reaffirmed the need for regular consultations on issues of disarmament and furthermore to cooperate in the framework of the Convention on Biological and Chemical Weapons.

12. The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation in diverse areas. They decided to expedite cooperation in respect of the upcoming railway projects and to urgently address the issue of funding for the projects, with a view to evolving economically viable solutions.

13. Both sides discussed the areas of mutual cooperation in the field of Oil and Gas. Both sides appreciated the need for expediting the ongoing feasibility studies for exporting the gas from Iran to India. It was felt that the ongoing feasibility

study should be completed within schedule, prior to the end of this year. Both sides appreciated each other's strengths in the oil and gas sectors. It was also felt that a Joint Venture Company between the National Oil Companies of the two countries be formed to explore opportunities in oil and gas within the two countries and also globally.

14. The two sides agreed to expand people-to-people contacts in diverse fields and welcomed, in this context, the revival of the India-Iran Friendship Society. They expressed the hope that the Cultural Exchange Programme which has been concluded for the next three years will provide the broad framework for the expansion of cultural interaction between the two countries.

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15. The two sides affirmed the desirability of sustaining high-level exchanges to further strengthen the positive trends of bilateral relations in the recent period.

16. During the visit of H.E. the President of Iran, the following documents were concluded:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Tourism;
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Telecommunications and Postal Services;
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Environment;
- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Prevention of Drug Trafficking; and
- (v) Cultural Exchange Programme for 1995-97.

17. The two sides agreed that the Joint Working Group which has been established for cooperation in the prevention of drug trafficking will hold its first session within the next six months with a view to develop the potential areas of cooperation and to conclude a full-fledged agreement in this sphere.

18. During the visit of H.E. the President of Iran, the Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan met in New Delhi and discussed the issues of regional cooperation in regard of transport and transit between the Central Asian region, Iran and India. The Foreign Ministers concluded a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between the Governments of India, Iran and Turkmenistan. The Foreign Ministers agreed that a full-bedged agreement in this sphere will be negotiated and concluded within the next six months.

19. H.E. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality

extended to the Iranian delegation by the Government and the people of India and extended an invitation to the President and Prime Minister of India to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. The President and the Prime Minister of India were pleased to accept this invitation. Dates of the visits will be determined in due course through diplomatic channels.

AN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM TURKMENISTAN

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

IRAN & TURKMENISTAN

Minister of External Affairs of India, Foreign Minister of Iran and the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 18, 1995 on signing of Memorandum of understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between India, Iran and Turkmenistan:

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between India, Iran and Turkmenistan in Delhi today, April 18, 1995. Meeting on the occasion, the three Foreign Ministers welcomed the

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signing of the MOU as a significant step in regional cooperation. Responding to a suggestion by the External Affairs Minister of India for the evolution of some institutional mechanism to periodically review the process of trilateral cooperation, the three Foreign Ministers agreed in principle that a Working Group of Technical Experts could be constituted to undertake and monitor the implementation of the MOU. They also decided that the Foreign Ministers of the three countries would meet periodically to give appropriate guidance to this Working Group, and to review the progress in the implementation of the Memorandum.

RK MENISTAN IRAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Letter from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Malaysia Conveying Felicitations on his Victory in the Recent Elections

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1995 regarding a letter from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Malaysia:

"Excellency,

The decisive victory, under your leadership, of the Barisan Nasional coalition in the recent elections in Malaysia has once again confirmed the popularity that you enjoy among the people of Malaysia. On behalf of the Government of India, and on my own behalf, I take great pleasure in conveying to you our warmest felicitations on your victory.

2. The renewal of Your Excellency's mandate to continue at the helm of Malaysian affairs testifies to the confidence that the people repose in you to guide their destinies. Malaysia's notable economic and social progress in recent years, under your leadership, forms the foundations of this confidence.

3. It has been a special pleasure, Excellency, to be able to work with you over the years to further build up India-Malaysia bilateral ties in all fields. I look forward to continuing this process, and I am confident that our bilateral relationship will grow from strength to strength.

4. I take this opportunity, Excellency, to wish you all success in your continuing mission to register progress and prosperity for Malaysia, and I conclude by renewing to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

P. V. NARASIMHA RAO

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad,
Prime Minister of Malaysia,
KUALA LUMPUR"

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LAOS INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Apr 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Prime Minister's Visit to Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 14, 1995 regarding Prime Minister's visit to Maldives:

Prime Minister will be visiting the Maldives for the joint inauguration, with the President of Maldives, of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), Male, on April 15. During this visit, Prime Minister would hold discussions with the President of Maldives on matters of mutual interest, including bilateral cooperation and regional issues.

2. The IGMH, which is the largest assistance project undertaken by India in the Maldives, includes a 200-bed hospital and a nurses' training centre. It has all major departments, including an ICU, Cardiac and Coronary Unit, Labour room and Operation Theatre, Dental departments; the hospital is equipped with the state-of-art medical equipment and is the most advanced health care centre in Maldives islands. Its location would make health facilities available to the people of Maldives at an affordable cost, eliminating the need for the people of the islands to seek medical treatment abroad.

3. The IGMH project had been initiated by the former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and President Gayoom in order to jointly address the important priority of the Maldives of providing adequate health care facilities to the people of the country. Apart from assistance in the construction, equipment and maintenance of the hospital, Government of India is also helping by providing medical and paramedical personnel to provide services, and also nursing tutors and trainers for giving on-the-job training to the Maldivian health personnel.

4. The visit by Prime Minister for inauguration of the IGMH represents a landmark in the ongoing saga of Indo-Maldivian cooperation. Ties between the two countries are cordial and cooperative reflecting the close understanding and good neighbourly relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries. The assistance rendered by India is also a symbol of India's commitment to cooperation among the developing countries.

Date : Apr 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

First Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1995 regarding first meeting on Indian Ocean Rim Initiative for Regional Economic Corporation:

The First Meeting launching the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative for Regional Economic Cooperation was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 29 - 31 March 1995. Apart from India, countries invited by the Government of Mauritius to the meeting were Australia, Kenya, Oman, Singapore and South Africa from different subregions of the Indian Ocean Rim. The Indian delegation was led by Shri V. K. -98>

Grover, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. The meeting agreed on certain fundamentals of Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation in adopting principles and objectives and identifying the scope of activities.

(i) Time is particularly opportune to build on historical linkages and enhance economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region in a practical and graduated way.

(ii) A regional forum for promoting economic cooperation is to be established. The forum would build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus based, evolutionary an non-intrusive approach.

(iii) The focus of cooperation is to be economic and cover the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure, tourism, science and technology and human resource development.

(iv) The forum would be tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of governments, business and academic.

(v) In principle all sovereign states of Indian Ocean Rim will be eligible for membership. The expansion would necessarily have to

be consensus based.

(vi) Such cooperation is meant to reinforce and be complementary to existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation and not be inconsistent with obligations arising therefrom. The initiative would therefore impart further momentum to existing networks of bilateral and multilateral relationship in the regional context.

3. The meeting in Mauritius set up a Working Group which would formulate ideas and proposals to achieve objectives and advance implementation of the activities identified by it. An Inter-governmental Meeting to be convened by Mauritius within twelve months would consider the report of the Working Group.

4. The Private Sector Group attending the Meeting proposes setting up a networking mechanism in the form of a Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum.

5. The Academic Group is to pool their resources by drawing on existing informational and other networks essential for effective economic cooperation. A Chair on Indian Ocean studies in Mauritius is to be established as a joint effort between the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and Tertiary Education Commission of Mauritius.

URITIUS USA INDIA AUSTRALIA KENYA OMAN REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Apr 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 07, 1995 regarding visit of Prime Minister of Nepal:

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Man Mohan Adhikari, will be visiting India from April 10 to 14, 1995 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Sadhana Adhikari and a high level Nepalese delegation which includes the Hon. Chandra Prakash Mainali, Minister for Local Development & Supply; Hon. Bhim Bahadur Rawal, Minister of State for Commerce, Tourism

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& Civil Aviation; Hon. Hari Prasad Pandey, Minister of State for Industry & Water Resources; Hon. Dr. Mangal Sidhi Manadhar, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission; members of the Nepalese Parliament; Chief Secretary of Nepal & other senior officials. During his stay in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of Nepal will call on the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal will give an address at India International Centre.

2. The visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister is his first to India after assuming office in November 1994. It is also his first bilateral visit abroad. His Excellency Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari is held in high esteem by the people of India. He participated in Quit India Movement in 1942 and was imprisoned by the then British Government for one and a half years. He was also in the forefront of the democracy movement in Nepal. His Excellency Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari will be honoured at a function at New Delhi by the All India Freedom Fighters' Association.

3. The Prime Minister of Nepal would also visit Sabarmati Ashram and the cities of Calcutta and Bombay. He will address leading Indian industrialists and businessmen at Bombay.

4. India & Nepal have unique and close friendly relations. High level exchange of visits between the two countries has intensified since the formation of elected government in Nepal. The visit to India of the Prime Minister of Nepal is a goodwill visit which provides an opportunity for both countries to jointly discuss bilateral issues, the further development of India-Nepal relations, the situation in Indian sub-continent and other questions of mutual interest. The visit would significantly contribute to the friendship and multi-faceted ties between the two countries.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : Apr 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1995 regarding visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India:

The Rt. Hon'ble Man Mohan Adhikari, Prime Minister of Nepal, is on an official goodwill visit to India from 10 to 14, 1995 at the invitation of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by Mrs. Sadhana Devi Adhikari, Mr. Chandra Prakash Mainali, Minister of Local Development and Supply, Mr. Bhim Bahadur Rawal, Minister of State for Commerce, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Hari Prasad Pandey, Minister of State for Industry and Water Resources and Mr. Mangal Siddhi Manadhar, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal was received by the President of India and visited Rajghat, where he paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. He had meetings with the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Indian and Nepalese delegations led by the two Prime Ministers also met for detailed discussions on issues of common interest.

3. The discussions were marked by the sincerity, friendship and understanding which characterise the close relations between India and Nepal, and by mutual respect for the complete sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each other. During the wide-ranging discussions, bilateral issues, the further development of India-Nepal relations, the situation in the Indian sub-continent and other questions of mutual interest were discussed.

4. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the promotion of close and

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friendly relations between India and Nepal and looked forward to a future where these relations are further strengthened in new areas of cooperative endeavours. Both Prime Ministers were heartened by the absence of any major problems between India and Nepal. Their discussions also covered different aspects of bilateral relations, including review of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950. They agreed to continue discussions on this and all relevant issues of bilateral interest at the appropriate level of the two countries.

5. Both governments reiterated their adherence to the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful settlement of all issues. Both India and Nepal respect and understand each other's security concerns. Neither side will allow activities on its territory prejudicial to the security of the other.

TRADE AND TRANSIT

6. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the present status of bilateral trade and economic links between the two countries. They were heartened by the recent increases in bilateral trade as

a result of preferential arrangements made since 1992 by the two governments.

7. On the basis of discussions held between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India, it was agreed to make the following further improvements in the trade and transit regime:

i) Nepal's trade in transit to have the facility of the additional ports of Kandla and Bombay and on the same terms as are available to Indian nationals, subject to the transit of goods taking place in customs sealed containers via shortest designated railway routes.

ii) Provision of additional facilities for customs clearance at Raxaul for Nepal's trade in transit which is containerised under customs seal from Kandla, Bombay, and Calcutta.

iii) Both countries will seek to jointly identify Nepalese products where further improvements in their preferential access to the Indian markets could be considered.

iv) As regards procedures for preferential access to the Indian market, these will be reviewed by the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Commerce.

SUPPLIES

8. It was agreed that India would continue to assist Nepal in the regular supply of commodities like petroleum products, salt, sugar, rice etc.

WATER RESOURCES

The two Prime Ministers also discussed the issue of water resources. It was agreed that the two sides should continue their efforts for the development of the use of the Mahakali river. In this context, the Prime Minister of Nepal presented certain proposals regarding additional benefits to Nepal. The Prime Minister of India agreed that these proposals would be examined taking into account relevant aspects. For this some time would be required to enable consultations. Thereafter, both sides agreed that they would have further discussions and come to a conclusion.

INDIAN AID PROJECTS

10. Both sides noted with satisfaction that India-Nepal cooperation projects in Nepal undertaken since the Prime Minister of India's visit of October, 1992 are being implemented smoothly. The B P Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dahran has admitted its first batch of students and work on the project is con-

tinuing smoothly. Several other projects have been completed or are near completion. Among these the telephone exchange at Rangeli, the industrial estate at Rajbiraj, the museum building at Hitauda, the Lumbini museum building, the western sector of the Mahendra Rajmarg between Kohalpur and Mahakali, the Raxaul (Sirsiya) bridge, the supply of two engines and six coaches to the JayanagarJanakpur railway, and the supply of cleaning equipment to Kathmandu city, which have all been completed since the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in October, 1992. Preparatory work on other projects is proceeding smoothly.

11. The two Governments decided to undertake the following agreed and new projects during 1995-96 in accordance with the following priority.

1. 18 bridges on Kohalpur-Mahakali sector of East-West Highway.
2. Raxaul - Sirsiya broadgauge rail link
3. Expansion of Bir Hospital
4. Joint Survey for East - West Electric Railway
5. Supply of two engines and 12 coaches and wagons for narrow gauge Jayanagar-Bizalpur rail link
6. Greater Janakpur Development Project.

Both sides also agreed to concentrate available resources on these priority projects.

12. The Prime Minister of Nepal conveyed an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Nepal. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : Apr 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

NICARAGUA

Visit of Nicaraguan Minister of External Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1995 regarding a visit of the Nicaraguan Minister of External Relations:

The Nicaraguan Minister of External Relations, Mr. Ernesto Leal Sanchez, accompanied by his wife Mrs. Carolina de Leal, and Dr. Erich Vilchel Asher, Nicaragua's Permanent representative to the UN, is arriving in New Delhi on 18th April 95, on a 5-day visit to India at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs Shri Pranab Mukherjee. In addition to official talks with External Affairs Minister, he is scheduled to have discussions with the Ministers of State of External Affairs and Commerce. He would also meet the business community at a meeting organised by FICCI in New Delhi on 20th April.

Nicaragua is a friendly country in Central America. It has an area of 127, 8449 sq. kms. and a population of 3.4 million. It has rich natural resources. Its mineral deposits include gold, silver, copper iron ore, bauxite and lead which are largely unexploited. Economically exploitable hydro-electric potential is estimated at 5200 MW. Its principal crops are cotton, coffee, bananas and tobacco. Nicaragua is a major exporter of raw cotton. It has shown interest in setting up small-scale industries and development

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of agriculture. There appears to be good scope for export of machinery for smallscale industries.

Relations between India and Nicaragua have been traditionally warm and close. India and Nicaragua signed a Cultural Agreement in 1986 and have also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Cooperation. Nicaragua had opened an Embassy in New Delhi. It closed the same in 1991 due to economic difficulties. Former President Daniel Ortega had visited India twice in 1983 and 1986. There have also been several visits to India by the former Foreign Minister D'Escoto Brockman under President Daniel Ortega's Administration. But the visit of Foreign Minister Leal Sanchez is the first since Mrs. Violeta Chamorro became President in 1990. From India also, there have been many ministerial visits to Nicaragua, the last one being that of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in April 1990 for the inauguration of President Chamorro's Presidency. Nicaragua is a long-standing member of NAM. India and Nicaragua have cooperated in UN and NAM forums.

The visit of Mr. Leal Sanchez is expected to give a new impetus to the existing bilateral relations including trade between the two countries.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NICARAGUA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA VANUATU

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

OMAN

Indo-Omani Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1995 on Indo-Omani Joint Commission:

Today, EAM received the Omani Minister for Commerce & Industry who is leading his delegation to the First Session of the Indo-Omani Joint Commission set up consequent to an agreement signed between the two countries during Prime Minister's visit to Oman in June'93.

Welcoming the Omani Minister, EAM referred to already agreed mega projects between India and Oman in the hydrocarbon sector and said that new areas of cooperation now need to be identified. Given Oman's energy resources and availability of capital and India's economic liberalisation, availability of technologies and a trained manpower, joint ventures and co-production could be considered in either country. They also discussed the Indian Ocean Rim countries' cooperation and the recent meeting of IORC held recently in Mauritius. Both India and Oman are actively promoting this concept.

The Omani Minister for Commerce & Industry expressed his happiness that areas of cooperation are slowly getting diversified and there are many opportunities for increasing trade and strengthening industrial cooperation. He also referred to the agreement that was signed yesterday at FICCI setting up an Indo Omani Joint Business Council which will promote cooperation between private sectors of the two countries.

The two Ministers expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the First Session of the Indo-Omani Joint Commission.

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AN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MAURITIUS

Date : Apr 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1995 regarding visit of the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs:

The United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, is in India for foreign policy consultations from 3-4, April. This is the first visit by a State Department Under Secretary for Political Affairs to India. The talks are part of on going process of expanding and deepening relations between Prime Minister Shri Rao and President Clinton when they decided in May 1994 to forge a new partnership between the two countries.

Mr. Tarnoff is leading a delegation of senior officials from the State Department consisting of Mr. James Steinberg, Director of Policy Planning Staff of the State Department, Mr. Jeo Snyder, Director for International Organisations, Mr. Mark Fitzpatrick, Director of Bureau of South Asia Regional Affairs and Mr. Thomas Parker, Deputy Director, Policy Planning Staff. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar and included AS(ER), JS(AMS) and Dir (DISA).

The discussions covered regional integration including the European security architecture, APEC, ASEAN, SAARC, and the Indian Ocean Rim, multi-lateral issues such as UN reform and Security Council expansion, peace-keeping, UNGA issues and the NPT Review Conference, and regional issues such as the Middle East Peace process, the Gulf, Central Asia, Afghanistan, North East Asia, South East Asia and South Asia. It was agreed that such policy consultations would be a regular part of Indo-US interactions in the future.

Under Secretary Mr. Tarnoff also called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. Mr. Tarnoff also addressed a meeting organised by the United Services Institute on India as an emerging World Power.

The Indo-US Sub-Commission on Economy and Commerce will be meeting next week. The US side will be led by Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Mr. Joan Spero. The US Under Secretary for Global Affairs Mr. Timothy Wirth will be visiting Delhi during this month to sign a Common Agenda for Cooperation on environmental issues. The US Treasury Secretary Mr. Robert Rubin

will also be visiting India in April.

DIA USA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Apr 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of President Rafsanjani of Iran

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1995 regarding visit of the President of Iran to India:

The Indian delegation, led by our Prime Minister and the Iranian delegation by President Rafsanjani, held wide-ranging discussions today morning. The discussion lasted for about one hour.

Our Prime Minister described President Rafsanjani's visit as a significant event in the contemporary history of relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the visit and the discussions will provide valuable inputs for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Prime Minister recalled his visit to Iran in September, 1993 and said that the

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visit had helped to reinforce political understanding between the two countries.

The Prime Minister referred to the international situation, with the post-cold war era posing new challenges, complexities and uncertainties. He underlined that India and Iran have a significant role to play in incorporating important concerns in the international agenda on the issues of peace, security and development. He said that the two countries have shared aspirations for strengthening national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well, as in regard to the right of choice for all nations whether big or small, and a voice for them in the great councils of the world. This affinity of approach on the key issues animates the bilateral relationship between India and Iran.

President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Rao held detailed

exchange of views on bilateral cooperation with particular reference to new areas which are under discussion Prime Minister said that the agreements symbolise the depth and breadth of our ties.

President Rafsanjani recalled the historic relations between India and Iran and the common heritage of the two countries which he said, offered excellent background for present day cooperation. He said that the two countries have a similarity of thinking and this is what makes their cooperation unique.

President Rafsanjani said that India's sense of freedom and India's tradition of peaceful co-existence of different religions, as well as, the full freedom of practice for different religions are a matter of great interest and attraction for Iran. He said that India's experience in this regard will be useful for the countries which have problems.

President Rafsanjani highlighted the infrastructural development in the field of agriculture, energy, mining, fisheries etc. in Iran. He said that both the countries have an affinity of views in the international forums which he said was natural as both India and Iran have suffered from foreign domination and share a great desire for the preservation of their hardwon independence. He laid stress on the cooperation in the field of oil, natural gas and petro-chemicals. He said that Iran is interested in partaking of India's expertise in these fields. He said that Iran is conscious of India's advancement in scientific and technological fields and desired to deepen this cooperation.

Referring to the regional situation, President Rafsanjani said that India and Iran should cooperate in maintaining peace and stability in the region and closely work together for resolving impediments in the way of realising this objective. The President emphasised that the atmosphere of friendship and trust of Indo Iranian relations enables the two countries to project the practical aspects of their relationship.

Prime Minister expressed the hope that the visit would be a starting point for a practical and concrete realisation of the deep desire for beneficial bilateral cooperation.

AN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Good Neighbourly Relations with Pakistan

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1995 on relations between India and Pakistan:

In response to queries relating to the reported Statement by Mr. Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan on normalisation of relations between India & Pakistan, the Spokesman stated as under:

"We have noted the reported statement by the former Prime Minister of
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Pakistan. We have consistently favoured good neighbourly relations with Pakistan and have sought a harmonious atmosphere within which it becomes possible to resolve all outstanding differences. We are glad if such a belief is shared in Pakistan.

It has been our consistent approach to have a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all existing differences".

KISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : la, on

Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Festival of Portugal in India Inaugurated

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1995 on Festival of Portugal in India:

The Festival of Portugal in India was inaugurated here this evening by the Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, Km. Selja. Speaking on the occasion she expressed confidence that the manifestation of Portuguese culture would reinforce the bilateral bonds of fraternity and creativity. It would open a new dimension to the foundation of existing cultural links in terms of new economic cooperation possibilities, she said. Tracing the historical ties between India and Portugal she said the Festival

would be seen as a continuum of age-old cultural ties between the two countries. She described the inauguration of the Festival of Portugal here as a landmark in the cultural interaction between the two countries and a significant achievement of the cultural exchange programme between India and Portugal.

RTUGAL INDIA

Date : Apr 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Salman Khurshid Inaugurates Second Meeting of Indo-Portugese(JBC)

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1995 on Second Meeting of Indo-Portugal (JBC):

India with its package of investment opportunities has embarked upon an enchanting journey for change. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid stated this while inaugurating the second meeting of the Indo-Portugese Joint Business Council here today.

Mr. Khurshid said, the liberalisation process in the last three years had shown to one and all the results of new economic policy, and highlighted the close interaction between the government and industry. He said, India had stood up to world competition in the current scenario and the government was keen to enter into new commercial tieups and ventures as and when opportunities arose.

Inviting the Portuguese businessmen to invest in the infrastructural sector, Shri Khurshid said power, transportation and the telecommunications sectors had attracted a lot of foreign investment. He urged the businessmen to target the growing Indian middle class. The middle class in India was keen to participate in the ongoing economic reforms of the Government as it offered to them a window to the world, said the Minister.

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In the course of his address, Shri Khurshid highlighted the growing importance of the Indian Ocean Region as a zone of growing commercial interest. The region now offered a perfect springboard for greater commercial interaction between South Africa, South Asia, the ASEAN region and Australia. The Minister

urged the Portuguese business delegation to take advantage of this changed regional scenario. India was taking a lot of interest in the region with greater interaction with ASEAN and APEC and had undertaken bilateral tie ups with Australia, Vietnam and Cambodia, said the Minister.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Mr. Ragupati Singhania, Chairman, Indian Section, India-Portugal JBC apprised the members of the policy changes undertaken under the present Government. As a result the reforms had put India as one of the front runners in the Asia-Pacific region.

RTUGAL INDIA USA AUSTRALIA VIETNAM CAMBODIA

Date : Apr 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Portuguese Commerce Minister meets Shri Chidambaram

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 05, 1995 regarding visit of Portuguese Commerce Minister to India:

Mr. Luis Palha, Secretary of State for Portugal (Minister of State rank), who is currently on an official visit to India from 3rd to 12th April, 1995, accompanied by a delegation of officials and businessmen, called on Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today. Both the Ministers underlined the potential for future growth in bilateral trade and economic relation between India and Portugal. The scope for enhancing ties particularly in trade, investments and joint ventures, was noted. Although the volume of bilateral trade is modest, India's export to Portugal in 1994 was US \$ 80 million as against its import of \$ 8 million and it is growing steadily. The trend of trade and diversification point to the potential for growth. Briefing the Portuguese Minister about economic reforms, Shri Chidambaram said it had created new investment and trade opportunities which Portugal could avail of in promoting bilateral trade. The objectives of Mr. Palha's visit are to promote bilateral trade particularly Portuguese exports to India; to Promote Portuguese investments; and to facilitate joint ventures between India and Portugal including in third countries. During his visit, he is also attending the Indo-Portuguese Joint Business Council Meeting.

Volume No

1995

QATAR

Joint Press Statement between India and Qatar

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1995 on Joint Press Statement between India and Qatar:

Keeping in view the traditionally close relations between the Republic of India and the State of Qatar and taking into account their shared desire in developing and strengthening these bonds of friendship and in response to the kind invitation extended by H.E. The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, H.E. Sheikh Hamad
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Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar paid an official visit to the Republic of India at the head of a high level delegation between 2nd and 3rd April, 1995.

During the visit, H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani called on H.E. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, The President of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, The Prime Minister of the Republic of India and H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, The Minister of External Affairs, H.E. The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia also called on H.E. The Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, The Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar conveyed to H.E. The President of India, the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, The Amir of the State of Qatar and His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, The Heir Apparent and the Minister of Defence, and their sincere wishes for the prosperity and welfare of the friendly people of India, and for the continuous advancement and development of the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

These meetings provided the occasion for an extensive review of bilateral relations, as well as discussion of the ways in which these relations could be further strengthened and enlarged.

The two sides also comprehensively exchanged views on leading regional and international political issues of mutual interest.

The official talks were characterised by a spirit of affection, and complete understanding and reflected a close identity of views and a common approach.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the steady growth of bilateral relations and the level of cooperation already achieved in various fields. They noted the great potential for further growth, and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards realising this potential for mutual benefit. They agreed on the value of regular contact and exchanges of experience in different sectors.

The two sides devoted particular attention to trade and economic ties. They welcomed the significant growth in recent years in bilateral trade turnover and took note of the areas identified for further economic cooperation e.g. energy, especially natural gas, oil and fertilizers, as well as investment and joint ventures in these and other areas. They expressed their desire to strengthen economic and trade ties. They also agreed to activate the business sectors in their respective countries to meaningfully discuss further the possibilities of greater economic cooperation. They stressed the value of regular consultations between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the two countries and exchange of visits between businessmen as well as participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. They also agreed to accelerate the work of the Joint Economic Committee and hold its next meeting at the earliest possible date, this year. Further, they discussed the possibility of reaching an agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and on Bilateral Investment Promotion Guarantee.

At present, the Indian Community living in the State of Qatar is making an important contribution to the socio-economic development of that friendly country.

The Indian side also apprised them of the forthcoming SAARC Summit in New Delhi in May 1995 and the efforts to strengthen economic cooperation between the member States. The sides exchanged views on UN reforms, and in particular, the restructuring of the Security Council. They agreed that the UN's functioning should be made more democratic, and the Security Council should be expanded, so that it is truly representative of the membership of the United Nations. The Qatari side conveyed their Government's view that India should be a permanent member of the restructured Security Council.

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The President and the Prime Minister of India renewed the invitation extended earlier to His Highness the Emir and His Highness the Heir Apparent, to pay an official visit to India and

expressed the hope that this visit would materialise.

The Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, extended an invitation to the Minister of External Affairs to pay an official visit to Qatar. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and it was agreed that the dates of visit would be decided through diplomatic channels.

TAR INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Apr 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Days of Russian Culture in India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1995 on Days of Russian Culture in India:

Days of Russian Culture in India would be held this year in the first week of December. The Russian presentation during the Days of Culture would include performances by a folk troupe, a ballet group, philharmonic orchestra, a circus and an exhibition of the applied decorative art. The Russian contingent would comprise a high-level official delegation, leading members of mass media and literary circle for organising seminars and round-tables. Efforts will also be made to hold film weeks in both countries at the time.

Performances would be held in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Bangalore. Other cities may be included through mutual consultation. The show will be on at least for 15 days.

The planning and organisation of the Days of Russian Culture in India were discussed at a joint Indo-Russian meeting at the end of which agreed minutes were signed here today by Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. A.A. Sergeev, Deputy Head of International Cultural Relations Department, Ministry of Culture, Russia. The meeting was held in pursuance of the protocol of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Culture.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Apr 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A Letter from the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to USA President Mr. Clinton

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1995 regarding a letter from the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to President Clinton:

Dear Mr. President,

We were horrified to hear about the barbaric terrorist attack in Oklahoma that took so many innocent lives. I write to convey our deep concern and grief at the tragedy, and to ask you to convey to the bereaved families our heartfelt condolences.

2. International terrorism, with its supporters around the world, is a scourge of our times, unmindful of the value of
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human life, murderous in its objectives and outrageous in its means. As a country engaged for several years now in battling international terrorism on its own territory, India stands by all those who are determined to rid our world of this dreadful menace. In condoling with you, Mr. President, in America's hour of sorrow, I would like to reiterate this commitment of the Government and people of India. We are confident that the forces of peace and goodwill will ultimately triumph.

With my regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P. V. Narasimha Rao)

A INDIA

Date : Apr 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

US AND EUROPEAN UNION

Benefits of Textile Market Access Agreements signed with U.S. and European Union

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 25, 1995 regarding Benefits of Textile Market Access Agreements Signed with U.S. and European Union:

As a result of the recent market access agreement, the handloom and power sectors would get important benefits in the U.S. and the European Union (EU) countries on account of the following provisions, Shri G. Venkat Swamy, Union Minister of Textiles said in the Rajya Sabha today:

1. HANDLOOM SECTOR:

U.S.

(i) Removal of restraints on Category 369-0 (Other Cotton made-ups);

(ii) Providing additional 5% quota for 100% cotton garments made of handloom fabrics in Categories 334/634 (Men's and boys coats) and 351/651 (Pyjamas and nightwear)

E.U.

Removal of restrictions on handloom and cottage industry products and exceptional flexibilities of 7,000 tonnes per year for the period 1995 to 1997 and 8,000 tonnes for the period 1988 to 2004.

2. POWERLOOM SECTOR

U.S.

(i) Removal of restraints on Cat 369-0 (Other cotton made-ups);

(ii) Increase in base level for the categories 218 (Yarn Dyed Fabrics), 219 (Duck Fabrics) and Group II and (iii) providing additional flexibilities in categories 363 (Terry Towels) and 313.

E.U.

Exceptional flexibilities of 7,000 tonnes per year for the period 1995 to 1997 and 8,000 tonnes for the period 1998 to 2004.

The market access agreements are expected to provide a substantial fillip to our exports to the USA and the EU countries. As regards imports, the import duty barrier is still

appreciable and imports of apparel, made ups and fabrics (except some industrial fabrics) are being allowed for the present only under the Special Import Licence route, which is limited in extent. Thus, large scale imports of textiles are not likely in the near future as a consequence of the market access agreements.
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A INDIA

Date : Apr 25, 1995

May

Volume No

1995

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AFGHANISTAN KAZAKHSTAN UNITED KINGDOM IRAN ISRAEL CROATIA PAKISTAN PERU SAUDI
ARABIA SRI LANKA SUDAN TANZANIA VIETNAM

Date : May 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

India Seeks Australian Cooperation in setting up coal washeries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 23, 1995 on India seeking Australian cooperation in setting up coal washeries:

India has sought Australian cooperation in setting up a large number of coal washeries for supplying washed coal to the utilities sector. This was indicated by the Minister of State for Coal, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja when the Australian delegation led by the Minister for Resources Shri David Beddall called on him here today. Shri Panja said that Australian coal companies can enter into joint venture agreement with Indian companies for setting up coal washeries. He said that to facilitate this the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, had been amended.

While welcoming the delegation, Shri Panja said that Piparwar opencast project had been landmark in Indo-Australian cooperation. The Coal Minister apprised the delegation about the milestones achieved by India in Coal sector. Regarding modes of coal production Shri Panja stated that the stress will be shifted from opencast mining to underground mining due to quality factor. The Coal Minister informed the delegation that Indian Coal Companies would be interested in the modern mining techniques especially related to underground mining.

The Australian Minister for Resources Shri David Beddall apprised the Coal Minister about the new coal mining and processing techniques developed by the various Australian companies. Shri Beddall extended his country's full cooperation in setting up coal washeries in India.

Indo-Australian cooperation in the field of coal mining has been strengthened with the formation of the Indo-Australian joint working group on coal in July 1989. Since then working group on coal has met four times. Piparwar opencast Project of Central Coalfields Ltd. is under implementation by White Industries Australia Ltd. on a turn key basis. The import cost of this project are being financed by concessional loan from the Export Finance and Insurance Cooperation of Australia. Introduction of a Fine Coal Circuit in Moonidih washery (Bharat Coking Coal Limited) is under active consideration for implementation. Australian Government have also agreed to consider the introduction of Wongawilli System of Mining at Incline 5 mine of SCCL.

The working group has identified new areas of cooperation especially for introduction of modern technology for underground mines, Environmental Management in mining areas and Build Own Operate (BOO) coal washeries. The working group has also agreed for increasing cooperation between the two countries by evolving suitable training packages for Indian mining personnel.

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STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : May 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

High Level Australian Delegation calls on Balram Singh Yadava

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 23, 1995 on visit of high-level Australian Delegation to India:

A high-level Australian delegation led by Mr. David Beddall, Australian Minister for Resources called on the Minister of State for Mines, Shri Balram Singh Yadava, here today.

Mr. David Beddall informed the Indian counterpart that Australia is exporting to India lead and zinc concentrates (4600 tonnes and 60,170 tonnes respectively in 1992-93). India is exporting to Australia chromite ore (11000 tonnes in 1992-93) and graphite (135 tonnes in 1992-93).

Shri Yadava informed the Australian delegation that with the announcement of New Mineral Policy and the consequent amendments to the Rules, the mineral sector is poised to attract major investment from various countries of the world. The Mines Ministry has so far received substantial enquiries especially from Australia regarding opportunities for investment in various aspects of mining and exploration.

Prominent companies who have shown interest are BHP Minerals (BHPM), CRA, Ashton, Niugini Mining Limited (NML) etc. In fact, BHP Minerals has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hindustan Zinc Limited for joint venture grassroots exploration of zinc, lead, copper and gold over an area of about 20,000 sq. km. in Rajasthan, wherein BHP will bear the entire risk expenditure upto prefeasibility phase. Investment in the new

mining company would be shared by BHPM and HZL in the ratio of 60: 40. Further, NML also entered into an MOU with HZL for evaluation of identified gold prospects and in the event viable resources are found, the project would be developed with equity by NML 60 per cent and HZL 40 per cent. Both these proposals were submitted to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and are now awaiting government approval.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date : May 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Tragic Death of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Irfan Ljubijankic

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 29, 1995 on tragic death of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Government of India have learnt with great shock and grief of the tragic death of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Irfan Ljubijankic, when the helicopter in which he was travelling was attacked. The attack is completely unacceptable and we condemn it.

Government of India also regard as totally unacceptable and as contrary to

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international law the taking of UN peacekeepers as hostages by the Bosnian Serbs. This will only increase their international isolation and invite reprisals leading to further loss of life.

We call upon the parties concerned to eschew the futile search for a military solution and to enter into constructive negotiations for a political settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

DIA

Date : May 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

India and Cyprus to increase cooperation in Agriculture

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1995 on India and Cyprus to increase cooperation in Agriculture:

India and Cyprus have expressed desire to increase bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture.

During a meeting of a delegation from Cyprus headed by Mr. Alexis Galanos, President of House of Representatives of Cyprus with the Union Agriculture Minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, both the leaders were of the opinion that there is a vast potential for increasing cooperation in agriculture sector. They said that exchange of scientific and technical information in the area of agriculture should increase further. They were also of the view that there was a scope for joint research work in this area.

Dr. Jakhar recalled his Cyprus visit in 1993 when a Programme of Cooperation in the field of agriculture was signed. He informed the visiting leader that validity of this cooperation programme has been extended upto 1996. This programme provides for exchange of scientists and experts and also study visits between the two sides.

PRUS USA INDIA

Date : May 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Text of message from the Prime Minister to H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac, President-elect of France

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1995 on text of message from the Prime Minister to H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac, President-Elect of France:

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your election victory, an event that confirms your popularity among the people of France and the confidence that they repose in you.

We in India have known you as a former Prime Minister of France and as the very well-known Mayor of Paris. You have been associated with many important events in India-France interaction in contemporary times, ranging from economic and commercial contacts to cultural festivals. I therefore look forward to working with your Excellency to further expand and deepen India-France relations in all fields.

You come to the helm of affairs in France at a crucial time in European and global affairs: our good wishes are with you in your momentous tasks.

With assurances of my highest consideration.

ANCE INDIA USA

Date : May 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Election of Dr. P. S. Rao as Chairman International Law Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 03, 1995 on Election of Dr. P. S. Rao as Chairman International Law Commission:

Dr. P. S. Rao, Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs and Member of the International Law Commission since 1987, has been elected Chairman of the Commission for 1995-96 at the opening session of the International Law Commission held today.

2. Dr. Rao has been the legal adviser of the Ministry of External Affairs since 1985 and has represented the country in various meetings of the UN on different international legal matters. He is a well known legal authority on international law in India. He had received education both in India and abroad with a master of

Law from Andhra University and a Doctorate from Yale Law School, USA. He has published widely on different subjects of International Law both in India and abroad in scholarly journals.

3. The International Law Commission is constituted by the United Nations and has been working since 1949. A number of important items are on its agenda. These relate to matters concerning responsibility of states for wrongs committed, development of law relating to liability for damage caused by states or by activities within states to others, development of a draft code of international crimes against peace and security of mankind, impact of creation of new states on their nationality. and the law on reservations to treaties.

DIA USA

Date : May 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1995 on Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding:

As a tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and to his lifelong dedication to the cause of world peace and international understanding, the Government of India instituted the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to be given annually for outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding, goodwill and friendship among the peoples of the world. The Award is administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

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The Award carries a Citation, Trophy and Rs. 15 lakhs in cash (convertible into foreign currency).

The Award is made by a Jury appointed by the Government of India for this purpose. The Jury consists of seven eminent Indians including the Vice-President of India and the Chief Justice of India who are ex-officio members. The Vice-President of India is the Chairman of the Jury.

The previous recipients of this award are:

U Thant	1965
Martin Luther King Jr.	1966
(Presented posthumously)	
Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	1967
Yehudi Menuhin	1968
Mother Teresa	1969
Kenneth D Kaunda	1970
Josip Broz Tito	1971
Andre Malraux	1972
Julius K Nyerere	1973
Raul Prebisch	1974
Jonas Salk	1975
Giuseppe Tucci	1976
Tulsi Meherji Shrestha	1977
The Most Venerable Nichidatsu	1978
Fujii	
Nelson Mandela	1979
Barbara Ward	1980
Alva and Gunnar Myrdal	1981
(Jointly)	
Dr. Leopold Sedar Senghor	1982
Dr. Bruno Kreisky	1983
Indira Gandhi	1984
(presented posthumously)	
Olof Palme	1985
(presented posthumously)	
Not Awarded	1986
Javier Perez de Cuellar	1987
Yassir Arafat	1988
Robert Gabriel Mugabe	1989
Helmut Kohl	1990
Aruna Asaf Ali	1991
Maurice F. Strong	1992

The Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for 1993 consists of:

1. Shri K. R. Narayanan Chairman of
Vice-President of India the Jury
2. Justice Shri M N Venkata Member
chaliah, Chief Justice of
India
3. Dr. P. C. Alexander Member
Governor of Maharashtra
4. Justice Shri M.K. Mukher- Member
jee
5. Prof M. N. Faruqui Member
Vice-Chancellor

Aligarh Muslim University

6. Shri Nikhil Chakravarty Member

7. Shri P. N. Haksar Member

8. Shri Niranjan Desai Secretary
Director General, ICCR to the Jury

After careful consideration of the numerous nominations received from all over the world, the Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding has decided that the Award for the year 1993 be given to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was born in 1945 to the famous hero of the Burmese freedom struggle for independence, Gen. Aung San and Daw Khin Kyi. Daw Khin Kyi was Burma's ambassador to India from 1960-67.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stayed with her mother and studied in the convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi and later joined the Lady Sri Ram College in 1962. Later she went to the Oxford University for her higher studies and was on the faculty of the university for some time. She was also the fellow of the Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Simla in 1987.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is married to a British national, Dr. Michael Aris.

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returned to Myanmar in April 1988 after a prolonged absence abroad. Her return coincided with the beginning of the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joined the movement and soon became its leader. She was placed under house arrest in July 1989. During the May 1990 elections, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a majority of the total parliamentary seats. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be under house arrest.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has published several articles and books. "Aung San of Burma: A Biographical Portrait by his Daughter", "Burma and India: Some Aspects of Intellectual Life Under Colonialism", and "Freedom from Fear" are some of the titles authored by her.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her "non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights" and the Sakharov prize for the "freedom of thought" by the European Parliament in July 1991.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been chosen for the 1993 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for her brave, non-violent and unyielding struggle for freedom, democracy and human

dignity -- the ideals that promote international understanding and goodwill and the ideals cherished by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for which the award was instituted.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM IRAN BURMA

Date : May 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Destruction of the Holy Shrine of Noorud-din Noorani at Charar-e-Sharief

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 15, 1995 on destruction of the holy shrine of Noorud-din Noorani at Charar-e-Sharief:

Foreign Secretary briefed Resident Ambassadors of Member countries of the OIC today the destruction of the holy shrine of Noorud-din Noorani at Charar-e-Sharief by militants in the morning of May 11, 1995. The meeting assumes significance in the context of reports that Pakistan was trying to mobilise the OIC on this issue attributing the destruction of the shrine to Indian security forces. The briefing covered evidence available with us (including the recovering of explosive materials from and around the shrine, and radio-intercepts) establishing that the destruction of the shrine had been deliberately master-minded and engineered by foreign mercenaries and Pak-trained militants on instructions from their masters across the border; the repeated offers for safe passage to the mercenaries and the great restraint exercised by the security forces since February in order to preserve the sanctity of the shrine; the actual circumstances leading to the destruction starting with the setting of houses near the shrine on fire and leading upto the burning down of the shrine itself; the announcements made by the J&K and Central Governments to re-build the shrine and other affected houses; and Pakistan's transparent efforts to score propaganda points by distorting facts. Efforts by Pakistan to communalise the Kashmir problem would not succeed.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : May 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Destruction of the Shrine of Hazrat Nooruddin Wali at Charar-e-Sharief

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1995 on destruction of the Shrine of Hazrat Nooruddin Wali at Charar-e-Sharief:

The Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has, in a letter to Foreign Ministers of all OIC countries, apprised them of the true facts relating to the destruction of the Shrine of Hazrat Nooruddin Wali at Charar-e-Sharief. He has informed them that the shrine, which is revered by all communities in Kashmir, was destroyed by a group of terrorists who included Pakistani and Afghan mercenaries at the direction of Pakistan. Underlining the efforts of the security forces to avoid the use of force, EAM pointed out that there was a deliberate plan by the terrorists and their mentors across the border to burn down the Shrine on the eve of Eid Ul Zuha in order to create strife and derail the election process in J&K. This will not be allowed to succeed.

Foreign mercenaries and terrorist organizations based in Pakistan have now held out threats of violence and terror elsewhere in India. Describing the challenge posed by trans-border terrorism as a global challenge, External Affairs Minister ruled out any compromise with terrorism.

The Minister also drew the attention of the Foreign Ministers to the non-denominational nature of the Charar-e-Sharief Shrine which was a symbol of religious tolerance and harmony in Kashmir and beyond, and expressed deep anguish at the destruction of the Shrine. Government has announced measures to rebuild the Shrine and the destroyed township. The tense situation arising out of this incident in J & K has since abated. External Affairs Minister discounted any tension or unusual troop movement on the border with Pakistan.

The Minister expressed regret that the statement issued by the OIC Contact Group in New York on May 15, 1995 had based itself entirely on Pakistani versions of the incident putting the blame on the security forces and giving it a religious slant without any regard to the true facts of the situation. He declared the Government's determination to go ahead with plans to hold elections in J & K and advance the political process with a view to restoring normalcy in the State, and called for the support

and understanding of the international community for the sustenance of this process.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN USA

Date : May 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Foreign Assistance for Land Development

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1995 on Foreign Assistance for Land Development:

Projects for development of forestry in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh with an outlay of US \$ 84 million are under consideration of the International Development Agency.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Rural Areas and Employment, Col. Rao Ram Singh in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today.

In reply to another question he said that only one of the on-going projects, mainly the Watershed (Plains) project is being implemented in Gujarat. The project was signed with the World Bank in October, 1990 for International Development Agency credit of US \$58.17 million and with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a loan
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of US \$ 7.00 million. As on March 1995 the project has utilised US \$ 18.468 million. The project would close on March 1998. The project is being implemented through the States of Gujarat, Orissa and Rajasthan. The Gujarat component is being implemented at an outlay of US \$23.7 million.

In addition, the Minister further stated, there is an integrated watershed (Hills) project being implemented in the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab at a total outlay of US \$ 88.00 million.

There are also three on-going State Sector Forestry Projects namely:

i. West Bengal Forestry US \$ 34.00

Project million

ii. Maharashtra Forestry US \$ 124.00
Project million

iii. A.P. Forestry Project US \$ 77.3
 million

Other on-going projects with significant land development
components include:

i. Bihar Plateau Develop- US \$ 117.00
ment Project million

ii. UP Sodic Lands US \$ 54.7
Reclamation million

DIA USA

Date : May 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Agreement on the determination of the Trijunction point between India, Myanmar and Thailand in the Andaman Sea

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1995 on the agreement on the determination of the Trijunction point between India, Myanmar and Thailand in the Andaman Sea:

The agreement on the determination of the Trijunction point between India, Myanmar and Thailand in the Andaman Sea was ratified on May 24, 1995 at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon. Shri Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Mr. Poksak Nilubol, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar and U Aye Lwin, Director General of the Consular, International Law and Treaties and Research Department of the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs exchanged the instruments of ratification of the agreement between the three countries. The Agreement was earlier signed in New Delhi on October 27, 1993. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives of the three countries stated that the agreement was a reflection of the common desire to further strengthen the existing cooperation between them.

DIA THAILAND BURMA

Date : May 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Visit of the Vice-president Shri K. R. Narayanan to Italy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 21, 1995 on visit of the Vice-President Shri K.R.

Narayanan to Italy:

Vice President will be paying a visit to Italy from 23-27 May, 1995. From

25 to 27th of May he will be attending a meeting of the Universal Academy of Cultures which is holding its session at Siena, near Florence. Vice President has been a member of the Academy since its Inception at Paris in 1993.

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The Vice President has been extended an invitation by the Italian Government and will be meeting the President of Italy H.E. Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on 23rd May, 1995 and the President of the Italian Senate on 24th May, 1995. The Vice President and Smt. Usha Narayanan will be the guests of the President of the Senate, H.E. Mr. Carlo Scognamiglio Pasini who will be hosting a lunch in their honour at Rome. Vice President will be meeting prominent Italian personalities and Indian residents at a reception by the Indian Ambassador at Rome. En route to Siena, he will be the guest of the President of Tuscany region who will host a dinner in his honour.

He will be accompanied by Shri R. S. Kalha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The Vice President will return to Delhi on 28th May.

ALY INDIA FRANCE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : May 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Visit of the Vice-President Shri K. R. Narayanan to Italy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1995 on visit of the Vice-President Shri K. R. Narayanan to Italy:

Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan had a meeting on May 23, 1995 with Dr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, President of the Republic of Italy at the Quirinale Palace. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed including the role played by Italy at the Indian Engineering Trade Fair in February, 1995. President Scalfaro referred to his visit during that period and said that he remembered that visit with nostalgia. He added that the

Italians are very enthusiastic about increasing economic cooperation with India. He said that he had very warm feelings of friendship towards the people of India. It was noted that Italy is India's third largest trading partner in Europe.

Both sides expressed confidence that Vice-President Shri Narayanan's visit would give a very significant momentum to all-round bilateral cooperation not only in the economic and commercial areas but in political, cultural and scientific sectors also. President Scalfaro said that Italy was prepared to undertake further steps for cooperation with India in all sectors.

ALY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : May 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Visit of Professor Carlo Scognamiglio, President of the Italian Senate and the Italian Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sussanna Agnelli to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1995 on visit of Professor Carlo Scognamiglio,

President of the Italian Senate and the Italian Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sussanna Agnelli to India:

Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan met Professor Carlo Scognamiglio, President of the Italian Senate and the Italian Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sussanna Agnelli on May 24th, 1995. The Italian President of the Senate spoke of the excellent relations existing between the two countries, which got a further fillip by President Scalfaro's visit. He added that Vice President's visit to Italy would contribute further to bilateral cooperation. He remarked that the Italian Senate has great appreciation for the success of Indian democracy and development. India has achieved an impressive economic development. through democratic process. He also said that India was an important factor for peace and stability in Asia. Vice President said that there were a number of similarities between India and Italy, the most important of which is the fact that changes

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and policies in our two countries are made through the expressions of the people. He referred to the influence of Mazzini on some of the leaders of our freedom movement. He invited the President of the Senate to visit India as soon as possible to keep up the momentum of high level exchanges between the two countries.

ALY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA INDIA

Date : May 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

KABUL

The Indian Embassy in Kabul has been re-opened on 3rd May, 1995

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 03, 1995 on the Indian Embassy in Kabul has been re-opened on May 3, 1995:

The Indian Embassy in Kabul has been re-opened on 3rd May, 1995. A team of eight Indian officials led by Shri A. S. Toor, Charge d' Affairs a.i.reached Kabul yesterday evening.

India has gifted a further consignment of medicines for Afghanistan as a goodwill gesture. The Indian Embassy will be handing over these

medicines to the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health (IGICH) in Kabul. The IGICH was constituted and equipped in the 1980's with Indian assistance under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. The medicines which were airlifted to Kabul yesterday, are intended to meet the requirements of the 250-bed IGICH hospital for the next several months.

GHANISTAN INDIA

Date : May 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1995 on Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission:

A high-level delegation, led by H.E. Mr. V.L. Mette, First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission, was in India from Monday, 22 May, 1995, to Thursday, 25 May, 1995 to take part in the Second Session of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission. The Indian delegation for the Joint Commission was led by Dr. Balram Jakhar, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture.

The delegation level talks took place on Wednesday, 24 May, 1995, which were followed by the signing of the Joint Protocol and an agreement to extend a credit of US \$ 10 million to Kazakhstan. The Joint Protocol lists areas of cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in diverse fields, including Agriculture, Petroleum Mining, Science & Technology, Commerce, Health, Technical Cooperation, Electronics
-120>

and Railways. The credit agreement provides softer terms for joint ventures and export of consumer durables and envisages disbursement of the loan amount after the utilisation of the first credit line of US \$ 10 million

During the plenary discussions between the two delegations, pending issues were discussed and the early implementation of joint understandings, including outstanding payments to Indian firms, was emphasised. It was agreed that subcommittees to cover sectors like agriculture, trade and industry, hydrocarbons,

science & technology and pharmaceuticals would be set up shortly and a permanent mechanism created for addressing problems in the further development of cooperation between the two countries.

The Kazakh dignitary called on the President, the Prime Minister and had meeting with the Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, with Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid. During these discussions, further steps to intensify the growing relationship were discussed; it was recognised that the potential of this relationship is far from being fully realised, The friendly relations between the leadership of the two countries and the understanding of each other's national concerns was emphasized.

The visiting dignitary also met members of FICCI and ASSOCHAM, CII, Indo-CIS Chamber and FIEO and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Some of our prominent business representatives made individual calls on him during which their problems as well as perspectives for cooperation were discussed. The other members of the Kazakh delegation had separate discussions with their counterparts.

The Kazakh First Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by a large delegation of heads of premier production trading concerns who had individual discussions with interested business parties.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Indo-Kazhakstan Bilateral Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1995 on Indo-Kazhakstan Bilateral Agreement signed:

A Bilateral Credit Agreement was signed between India and Kazhakstan, during the First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazhakstan, H.E. Mr. V. L. Mette's recent visit to India from 22nd May to 25th May, 1995. Under the agreement India has extended a credit of US \$ 10 million to Kazhakstan for purchases of goods and services from India. This agreement represents the second tranche of Indian credit to Kazhakstan, following the first credit line

of US \$ 10 million, agreed between the two Governments in July, 1993.

The recently concluded Credit Agreement with Kazhakstan is the first bilateral agreement incorporating the revised parameters of India's policy on credit agreements. It expands the coverage of the credit to the exports of consultancy and consumer durables from India, in addition to the exports of capital goods. The agreement also provides for an extended period of repayment, which has been increased from 10 years to 12 years, with a three-year moratorium. The repayment period for the exports of consultancy and of consumer durables, however, would be three years with a one year moratorium. The second credit line to Kazhakstan links the rate of interest on the credit to LIBOR, making for a lower rate of interest than in the credit agreements -121>

signed by India with the Central Asian countries so far.

India's overall credit of US \$ 20 million to Kazhakstan reflects the high Importance attached by India to economic cooperation with this large resource rich Central Asian country. The credit also brings into focus the primacy, in India's bilateral credits policy of the medium and long term economic prospects of the recipient countries.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA

Date : May 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

LUXEMBURG

Grand Duke of Luxemburg calls on Dr. Silvera

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 16, 1995 on Grand Duke of Luxemburg on Dr. Silvera:

An eight-member delegation led by HRH Crown Prince Henri, Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxemburg called on the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. C. Silvera here today.

The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest to the two countries. Prince Henri offered to provide to India expertise for upgrading blood safety and advanced blood transfusion

technologies and also help in the field of vaccine production and cold chain equipments.

Dr. Silvera said India had taken up a big programme of AIDS prevention with blood safety and enhancement of blood bank facilities as its main elements. He said the experts from two countries would soon meet to discuss avenues of greater mutual cooperation in the field between the two countries.

ITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : May 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands Water Minister meets Shri Naidu

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 09, 1995 on visit of Netherlands Water Minister to India:

A high level Netherlands delegation led by Mrs. A. Jorritsma, the Netherlands Minister of Transport, Public Works, Water Management & Environment met the Minister of State for Water Resources, Shri P. V. Rangayya Naidu here today.

On the occasion, Shri Naidu informed the delegation that Government is taking steps to promote private participation in Water Resources Sector. A number of projects are already going on with Dutch assistance in the field of minor irrigation. Some of the projects namely, Tungabhadra Irrigation Pilot Project (Phase II); the Integrated Water Resources Development Project Bundelkhand and Andhra Pradesh Lift Irrigation Project are already in pipe-
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line. Reviewing their progress, the Minister requested the Netherlands side to take up these pipeline projects at the earliest.

On their side, the representatives of Euro consult, Netherlands, expressed their interest to collaborate with Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd., (WAPCOS), an undertaking under the Ministry of Water Resources, to take up water resources projects in South-East Asian region. Both sides agreed to work out collaborative arrangements in this regard soon. Shri Naidu

expressed the hope that Indo-Dutch collaboration in water resources sector will strengthen further in the years to come.

DIA LATVIA

Date : May 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iran

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 09, 1995 on India's all round cooperation with Iran:

In response to queries regarding the recently imposed embargo on Iran, the Official Spokesman stated that we do not support any embargo against Iran and we regret that it should have been imposed. The recent visit of President Rafsanjani has enhanced mutual understanding and imparted a new momentum to India's all round cooperation with Iran. There are several economic proposals in the pipeline which we believe to be mutually beneficial and which we are keenly pursuing. Our approach will remain one of building on the opportunities emanating out of the complementarity of the two countries.

AN INDIA

Date : May 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on

May 12, 1995 on India's stand on NPT:

Responding to queries on the indefinite extension of the NPT the official spokesman said that the NPT is a discriminatory treaty which creates a division between nuclear 'haves' and 'havenots'. India's own action plan put forward, in 1988, calls for the elimination of all nuclear weapons as the only means for achieving genuine non-proliferation. The indefinite extension of the NPT perpetuates the discriminatory aspects and provides legitimacy to the nuclear arsenals of the nuclear-weapon states. India will not sign the NPT in its present form but will continue to work for achieving genuine non-proliferation through elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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DIA

Date : May 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Israel

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on May 16, 1995 on confiscation of land in Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities:

Responding to a query regarding the reported confiscation of land in Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities, the Spokesman stated that by signing the Declaration of Principles (DOP) in Washington in 1993, both Israel and the PLO have accepted the position that the status of Jerusalem requires to be negotiated. In other words, no side should take any action to alter the situation on the ground before arriving at a negotiated settlement. India, therefore, views with concern any attempts to confiscate land in Jerusalem and would urge all concerned to desist from any unilateral action which may lead to unforeseen consequences and delay further progress in the Middle East Peace Process.

RAEL INDIA USA

Date : May 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Croatia

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1995 regarding India's position on Croatia:

In response to a query on India's position on recent turn of events in Croatia and whether India considers the enclave of Krajina to be an occupied territory, the External Affairs Spokesman stated that India recognised all the emergent States of the former Yugoslavia including Croatia as they were within their old i.e. ex-Yugoslav borders. We do not consider areas of Krajina to be occupied territories as the ethnic Serbs have been living there for generations.

Referring to acts of indiscriminate violence in the area, the Spokesman also stated that India condemns all forms of terrorism, bombing of civilians and noncombatants, and indiscriminate attacks on cities unequivocally. India herself had been the victim of such unacceptable acts of terrorism.

OATIA INDIA YUGOSLAVIA

Date : May 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on May 16, 1995 on the burning of Charar-e-Sharief:

We have read with surprise and regret the statement issued on behalf of the OIC Contact Group in New York on the destruction of the shrine at Charar-e-Sharief.

2. The burning of Charar-e-Sharief has destroyed part of the religious and cultural heritage of India, and is mourned by all Indians, as reflected in the debate in Parliament, comment in the press and
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spontaneous reactions of the common man.

3. The burning of Charar-e-Sharief during the holy days of the Haj was designed to cause the maximum possible tension. Nevertheless, despite the gravest provocation, there is no threat to the peace, either in India or in the region. The situation in Jammu & Kashmir is calming down, and Charar-e-Sharief has been returned to civilian control.

4. Charar-e-Sharief was occupied and burnt by foreign terrorists whose objective is to undermine the territorial integrity of India. This has been accepted even by responsible foreign media. The terrorist organisation Harkat-ul-Ansar based in Pakistan, has claimed "credit" for burning down the shrine. Earlier, a similar attempt had been made at the Hazratbal shrine, which proved unsuccessful. This time, the terrorists ensured that their work of destruction should be completed.

5. The burning of Charar-e-Sharief is not a communal or a religious issue. It is an act of vandalism and destruction by militants. We therefore do not understand why the OIC Contact Group considers it necessary to comment on it.

6. International reaction on this incident has recognised where the responsibility lies for the outrage. Pakistan is trying to fan religious and international sentiment through the OIC. This is opportunistic, and motivated by the desire to deflect attention from its complicity in the desecration of the shrine. By provoking such incidents, Pakistan is trying to frustrate the political process in Jammu & Kashmir.

7. Prime Minister has announced in Parliament that the political process will continue on schedule. Terrorists will not be allowed to hold the population of Jammu & Kashmir hostage.

8. We trust that members of the OIC Contact Group will realise that their statements will only give encouragement to the terrorists responsible for this outrage, and can only disappoint the population of Jammu & Kashmir, who would like to see an early return to democratic governance.

KISTAN INDIA USA TUNISIA

Date : May 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on May 19, 1995 regarding Pak allegations about the Charar-e-Sharief incident:

The Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. M. K. Bhadrakumar today met the Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Malik and conveyed the Government's deep regret and dismay over the Pakistani statements regarding the Charar-e-Sharief incident. The Acting High Commissioner was told that the Pakistani statements are baseless and tendentious and have no relation to the true facts of the incident of May 11 when a group of mercenaries, including Pakistani and Afghan nationals and their mentors from across the border burned down the shrine and mosque in Charar-e-Sharief. It was conveyed that the Government takes serious exception to the Pakistani statements regarding the Indian Army which are provocative and should be avoided under whatever compulsions.

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KISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : May 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC would further Climate of Goodwill & Friendship: PM

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 04, 1995 on Prime Minister's statement at concluding Session of the Eight Summit of SAARC:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said that the SAARC would help further the process of regional cooperation and

strengthen the climate of goodwill and friendship.

In his concluding observations at the SAARC Summit here today, the Prime Minister said that though the primary focus at the Summit had been on Poverty Eradication and Economic Cooperation, the deliberations had helped to take one more step towards developing SAARC into an effective vehicle for maximising collective self-reliance and advancement in the region. He emphasised that this would ensure the momentum of cooperation in all the important social sectors relating to women and children as well as strengthen cooperation for combating the scourge of drugs and terrorism besides furthering cooperative action in areas like rural development, environment, science and technology, agriculture and communications.

Emphasising that the Delhi Declaration adopted at the Summit reflected the resolve to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region, the Prime Minister said that the decision to strengthen focus on economic cooperation would build up people to people contacts. SAARC trade fairs would be organised in most countries of the region and a meeting of the captains of industry would follow. The SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement, SAPTA, would be operationalised by the end of the year, he said.

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's remarks:

"Every SAARC summit is a milestone of our united and determined endeavour, on the road to regional cooperation. It generates hopes, provides reassurance, builds trust, strengthens confidence and deepens understanding. It also maintains the momentum of progress, opens up new initiatives, while consolidating past gains, provides impetus and engages in the very fundamental task of developing a regional perspective on issues of common concern and primarily on ways to fulfill one of the most important objectives of SAARC, to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve the quality of their life and there by help the process of promoting and strengthening collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia.

The strength of our collective commitment and our desire for a rapid growth in economic cooperation and intensified our common efforts of poverty eradication, and of sustained alround growth, should considerably widen the base of our cooperation and create closer ties through increasing inter-dependence. It is our firm resolve that we shall move with the utmost speed on the road to all-round cooperation.

Peace and prosperity being our message, it is through unity and dedication that we shall achieve our common objectives. We have had the opportunity to involve ourselves in all the developmental aspects of our countries, individually and of our region as a whole. Our discussions during the last two days marked by a spirit of goodwill and cooperation, were purposeful and

constructive and covered a wide range of issues of bilateral and common interest to our nations which widens our perspective and also helps us in our relations outside the SAARC forum.

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The Delhi Declaration which we have just adopted reflects our resolve to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Our determination to forge regional cohesion and to chart out a course which would be mutually reinforcing for our economies and societies and for our approach to the common challenges we face.

We have decided to declare 1995 as the 'SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication'. This reflects our determination to pursue our objective of eradicating poverty, preferably by the year 2002 A.D., as agreed in the last summit. We have also decided to declare 1996 as 'The SAARC Year of Literacy'. Our commitment to the critical social sectors will continue to be strengthened.

We have resolved to ensure the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) is brought into operation by the end of this year.

In response to the increasing expectations of our people for steps towards common prosperity, we decided to strengthen our focus on economic cooperation. SAARC Trade Fairs will be organised in most countries of our region and a meeting of captains of industry in SAARC countries would be held in India before the end of this year. This will not only strengthen people-to-people contacts but also give an opportunity to all our people to see the capabilities in manufacturing and industry of the region. It would also greatly enhance the process of economic cooperation among the private sector in our region with a view to encouraging them to participate substantively in the developmental process underway in the region.

In short, while ensuring the momentum of cooperation in all the important social sectors relating to women and children as well as strengthening cooperation for combating the scourge of drug and terrorism and also cooperative action in areas like rural development, environment, science and technology, agriculture and communications. Our primary focus at this Summit has been on Poverty Eradication and Economic Cooperation. We have taken one more step towards developing SAARC into an effective vehicle for maximising collective self-reliance and advancement in the region by continuing to harness the complementarities of the countries of the region in a positive manner.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Your Majesty and Your Excellencies for the excellent support and constructive cooperation extended to me during the past two days. I would like to assure you that it would be India's endeavour to ensure that the momentum generated by our collective efforts would be sustained and progress achieved in the areas we have identified

for cooperation. I am strengthened by the knowledge that in this endeavour I will have your understanding and support.

Our distinguished Foreign Minister, who have been ensuring effective implementation of our decisions and directives and have made an invaluable contribution to the success of the Summit deserve our sincere gratitude and appreciation. We must also thank our Foreign Secretaries and senior officials who have worked very hard for the success of the Summit. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to our distinguished Secretary General and his colleagues in the Secretariat. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scene to contribute to the success of this Summit.

For India, it was an honour and a privilege to host the Eighth Summit. We have been delighted to have you amongst us. We are happy to have been able to help further the process of regional cooperation and strengthen the climate of goodwill, friendship and in which we can all look into the future with confidence.

Thank you.

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RU INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : May 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARAB

Visit of Dr. Mahmood Ibn Mohammad Safar, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 08, 1995 on visit of Dr. Mahmood Ibn Mohammad Safar, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj to India:

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs called on Dr. Mahmood Ibn Mohammad Safar, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj on 6th May, 1995. The meeting lasted about 45 minutes. Shri Salman Khurshid discussed with the Saudi Minister arrangements relating to the Indian pilgrims, who this year would number about 50,000.

Shri Salman Khurshid extended an invitation to the Saudi Minister to visit India. Dr. Mahmood Ibn Mohammad Safar accepted the invitation and said that he is personally keen to visit India.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA
Date : May 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARAB

15-Members Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Dr. AmmarRizvi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1995 on 15 Member Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Dr. Ammar Rizvi:

A 15-Member Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation led by Dr. Ammar Rizvi called on His Excellency, Dr. Mahmood Ibn Mohammad Safar, Minister of Haj today. Dr. Ammar Rizvi introduced all members of the Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation to His Excellency, the Minister of Haj and conveyed the deep appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Saudi Arabian authorities for a successful Haj this year. He said that such excellent arrangements were possible only due to the great interest taken by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and the able stewardship of His Excellency, the Haj Minister.

2. His Excellency, the Minister of Haj thanked the Indian delegation for the cooperation extended for making the Haj a success. He invited the observations made by the Haj Goodwill Delegation during their stay in Makkah, Mina, Arafat and Madina and requested that these may be sent to the Haj Ministry for effecting improvements in the future. He said that the Saudi Arabian authorities are constantly endeavouring to improving the facilities for Haj and with the suggestions given by leaders of various Haj Goodwill Delegations, further improvements can be made.

DIA SAUDI ARABIA USA
Date : May 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

RITES Bags contract for Diesel Locos in Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1995 on RITES Bags Contract for Diesel Locos in Sri Lanka:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has bagged a contract for export of broad gauge diesel locomotives to Sri Lankan Railways. This is for the first time broad gauge diesel locomotives are being exported to any country from India.

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These locomotives built by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, shall be delivered in a record time of four months.

Today, RITES are in the forefront of "export packages" of rolling stock having contracted for supplying of about Rs. 100 crores in Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and other countries. These packages also cover supply of spare parts, training of their personnel and full maintenance support during warranty period according to clients requirements.

Recently, RITES has bagged a contract from Bangladesh Railways for supply of ten diesel locomotives which are now under manufacture at Diesel Locomotive Works. This was RITES biggest international contract since the contract for operation and maintenance of Iraqi Railways in 1987.

Besides this, RITES had secured a contract for export of ten airconditioned and five-non-airconditioned sleeper coaches to Vietnam. It marked a major breakthrough for Indian Railways as the airconditioned coaches were exported for the first time. RITES was also awarded a contract for export of 2 locos and 6 passenger coaches to Nepal including the servicing and operating of locos as well as assistance in track maintenance of the railways.

I LANKA INDIA BANGLADESH NEPAL VIETNAM RUSSIA IRAQ

Date : May 02, 1995

Volume No

1995

SUDAN

Visit of Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha Foreign Minister of Sudan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1995 on visit of Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Foreign Minister of Sudan to India:

Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Foreign Minister of Sudan met the External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee today. Mr. Taha is presently in India on an official visit at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister. Mr. Taha will be in India between 30th May and 3rd June 1995.

During their meeting, bilateral and multilateral issues of common interest and concern were discussed. The Sudan Foreign Minister requested Indian assistance in transfer of medium technology and the development of small scale industries. The Sudanese also wanted Indian assistance to achieve self sufficiency in food grain production.

On Kashmir, External Affairs Minister briefed the visiting dignitary about the situation in the State, events leading up to the destruction of the shrine at Charar Sharief and Gol's offer to hold bilateral talks with Pakistan without pre-conditions on all outstanding issues. The Sudanese Foreign Minister said that it was his conviction that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through bilateral dialogue and peaceful means. He also stated that internationalisation of the issue will not serve any purpose. If both sides wanted to seriously resolve the issue, then bilateral talks should take place without preconditions. The Sudanese Foreign Minister said that the international organisations must reflect the ground reality in the international system and in this connection supported India's argument for the expansion of the Security Council and called for greater interaction among the Third World countries.

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The Sudan Foreign Minister would be calling, among others, on the Hon'ble Vice President of India and the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha. External Affairs Minister and the Sudanese Foreign Minister would be exchanging letters upgrading the existing Joint Committee at Secretary level into a Joint Commission at Ministerial level.

DAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

Date : May 30, 1995

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

RITES Bags World Bank Funded Training Contracts in Tanzania

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1995 on RITES Bags World Bank Funded Training Contracts in Tanzania:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has bagged two prestigious training projects in Tanzania, against stiff international competition.

These World Bank funded projects valued Rs. 1.60 crores, entail training of 335 Tanzania Railway Corporation senior personnel in the fields of management development, railway transportation, maintenance and operation of locomotives and rolling stock, track and bridges, signalling and telecommunication and materials management.

The training would include training need analysis, design and training packages and delivery of the training programmes in Tanzania as well as in India. The trainees will have extensive exposure to different establishments of Indian Railways and inter-action with railway experts during their stay in India.

RITES has been organising training programmes funded by international bodies such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, UNDP and CIDA. A large number of tailor-made training programmes for foreign personnel on railway operations, bridge engineering, highway operations, maintenance of diesel locomotives etc. have been conducted. Over 1,800 personnel from 32 countries have so far benefitted from such RITES has earlier been associated with training of Tanzania Railway Corporation officials in India on behalf of Canadian International Development Agency.

NZANIA INDIA USA

Date : May 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 03, 1995 on visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso to India:

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Jose Ayala Lasso is visiting India from 30.4.95 to 6.5.95 at the invitation of Government of India. Government's invitation to the High Commissioner flows from India's policy of transparency in protection and promotion of human rights. The High Commissioner's mandate is promotion of human rights on the basis of dialogue with Governments of all countries.

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During his visit here, the High Commissioner would discuss the entire gamut of human rights, including rights of the child, women, freedom of expression. The High Commissioner would also hold discussions with the National Human Rights Commission, apart from meeting senior Government functionaries. The High Commissioner would also discuss India's accession to international human rights covenants, as well as follow-up reports.

He has already has meetings with External Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Chief Justice of India, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, Foreign Secretary, and Home Secretary.

The High Commissioner's programme includes visits to Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

DIA USA

Date : May 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNESCO

UNESCO Lauds India's Initiatives for Education

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 01, 1995 on UNESCO's Lauds India's Initiatives for Education:

UNESCO has complimented India for its initiatives in education, especially primary education. This was conveyed when the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor, called on the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, here today.

Shri Scindia apprised Mr. Mayor of the efforts being made in the country for universalisation of education. Special emphasis had been laid on girl's and women's education. Women learners predominate the literacy campaigns, he said. The recent constitutional amendments providing for one-third reservation for women in Panchayati Raj bodies and the subsequent Panchayat elections in several states have created a new generation of women leaders which augurs well for social development, he said.

Shri Scindia also told Mr. Mayor that a spate of activities were being held to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to promote national integration, tolerance, education and women's equality. Tolerance cannot be passive and condescending to other's views but positive and dynamic with fraternal acceptance, he emphasised.

DIA

Date : May 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Members of Board of Indo-US Commercial Alliance Announced

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 04, 1995 on Members of Board of Indo-US Commercial Alliance Announced.

The Indian Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram and the US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Ronald H. Brown today announced the appointment of members to the Board of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance. The Commercial Alliance was created during Secretary Brown's Presidential Business Development Mission to India earlier this year and brings together

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the Indian and US private sectors for the purpose of strengthening business ties and trade between the two countries. The Commercial Alliance will encompass trade associations as well as large and small businesses, focussing initially on the areas of power, information technology, transportation infrastructure and food processing/packaging. Other sectors of mutual interest will be added to the work of the Alliance.

The Board members - ten from India and ten from the United States -are all top executives involved in Indo-US trade and investment. They were nominated in consultation with apex trade & business associations in their respective countries. A list of the Board members, along with the business associations and the industrial sectors they represent, is attached. The two co-Chairmen of the Board will be Shri A. K. Rungta from the Indian side and Mr. Jack A. Shaw from the US side.

In releasing the names of the Board members, Commerce Minister Chidambaram commented, "With the appointment of this Board, the Indo-US Commercial Alliance has taken a major step forward in the accomplishment of its mission. The alliances and business transactions that will follow will benefit the people of both our nations".

Secretary Brown declared, "I am proud to announce the appointment of such a talented and experienced group of individuals to the Board of the US-India Commercial Alliance. I know that they are committed to solidifying the foundations of an already thriving US-Indian commercial relationship".

The Board will encourage businesses and trade associations to form Business Alliances that will explore commercial relations in each of the four industrial sectors, as well as other sectors that may be added. Cooperative ventures of the Business Alliances will include conferences, roundtable discussions, training and work programmes.

The Indian and US governments will meet with the Board at least once a year to discuss the activities and recommendations of the Business Alliances and try to identify any problems that may arise. It is expected that the Commercial Alliance will coordinate its activities with the recently revived Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission.

The initial meeting of the Board, to be jointly hosted by Secretary Brown and Minister Chidambaram, is scheduled for June 19, 1995 in California. This meeting will coincide with a conference on information technology opportunities in India, which the Commercial Alliance is sponsoring.

Date : May 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Firm to Market CSIR Technology

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 15, 1995 on US firm's Marketing CSIR Technology:

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has entered into an agreement with the Global Exchange of Technology Inc. (GET), a professional technology brokerage firm to market its technology in USA. CSIR envisages that export of its services and technologies will fetch \$ 5 million in two years.

Witnessing the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the parties here today, the Director General CSIR Dr. S. K. Joshi said that the agreement would familiarise CSIR expertise in the US market. US firm has shown interest as the technology is available in a lower cost in India.

To begin with, GET will market the knowledgebase of ten selected CSIR laboratories, mostly in the areas of Chemical Sciences and engineering. The MOU was signed by Joseph H. Sharlitt P.C. on behalf of GET and by Dr. H. R. Bhojwani on behalf of CSIR.
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A INDIA

Date : May 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee's visit to USA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on May 19, 1995 on visit of the External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee to USA:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will visit the US from May 21 to 27, 1995. The visit is part of the intensified high-level dialogue that was initiated after Prime Minister's visit to the US in 1994. Since then four Cabinet-level US officials have visited India, apart from several other senior officials, Congressmen and others.

2. At Washington, External Affairs Minister will be meeting US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher who will host a working lunch for him. External Affairs Minister will also have discussions with the National Security Adviser, Anthony Lake and Deputy Secretary in the State Department, Strobe Talbott. Shri Mukherjee is scheduled to meet a number of prominent US Senators and Congressmen, including Chairman of principal committees and sub-committees, as well as members of the Congressional India Caucus. Several meetings for External Affairs Minister are scheduled with the US media, think tanks, academic institutions and Indian community associations. He will address the Heritage Foundation at Washington and the Councils on Foreign Relations at New York and Chicago. At New York, External Affairs Minister will call on the UN Secretary General.

3. The discussions with US officials are expected to focus on further strengthening and diversifying bilateral relations as well as to cover a wide range of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

4. The External Affairs Minister will be accompanied by Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider and Joint Secretary, Dilip Lahiri.

A UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date : May 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Vietnam Shows keen interest in GSL's Ship-Building activities

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1995 on Vietnam showing keen interest in GSL's Ship-Building activities:

Vietnam has shown keen interest in Goa Shipyard Limited's (GSL) ship-building activities and capabilities. This was indicated by Gen Dao Dinh Luyen, Chief of General Staff and Vice Minister of Defence of Vietnam, who recently visited GSL, a Defence Public Sector Undertaking. Gen Dao Dinh Luyen was shown modern shipbuilding facilities available with GSL.

Later, he had an intense discussions with the Chairman and Managing Director of GSL, Rear Admiral B. R. Menon. According to Rear Admiral Menon, the Vietnamese delegation showed keen interest in high-tech medium sized warships for which we have adequate technology. We should grab this opportunity and penetrate into the Vietnam marine market, said the Rear Admiral Menon.

It is understood that the Vietnamese Defence delegation went highly satisfied and convinced of the capabilities of Goa Shipyard Limited in producing warships for their immediate requirements.

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ETNAM INDIA USA

Date : May 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE

Credit Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan mutually desirous of further strengthening economic relations between the two countries, agree to enter into a credit agreement whereby the Government of the Republic of India will make available to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan a credit of US \$ 10 million, as a second line of credit in addition to the first line of credit of US \$ 10 million already extended as per agreement dated Jul 23, 1993. The present credit would be available after the full utilisation of the first line.

ARTICLE 1

The credit of US \$ 10 million shall be available to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for importing from India

goods of Indian manufacture and services as mentioned in Annexure 1 to this Agreement. The contents of Annexure 1 may be modified by way of addition, deletions or substitutions from time to time as may be mutually agreed to between the two Governments. The credit will not cover third country imports.

ARTICLE 2

The export of goods from India and their import into Kazakhstan shall take place through normal commercial channels subject to the laws and regulations in force in both countries. Prices and other terms and conditions shall be settled between exporters in India and importers in Kazakhstan.

ARTICLE 3

The credit will cover 90% value of the goods mentioned in Annexure I which shall be expressed in US Dollars. The credit line of US \$ 10 million will be available on f.o.b. basis. The 10% of the f.o.b. value shall be paid by the importers in freely convertible foreign currency at the time of opening of the Letters of Credit. Letters of Credit shall specify that 10% shall be met out of remittances from Kazakhstan while the balance 90% shall be financed from the credit.

ARTICLE 4

(i) The credit Agreement shall come into force immediately on the signing of this Agreement.

(ii) Contracts to be financed under this agreement for items in Annexure I paragraph (i) shall be signed and Letters of Credit established by 31st May, 1996 and the amount drawn by 31st May, 1997. If the full amount of the loan for these items is not drawn by this date, the balance will be cancelled and the final instalments of the repayment to be made by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall be reduced accordingly except as may otherwise be agreed to by the Government of the Republic of India.

ARTICLE 5

The State Bank of India shall maintain an account designated as Credit to Republic of Kazakhstan Account II and make disbursements therefrom in accordance with the procedure indicated in Annexure II to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

(i) The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall pay interest per annum at the rate of six months fixed London Inter-Bank offered Rate (LIBOR) prevailing on the date of signature of the Credit Agreement on outstanding credit amounts. Interest

shall be charged from
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the dates on which disbursements are effected by the State Bank of India to the dates on which repayments are received by them.

(ii) Interest charges shall be payable every six months on the first day of June and first day of December of each year.

ARTICLE 7

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall repay the principal amount drawn and outstanding in 18 instalments respectively for the categories in paragraph (i) of Annexure 1 repayable twice a year on the first day of June and first day of December of each year, commencing from 1st June, 1998, in accordance with the amortisation schedule set forth in Annexure III.

2. For items specified in Annexure I paragraph (ii) the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall repay the principal amount drawn and outstanding in four instalments repayable twice a year on the first day of June and first day of December of each year, commencing from 1st June, 1996 in accordance with the amortisation schedule set forth in Annexure IV.

3. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall also be entitled to repay in advance of the due date one or more instalments of the principal alongwith the interest accrued on any repayment date.

ARTICLE 8

All repayment of principal and payment of interest shall be made in US Dollars.

ARTICLE 9

(i) In the event of default by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the payment of instalment of principal or any interest, the Government of the Republic of India may declare that all the principal amount then outstanding along with interest thereon has become due and payable immediately and upon such declaration the same shall become due and payable within six months thereafter.

(ii) For all overdue payments the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall pay to the Government of the Republic of India interest on the overdue principal and /or interest at 2 per cent over the rate mentioned in Article 6 of this Agreement. The interest shall be computed from the due date to the date after six months preceding the date of actual payment thereof, both

inclusive.

ARTICLE 10

Claims or disputes relating to any of the contracts financed under this credit shall not exempt the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan from any obligation by way of interest or repayment of principal, arising out of payments made by the State Bank of India by debt to the Account referred to in Article 5.

ARTICLE 11

So long as the credit remains outstanding each Government shall, at the request of the other, furnish such reports and information as may be reasonably and specifically asked for regarding the implementation or administration of this Credit Agreement.

ARTICLE 12

All payments due to be effected by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan under this Agreement shall be made without any deduction for taxes, fees, duties and any other charges.

Done at New Delhi on May 24, 1995 in Hindi, English, Kazakh and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic, but in case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
(N. K. SINGH)
(Additional Secretary)
For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-
(V. V. SHEVELEV)
(Dy. Minister of Trade & Industry)
For the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Nature of Goods referred to in Article 1 and Article 3 of the India-Kazakhstan Credit Agreement of 1995

(i) Capital goods including original spare parts purchased along with the capital goods and included in the original contract, and Project Exports, including services.

(ii) Items eligible for Coverage under this Credit also include consultancy and consumer durables which enjoy a repayment period of three years inclusive of one year moratorium, as mentioned in Article 7.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Procedure for Disbursements

All contracts will be subject to the approval of the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and shall contain a clause to that effect. All contracts shall be sent to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, for approval. After each contract has been approved intimation thereof will be sent to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and to the State Bank of India. New Delhi by the Ministry of Finance, Government of the Republic of India.

The procedure for disbursement in respect of contracts to be financed under this credit will be as follows:

- (1) The State Bank of India, New Delhi will conclude separate Banking Agreement with the Bank of Reconstruction and Development, Almaty.
- (2) The State Bank of India, New Delhi shall maintain an account in the style of Credit to Republic of Kazakhstan Account II and make disbursements therefrom to the exporters in India, either directly or through negotiating banks.
- (3) The disbursements from the aforesaid account shall be made in respect of contracts concluded in US Dollars on f.o.b. basis. Such contracts should have been entered into after coming into force of the Agreement and should be in respect of items agreed to be financed under this credit.

(4) All disbursements under the credit shall be made under Letters of Credit opened by banks in Kazakhstan.

(5) All Letters of Credit shall be advised by banks in Kazakhstan to the State Bank of India, New Delhi for onward transmission to the exporters either direct or through another bank in India, if any, nominated by the exporters. Normal commercial practices followed in respect of advising payments under Letters of Credit will be adopted to en

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sure that the remaining 10% of the amount of the Letter of Credit is received in US Dollars. All claims to the State Bank of India for payment of 90% of the f.o.b. value will need to be supported by a certificate of the negotiating bank that 10% directly payable has been received.

(6) All Letters of Credit shall be supported by a copy of the contract referred to in paragraph (3) above and shall also contain the following reimbursement clauses:

"Reimbursement for 90% of the f.o.b. value of the contract shall be provided by the State Bank of India, New Delhi from the second line US \$ 10 million credit extended by the Government of the Republic of India to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Letter of Credit is negotiable after the State Bank of India has issued an advice that it is operative. The Letter of Credit will be made operative by the State Bank of India after verifying that the reimbursement from the credit is sought for 90% of the f.o.b. value only, and it will be the responsibility of the negotiating bank to ensure that the remaining 10% of the amount of the Letter of Credit is received in US Dollars. All claims to the State Bank of India for payment of 90% of the f.o.b. value will need to be supported by a certificate of the negotiating bank to the effect that the 10% directly payable has been received.

(7) The State Bank of India shall check the Letters of Credit and contracts as to their eligibility for financing under US \$ 10 million credit and if in order shall forward the credit with an operative advice either direct to the exporters or to their bankers. A copy of the advice will be endorsed to the Bank in Kazakhstan establishing the Letters of Credit.

(8) A disbursement charge of 1/10th of 1% shall be made by the State Bank of India when reimbursing claims under the Letters of Credit. This charge together with other charges, such as advising commission on credits, negotiating charge, out of pocket expenses incurred by the State Bank of India or bank concerned in India, shall be debited to the aforesaid account.

(9) While claiming reimbursements, the negotiating banks shall

certify that the terms of the Letters of Credit under which payments have been made have been complied with; they shall also submit copies of invoices and non-negotiable copies of bills of lading in support of their claims.

(10) The State Bank of India, New Delhi, shall send a statement of the aforementioned account every month to the Government.

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DIA KAZAKHSTAN USA

Date : Jul 23, 1993

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ANNEXURE III

Amortisation Schedule for Credit with respect to Capital Goods/Items

Date of Payment	As Percentage of credit disbursed under para (i) of Annexure I
-----------------	--

1.06.1998	5.5
1.12.1998	5.5
1.06.1999	5.5
1.12.1999	5.5
1.06.2000	5.5
1.12.2000	5.5
1.06.2001	5.5
1.12.2001	5.5
1.06.2002	5.5
1.12.2002	5.5
1.06.2003	5.5
1.12.2003	5.5
1.06.2004	5.5
1.12.2004	5.5
1.06.2005	5.5
1.12.2005	5.5
1.06.2006	5.5
1.12.2006	6.5

TOTAL	100.00%
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Date : Jul 23, 1993

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1995

ANNEXURE IV

Amortisation Schedule for credit with respect to consumer durables

Date of Payment	As Percentage of credit disbursed under para (ii) of Annexure I
1.06.1996	25%
1.12.1996	25%
1.06.1997	25%
1.12.1997	25%
TOTAL	100%
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Date : Jul 23, 1993

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SWITZERLAND

Date : Jun 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Visit of Mr. Salman Khurshid, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs to Australia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 19, 1995 on visit of Mr. Salman Khurshid Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs to Australia:

Mr. Salman Khurshid, Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs arrived Australia on 17th June, 1995 at Melbourne via Sydney where his aircraft had a brief stopover. On 18th the Hon'ble Minister visited various places of interest and attended a lunch jointly hosted by the Indian community (Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria) and the Australian - India Chamber of Commerce. Later that day he attended a dinner hosted by Senator Gareth Evans, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Australia and Dr. (Mrs.) Morran Evans.

2. On 19th June (Monday) after meeting with senior leaders of the Australian Corporate and Business Sectors the Hon'ble Minister visited the Australian Stock Exchange. He was accompanied by Hon'ble Jim Kennan, QC, former Deputy Premier of Victoria who is the Chief Organiser of the Australia - India Business Forum. At the Stock Exchange he was received by its immediate past President Mr. Laurie Cox. Later the Minister attended the luncheon hosted by the Australia - India Business Forum where he was received by the Hon'ble John Button, Special Trade Representative.

3. In his key note address to the Australia - India Business Forum, the Hon'ble Minister spoke about the social, political and economic changes occurring in the world consequent to the end of the Cold War. He said that anyone who understood world geo-

politics could not fail to recognise these changes and the opportunities they threw up and which no one could afford to miss. He said that the moment had come to shake hands and that trade and commerce would play a key role in this partnership.

4. The Minister described India as a gate way to Central Asia and said that this was another area in which India and Australia could work together. With the recent changes in South Africa on the one hand, and the rapid developments in South East Asia on the other, Australia had become a pivot between Asian and the Pacific countries.

5. The Minister touched upon India's strengths viz. a dynamic market economy, an extensive banking system which was now modernising, an active and experienced stock market, a transparent legal system, an independent press including electronic media, TV and Radio, and a democratic form of Government in which decisions were taken by those accountable to the public. He spoke about the sustainability of the reforms, and said that there was a general political consensus that the reforms, were indeed imperative if there was to be all round progress. He said that during the recent State Elections the economic reforms were not in question and that there was a general agreement that the reforms should continue. The
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Minister said that this consensus was the biggest benefit of the last four years and hence should remove all doubts about the sustainability of the economic reforms.

6. The Minister spoke about the need for infrastructure developments in the form of roads, highways and express ways, transportation, courier services, power etc. and also stressed the need for development in the agricultural services sector as also in horticulture and food processing industries. He said that in these areas Australia could help given its expertise. He said that such development would also reduce the flow of people from the rural to the urban areas and also bring prosperity to those regions of India which were backward. He said that many of the problems of modern India would also disappear.

7. However, he did emphasise the need to understand certain aspects of development in India - he said that nearly 80 per cent of the population of India lives in villages and it was this population which had put government into power. It was necessary to carry them along to ensure that the reform process moved smoothly. For this it was necessary to explain the reforms to them in a way that could be easily understood by them and that they perceive the reforms as beneficial to themselves. He also said that statistics often do not accurately reflect the ground realities as they do not take into account the large un-organised sector in India. He also spoke about the very large and dynamic middle-class in India which offered huge markets to a variety of

products and services.

8. He said that India came as a friend and a partner and that working together would help secure a better future for both Australia and India.

9. The Minister's address was well received by the large distinguished gathering comprising political and business leaders.

10. The Minister leaves for Sydney tomorrow (20.6.95).

STRALIA USA INDIA MALAYSIA SEYCHELLES SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

CANADA

An MOU for Technology Transfer and Research and Development between India and Canada proposed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 23, 1995 on an MOU for Technology Transfer and Research and Development between India and Canada:

Canada and India propose to institutionalise a framework which will allow India access to technology and know-how of the Alberta Research Council in producing heavy oil.

The proposal involves financing by the Alberta Research Council for:

-- Evaluating economic potential for developing various heavy oil fields in India;

-- Recommending development strategies for the most promising fields;

-- Seeking aggressively the types of investment capital which are appropriate for producing those fields;

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-- Identifying potential producers to operate the fields

The proposed technology transfer and research and development agreement would reduce the commercial and technological risks

faced by India. Both sides discussed the broad framework for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the proposed partnership which is expected to be signed in September this year. Thereafter, both sides would develop a detailed investment and work plan to enable India to expeditiously exploit the potential heavy oil fields in the country.

Within the province of Alberta lies the most extensive reserves of heavy oil. Similarly, in India large quantities of heavy oils have been discovered in various parts of the country by Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL).

During discussions, Capt. Sharma emphasised the need for sustained research and development to enable India to commercially exploit the available heavy oil in the country. He pointed out that India should gain a window through the Alberta Research Council to technology and know-how.

Earlier, the Minister was welcomed by H.E. Mr. Roy Maclaren, the Canadian Federal Minister for International Trade and also addressed a meeting hosted by the South Asia Business Association emphasising Canada's 'Focus - India' approach, where he spoke about the various business opportunities offered by the Indian petroleum industry in both upstream and downstream sectors and invited Canadian investors to avail of these.

Capt. Sharma also informed the Canadian investors that India, in addition to launching an ambitious exploration programme to find now oil and gas in India and abroad through joint-ventures with private and multinational oil companies, was in the process of establishing a national product pipeline network, which would involve construction and commissioning of 12 major pipelines in our country. He said, "in addition, as a sequel to our two major projects - the Oman - India Gas pipeline as well as the Iran-India Gas pipeline, we are in the process of planning and establishing a National Gas pipeline grid. Much of this work we anticipate will be done through private companies and joint ventures. Here again, Canadian companies with your technology and expertise can participate in a big way in India's business opportunities. Similarly, we are in the process of establishing in the country strategic storage facilities of crude oil as well as products. This would involve additional tankage of about 15,000 metric tons. The infrastructure sector including port facilities, oil tankages, oil terminals, etc. which too have been opened to the private sector, provide exciting investment opportunities".

Capt. Sharma further reiterated, "to put it simply, we are in the pursuit of excellence, Our vision is to develop into an internationally competitive oil industry capable of global presence. Your priority as companies is the balancing of risks and rewards to ensure profitability. I firmly believe that opportunities for doing business in India will meet both your

priorities and ours.

I welcome all of you to make India your next business destination".

Mr. Maclaren, the Canadian Minister for International Trade at his meeting with Capt. Sharma emphasised the growing Indian oil and gas market estimated to be about US \$ 4 billion. He said that this offered a wealth of opportunities for Canada. He also stated that Capt. Sharma's visit provided an opportunity not only to promote Canadians' capabilities but to encourage Canadian firms to consider Joint Ventures and other strategic allian-

ces in India's emerging oil and gas sector.

Later today, Capt. Sharma and his delegation will be visiting Edmonton, the capital of Alberta province of Canada for bilateral talks with Her Excellency Ms. Anne McLellan, Minister of National Resources of Canada.

NADA INDIA USA IRAN OMAN

Date : Jun 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

EGYPT

Message from the President of India to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on Message from the President of India to H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

Excellency,

It is with profound shock and dismay that I learnt about the heinous attempt on your life in Addis Ababa yesterday. The Government and people of India join me in strongly condemning this sinister act.

It is a matter of great relief that your Excellency was unharmed. We reaffirm our sympathy and goodwill for Egypt and reiterate our call, on the international community, to take effective steps to

deal with the menace of international terrorism that threatens sovereign nations.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and my best wishes for your health and well being and for the continued prosperity of the friendly people of Egypt.

(Shanker Dayal Sharma)

YPT INDIA ETHIOPIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

EGYPT

Message from the Prime Minister of India to his Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on Message from the Prime Minister of India to H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

Excellency,

I learnt with great concern of the terrorist attack on Your Excellency at Addis Ababa yesterday. The failure of the attack has come as a great relief to all friends of Egypt.

Please convey our condolences and sympathies to the families of those who, in countering the terrorist attack, lost their lives.

International terrorism, a scourge of our times, has to be met and overcome through the international community's unity and determination to meet the challenge. India's own experience of terrorism places it in concert with all nations standing up to this menace.

In wishing Your Excellency many more years of active service to your country, I conclude with renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(P. V. Narasimha Rao)

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YPT INDIA ETHIOPIA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

ICRC

Signature of MOU between India and ICRC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1995 on the MOU between the Government of India and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today. The MOU was signed on behalf of Government of India by Ms. Savitri Kunadi, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. David Delapraz, Regional Delegate, ICRC signed the MOU on behalf of his organisation.

Under the MOU, the Government of India have agreed on purely humanitarian grounds to provide access to ICRC to visit persons in detention centres, arrested in connection with the situation prevailing in J&K. The ICRC visits shall in no case affect the status of the detainees. The MOU lays down procedures for these visits which will be conducted in an independent, impartial and constructive spirit.

The Memorandum of Understanding symbolises commitment of Government of India to humanitarian values and policy of transparency.

ICRC has maintained an office in India since 1982, which also covers other countries in the region. ICRC works on principle of strict confidentiality, which the two sides have agreed will also apply to the present MOU.

DIA USA

Date : Jun 22, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Development Forum's Meetings in Paris

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 23, 1995 on India Development Forum's Meeting in Paris on June 29 - 30, 1995:

The India Development Forum, erstwhile Aid India Consortium, meetings are scheduled to be held in Paris on 29th and 30th June, 1995. Apart from the traditional meetings with the donors on the 29th of June, when bilateral and multilateral banks and donors are expected to pledge official assistance to India for the fiscal year 1996, in keeping with the recent departure from the conventional format of discussions, it is proposed to devote the second day of the meetings to an interaction with leading private sector firms and investment bankers. The theme of these deliberations is "Private Sector Investment in Infrastructure - an enabling environment". These meetings are to be preceded by a special presentation on Primary Education on 28th of June as a part of the per-consortium activities.

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The Indian delegation for the meetings is being led by the Finance Secretary Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia who will be assisted by Dr. Shankar N. Acharya, Chief Economic Adviser, Mr. N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary (EF) and Mrs. Rani A. Jadhav, Joint Secretary (FB). The Indian delegation would also include prominent captains of the Indian industry such as Mr. Ratan Tata, Mr. Aditya Birla, Mr. Mukesh Ambani, Mr. R. P. Goenka, Mr. Gopichand Hinduja, Mr. M. L. Mittal, Ms. Shobhana Bhartiya, Mr A. C. Muthiah, Mr. R. N. Dhoot and Chairmen of UTI, ICICI, IDBI, SBI, HDFC and IL & FS.

The IDF meeting on the 29th June will have participants primarily from multi-lateral financial institutions including the World Bank, IMF, ADB, International Finance Corporation, Nordic, Investment Bank and representatives of India's major bilateral partners especially France, Germany, Japan, Netherland, UK and USA. For the second day's interaction, the leading investment banks, corporate houses and multinational corporations with strong interest in India's development would attend. These include j.p. Morgan, Barclays, GEC Alsthom, Rolls Royce, British Gas, National Power, Kleinworth Benson, all from U.K.; General Electric, Enron, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Soros Management Group and US West all from USA; Mitsubishi Corporation, Marubeni, Daiwa, Nissho Iwai, Nomura. Soumitomo, Toshiba, Itochu and Mitsui all from Japan; Cegelec, Rothchild, Alcatel, and France Telecom all from France; ABN AMRO Bank, Netherland; Siemens, Deutsche

Bank, Philipp Holzmann all from Germany and others from Denmark, Switzerland etc. have confirmed their participation in these meetings.

The official discussions with donor agencies provide Government of India a valuable opportunity for sharing its experiences and explaining its policy initiatives to its partners in development which, in turn, helps to mobilise high quality official development assistance and assistance that supports the social dimensions of economic reform and is oriented towards sustainable development.

The second day's deliberations reflect the crucial role envisaged for private sector in development of infrastructure. The interaction with potential investors and investment bankers would provide an excellent forum for Government to elaborate upon and explain the recent initiatives taken by it to facilitate private sector entry in areas hitherto managed primarily by government. This meeting would also provide a unique opportunity for gleaning perspectives of the potential global investors and understanding their point of view on how far the recent policy changes have succeeded in creating the required environment for private sector entry in infrastructure.

As an integral feature of our economic reforms programme and liberalisation, the Government of India has announced sweeping policy changes across various sectors including Telecommunication, Power, Roads and Ports and has, thus, paved the way for private sector entry into these areas. Consequent to these policy reforms and continuing policy initiatives, major players in the global arena have evinced interest in making substantial investment in these crucial sectors. While many foreign investors & multilateral corporations have already negotiated and finalised their investment proposals, especially in Power and Telecommunication, small inroads have also been made in the Roads sector.

During the IDF meetings together with general discussion on the progress of the economic reforms programme, foreign reserves and acceleration of India's growth rate, other key issues that are likely to be raised would include the regulatory and legal framework and the entire range of financing mechanisms for private sector entry into the infrastructure sector. The various financial instruments including the issue of guarantees and alternatives thereof are also likely to crop up.

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It may be recalled that the erstwhile Aid India Consortium had pledged \$ 7.2 billion and \$ 7.4 billion respectively during 1992-93 and 1993-94. However, at the first meeting of the India Development Forum, in 1994-95, the donor agencies had pledged fresh ODA to the extent of US \$ 6 billion with grant and interest free loans amounting to nearly 40 % of the total ODA.

The Donors had expressed some concern about aid utilisation and the Government of India has since taken several steps to improve the aid utilisation. The measures to expedite disbursements include, inter alia, passing of the entire external assistance as 100% additionality, releasing of 25% of the projected expenditure of the year as advance ACA to the States, use of standardised bidding and procurement document for World Bank and ADB aided projects, establishment of Project Monitoring Units in the Finance Ministry, selected States and Central Ministries, intensive and more effective monitoring and supervision of the externally aided projects, improving the quality of project preparation at the time of their entry into portfolio, intensive portfolio rationalisation exercises, and efforts at dis-intermediation of loans in respect of Public Sector Undertakings. As a consequence of all the efforts made by the Government of India, the disbursement ratios have significantly improved in respect of external assistance and are now an impressive 19% up from the earlier 14%.

DIA FRANCE USA UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY JAPAN FALKLAND ISLANDS DENMARK
SWITZERLAND

Date : Jun 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

FDI of over Rs. 33000 crore approved since 1991

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 23, 1995 on FDI of over Rs. 33000 crore approved since 1991:

The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 33068.63 crore was approved by the Government from 1991 to April 1995.

The approved FDI included proposals worth Rs. 2215.73 crore from non-resident Indians from various countries, Rs. 5467.07 crore proposals from Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and Rs. 25385.83 crore proposals from 72 individual countries.

The approved FDI has been increasing every year. In 1991 the FDI approved by the Government was Rs. 534.11 crore, which increased more than seven times to Rs. 3887.54 crore in 1992. The figure was Rs. 8859.33 crore in 1993 and Rs. 14187.19 crore in 1994. In 1995 the FDI approved by the Government has been Rs. 5600.46

crore till April.

Among the individual countries, for which the FDI proposals were approved from 1991 to April 1995, the United States accounted for Rs. 10095.07 crore, which was about one third of the total FDI proposals approved during the period.

Other countries with approved FDI proposals worth more than Rs. 500 crore were: the United Kingdom Rs. 2334.39 crore, Japan Rs. 1363.66 crore, Switzerland Rs. 1304.41 crore, Germany Rs. 1043.16 crore, Thailand Rs. 988.89. Italy Rs. 924.55 crore, the Netherlands Rs. 723.71 crore, Mauritius Rs. 705.99 crore and Oman Rs. 563.46 crore.

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DIA USA JAPAN GERMANY SWITZERLAND ITALY THAILAND MAURITIUS OMAN

Date : Jun 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Indian Rice Husk Particle Boards Technology enters ForeignMarket

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 26, 1995 on Indian Rice Husk Particle Technology enters Foreign Market:

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), a Government of India enterprise have successfully commissioned the Rice Husk Particle Board technology in Malaysia. This indigenous technology developed by Indian Plywood Research Institute, Bangalore is the first of its kind in the world. The plant has been handed over to the M/s MHES of Malaysia.

The Corporation shall get sizeable amount of royalty in foreign currency for next 10 years from this project. M/s MHES is also planning to set up one more plant in Malaysia.

Two Chinese companies have also evinced interest in the technology. Negotiations have just been completed for technology transfer arrangements to one Chinese company and the second plant is under advanced stage of negotiation on joint venture basis.

To protect the technology internationally, NRDC has filed patents for this technology in most of the rice producing countries such

as Malaysia, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines etc.

Rice husk, which is the main raw material for making the Rice Husk Particle Boards, is abundantly available not only in India but in many other countries. Indian scientists have used this agricultural waste material for manufacturing a highly eco-friendly boards. The Rice Husk Particle Boards have better termite and fire resistance and are of high quality than the normal wood based boards. A number of buildings and offices have utilised this innovative material.

DIA USA MALAYSIA CHINA INDONESIA PHILIPPINES THAILAND RUSSIA

Date : Jun 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India Seeks Concessional Flows at IDA Meeting

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on India seeking concessional flows at IDA meeting:

At the meeting of the India Development Forum to be held in Paris on 29-30th June, 1995 India will make a forceful plea for further improving the levels of concessional assistance for FY 1995-96. The Indian Delegation led by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Finance Secretary accompanied by Mr. N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary and Mrs. Rani Jadhav, Joint Secretary (FB) arrived in Paris today for holding preparatory consultations with the World Bank on the volume of ODA pledge to be finalised at the meeting of the Consortium on the 29th of June. The Consortium commitment in 1992-93 was \$ 7.1 billion and peaked to \$ 7.4 billion in 1993-94 while it came down to \$ 6.02 billion in 1994-95. The tapering off of the level of ODA pledge in 1994-95 was a conscious decision keeping in view the need to improve project implementation, accelerate disbursements, reduce the pipeline congestion and augment substantially the proportion of concessional flow within the overall pledge which increased from 28% to 40% from 1993-94 to 1994-95. For the fiscal year 1995-96 it would be India's endeavour to keep the level of Consortium commitment more or less at the same level while persuading its development partners to further enhance the proportion of concessional flows within the overall pledge.

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Mr. M. S. Ahluwalia, Finance Secretary would be holding the customary pre-Development Forum meeting with the World Bank tomorrow to discuss the pipeline of multilateral lending both from IBRD, World Bank and Asian Development Bank for the FY 1995-96 package. The World Bank had pledged \$ 2.4 billion for FY 1994-95 comprising both of IBRD and IDA operations while the ADB had indicated \$ 700 million for the previous year. Given the available headroom for borrowing, Finance Secretary will impress on Mr. Joe Wood, Vice-President of World Bank and his colleagues the need to substantially augment the level of IBRD and IDA commitments to India for this year particularly the IDA component so that the maximum possible headroom of IDA for the Xth Cycle for India could be fully utilised amounting to \$ 3.3 billion for the IDA Cycle 1993-96. This will mean that IDAs project alone for FY 1995-96 should be atleast \$ 1.8 billion and it would need to be blended a reasonable proportion with the IBRD since India is in the 'Blend Country Category'.

Finance Secretary will also take up with the World Bank the issue of multilateral financing institutions playing a catalytic role in promoting private investment in private sector particularly in the area of Power, Telecommunication, Roads and Ports. The multilateral institutions could do so both by extending guarantees for projects whose techno-economic viability was sound and where these were embedded in the reform process of the Energy Sector of States which had undertaken a significant restructuring of the State Electricity Boards. In addition to this, the Multilateral Institutions could also provide direct financing to private sector for enabling them to secure assured sources of financing of long maturity consistent with prudent debt management.

Mr. N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs explained that "the ODA flows were important for India because given the need for prudent debt management these provide means of financing projects in the area of infrastructure where the overall financing needs are large". The concessional flows on the other hand, Mr. N.K. Singh added were "necessary to support social sector expenditure in the area of health, primary education, poverty alleviation and rural development".

DIA FRANCE USA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

India on NPT

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs discuss on the Non-proliferation Treaty:

The Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs met today to discuss the Non-proliferation Treaty. The meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Hon'ble members raised several questions relating to India's position on this issue as well as our thinking of the future.

Replying to members' queries Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that he had articulated India's security and threat perceptions in various fora including during his recent visit to the United States. He had also articulated India's position on the NPT in various fora. The Minister said that India's nuclear programme was entirely for peaceful purposes and that India has continued to press for comprehensive, universally applicable, disarmament treaties. Shri Mukherjee further said that the NPT was a discriminatory treaty which creates a division between "nuclear haves and have nots". India's
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own action plan put forward in 1988 calls for the elimination of all nuclear weapons as the only means for achieving nonproliferation. The indefinite extension of the NPT perpetuates the discriminatory aspects and provides legitimacy to the nuclear arsenals of the nuclear weapons States. India, he said, would not sign the NPT in its present form but will continue to work for achieving genuine non-proliferation through elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Recalling some hon'ble members' questions on fissile material cut off, the External Affairs Minister said that until a satisfactory convention to prohibit the production of fissile material for weapons purposes enter into force there is no question of India unilaterally capping its own production of fissile material.

Referring to some members' concerns on pressures on India, the External Affairs Minister said that while pressures will be there India would not succumb to them. However, with restrictions being imposed on transfer of dual use technology, there could be, to some extent, an effect on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

India Sign MOU with Italy for Information Development in East and North East India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on India signing MOU with Italy for Information and Development in East and North East India:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed here today by Mr. V. Govindarajan, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Mr. Gaetano Zucconi, Italian Ambassador to India for Italian Assistance of 3,900 million Italian Liras (Rs. 7.5 crores approx.) for setting up a training cum-production centre for educational audio-visual for information and development of rural population in East and North East of India. The Assistance which is being provided by Italian Government as a technical cooperation Grant is to contribute to the development of the most needful Indian populations in particular, the rural and suburban ones, through the professional production and utilization of Education Audio-Visuals as media of correct information on themes of high socio-economic contents.

The programme will be implemented by the Centro Orientamento Educativo (C.O.E.) on behalf of the Government of Italy and the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs of the Government of West Bengal.

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ALY INDIA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Finance Ministry to Hold Consultations with Japan

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 05, 1995 on Finance Ministry to hold consultations with Japan:

The Annual consultations of the Ministry of Finance with the Government of Japan are being held from 5th June to 8th June, 1995. These consultations are traditionally held prior to the Annual Meeting of the Aid India Consortium, now redesignated as the India Development Forum (IDF).

Shri M. S. Ahluwalia, Finance Secretary accompanied by Shri N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance left for Japan yesterday to undertake these consultations with Japanese Government and members of Japanese trade and industry in Tokyo.

These discussions include meetings with Mr. Sadauki Hayashi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. Nakahira, Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Yoshihiro Sakamota, Vice Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr. Hirosha Yasuda, Governor of the Export and Import Bank of Japan and Mr. Akira Nishigaki, President. Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).

During the course of these consultations, Japanese annual OECF pledge would also be considered as well as the proposed list of projects for which Japan would both be giving OECF assistance and grants. In view of the change in the character of IDF, which in addition to the ODA pledges, now envisages interaction with the private sector, the delegation in Tokyo would also have meetings with the senior managements of the leading Japanese Companies, particularly, Mitsubishi, Marubeni, Itochu, Sumitomo and Toshiba for discussing their investment pledges to India. A separate meeting has also been arranged with the leading Japanese bankers particularly the Bank of Tokyo, the Sanwa Bank and Sakura Bank in relation to their expansion of business activities in India.

PAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

KYRGHYZ REPUBLIC

A Credit Agreement between India and the Government of Kyrgyz Republic

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 05, 1995 on a Credit Agreement between India and the

Government of Kyrgyz Republic:

The Government of the Republic of India has extended a credit line of US \$ 5 million to the Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic. A Credit Agreement between the two Governments was signed on 01 June, 1995 by H.E. Mr. Ram S. Mukhija, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Kyrgyz Republic and H.E. Mr. A. A. Jordan, Minister of Industry, Trade and Entrepreneurship of the Kyrgyz Republic.
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The salient features of the Credit Agreement are as follows:

The credit will be available for financing the following types of projects:

- i) Modernisation and reconstruction of existing industrial units:
- ii) Setting up of Indo-Kyrgyz joint ventures in industries; and
- iii) Setting up of small scale industrial enterprises.

For this purpose capital goods (including original spare parts purchased along with the capital goods and included in the original contract) and Project Exports, including services will be imported from India.

The credit is for a period of 12 years including 3 years of grace period. Modest rate of interest (equal to six months LIBOR rate as prevailing today) will be payable.

Agreement is an important step in further strengthening economic cooperation between the two friendly countries. It underlines a relationship of partnership between the two democratic countries who are both involved in serious economic reforms. Implementation of the Credit Agreement would be an important item on the agenda of the first meeting of the Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission likely to held in New Delhi later this year.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

2nd Meeting of Indo-Moroccan Joint Commission Opens

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 26, 1995 on 2nd Meeting of Indo - Moroccan Joint Commission:

A high-level delegation led by Mr. Driss Jettou, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Morocco, called on Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today. The talks lasted about half an hour. Later, they addressed the Open Plenary Session of the 2nd Indo-Moroccan Joint Commission.

Welcoming the delegation, the Commerce Minister recalled the historical ties between the two countries and hoped that the existing economic relations between the two countries would increase further to newer areas of cooperation. He said that with the globalisation of economy and world trade, it should be possible to ensure smoother flow of trade between the two countries. The Minister mentioned that India was one of the largest importer of phosphate from Morocco and urged that since both India and Morocco were founding members of the world Trade Organisation (WTO), trade restrictions and hidden barriers inherent in the system must be removed in the interest of developing long standing economic relationship. He noted that Morocco could be a gateway to the European market.

The Moroccan Minister, while responding, said that Morocco has been making efforts towards removal of trade barriers, opening up the economy and attracting

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foreign investments. In this respect, he pointed out there should be more interaction particularly between the private sector and said that lot of possibilities and opportunities existed for increasing this cooperation. Shri Tajendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, was also present at the Joint Commission Meeting, which will conclude with the signing of agreed minutes tomorrow.

ROCCO INDIA USA

Date : Jun 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Morocco Seeks India's Collaboration in Industry

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on Morocco seeks India's collaboration in Industry:

Morocco has desired more industrial cooperation with India. This was indicated by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Morocco Mr. Driss Jettou when he called on the Union Industry Minister, Shri K. Karunakaran, here today.

Mr. Driss Jettou was appreciative of the rapid technological advancements made by India. He said Morocco is keen to establish closer relations with India and to share her experiences in developmental strategies.

When asked by Shri K. Karunakaran about the specific areas in which Morocco would like India's collaboration, the visiting Minister said there are many areas where India can collaborate.

The Industry Minister, pointed out that Engineering and Automobile sectors are two important areas in which India can share its technological experiences with Morocco. He also suggested solar energy, hydel projects, civil construction works, leather and small industry for cooperation between the two countries.

While welcoming the suggestions of the Industry Minister, Mr. Driss Jettou said Morocco would be more interested in the automobile sector particularly in the production of two wheelers and light commercial vehicles.

Telecommunications, sugar mills, cotton yarn, textiles including textile machinery were the other areas in which the visiting Morocco Minister showed interest. He invited the Indian businessmen in these areas to set up industries in Morocco as there are very good prospects of export of products of these industries to third countries.

Mr. Jetton told the Industry Minister that Morocco has open economy and Indians can set up industries in his country on their own or in partnership with the Moroccons. He said India's investment in Morocco will help India develop business relations with Europe and other African countries.

The visiting Morocco Minister also suggested that India hold an exhibition in Morocco to expose Indian goods to Morocco. This would bring the private sector of both India and Morocco face to face and give new impetus to trade between the two countries.

Welcoming the idea of exhibition of Indian goods in Morocco, the Industry Minister, Shri Karunakaran underlined the need for more and more of such activities.

ROCCO INDIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Second Meeting of Indo-Moroccan Joint Commission concludes

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1995 on Secona Meeting of Indo-Moroccan Joint Commission:

India and Morocco have agreed to further enhance and diversify the trade between the two countries. At the conclusion of the second meeting of IndoMoroccan Joint Commission, new items have been identified for exports from India which included among others drugs and pharmaceuticals, tobacco, engineering goods, computer software, electronic items and domestic appliances. The two sides also emphasised the need for promotion and enhancement of direct business level interaction between the two countries. The Moroccan side urged that with a view to popularise more Indian products, an India Exhibition be organised in that country which will give further fillip to the exhisting level of bilateral trade and cooperation.

During the four day visit, the Moroccan delegation led by Mr. Driss Jettou, Minister for Commerce Industry and Handicrafts, had wide ranging discussions at various government levels which would result in substantial increase in trade, economic cooperation and setting up of joint ventures.

Both the delegations also reviewed India's import of phosphate and phosphoric acid from Morocco, the mainstay of the bilateral trade, and expressed satisfaction at the growing volume of trade in these items and noted with approval of the desire of the business representatives from the two sides to evolve a mutual understanding for long term and stable arrangements.

ROCCO INDIA USA

Date : Jun 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of H.E. Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, Foreign Secretary of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1995 on visit of H.E. Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, Foreign Secretary of Nepal to India:

H.E. Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, Foreign Secretary, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, is visiting India from 9th to 10th June, 1995. He is accompanied by Mr. G. D. Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.M. Government of Nepal, who is in-charge of the countries of South Asian region.

In early April 1995, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Salman Haidar had visited Nepal at the invitation of the Nepalese Foreign Secretary, for Foreign Office consultations. During the visit of H.E. Mr. Shrestha, discussions on all relevant issues of bilateral interest would be continued.

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PAL INDIA USA

Date : Jun 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Nepalese Foreign Secretary Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1995 on of delegation led by Nepalese Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha to India:

A delegation led by Nepalese Foreign Secretary, Mr. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha visited Delhi at the invitation of the Indian Foreign Secretary in 9th June, 1995. Earlier in April 1995 Indian Foreign Secretary had visited Nepal. These visits are part of a regular and continuing interaction between the two countries on all

relevant issues of bilateral interest. During the discussions, the two delegations reviewed the progress made on decisions taken with regard to trade and transit matters, supply of commodities including urea, cooperation in water resources for the development and use of the Mahakali river and the six priority projects being implemented under Indian Aid to Nepal, namely:

- i. Eighteen bridges on Kohalpur-Mahakali sector of East West Highway.
- ii. Raxual-Sirsiya broadgauge rail link.
- iii. Expansion of Bir Hospital.
- iv. Joint Survey for East-West Electric Railway.
- v. Supply of two engines and 12 coaches and wagons for narrow gauge on Jayanagar-Bizalpur Rail Link.
- vi. Greater Jankpur Development Project.

The two Foreign Secretaries expressed satisfaction on the progress in the implementation of these projects.

The two delegations also had useful discussions on the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, on which contacts will continue.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : Jun 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

MOU Signed with Netherlands to promote cooperation in Postal services

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on Memorandum of Understanding signed with Netherlands to promote cooperation in Postal Services:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Nepostal, a consultancy organization of Royal PTT Netherlands and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) here today to strengthen cooperation in the Postal services. The MOU was signed by Mr. Wim Dik, Chairman, Board of Management of Royal PTT and Shri A. S. Bansal, Chairman and Managing Director of TCIL. The

MOU seeks to share and exchange know how between the two consultancy organisations. Secretary (Posts),
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Shri S. C. Mahalik was present on the occasion.

TCIL had earlier signed an agreement to form a joint venture with Nepostal for conducting business in the development, management, marketing and sale of software service in the field of communication and computers.

DIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's Visit to France

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1995 on Prime Minister's visit to France:

At the invitation of the French Prime Minister Mr. Alain Juppe, Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao will be paying an official visit to France from 11-14 June 1995.

During his visit, Prime Minister will hold talks with the French President Mr. Jacques Chirac, who will host a lunch in his honour on 12th June. On 13th June, Prime Minister will hold talks with Mr. Alain Juppe, who will host a banquet in honour of Prime Minister. During his visit, Prime Minister will also meet Mr. Rene Monory, President of the French Senate. In addition, senior members of the French Cabinet, including the French Foreign Minister Mr. Herve de Charette, will be calling on Prime Minister.

In the context of the commemoration by UNESCO of the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister will be delivering a lecture at UNESCO on 12 June. Prime Minister's lecture will inaugurate a series of commemorative functions and seminars on Mahatma Gandhi under the auspices of UNESCO.

A representative and high-level delegation of Indian business and industry will be present in Paris during Prime Minister's visit.

Prime Minister will be addressing a Meeting of French and Indian Chief Executive Officers and senior representatives of business and industry during his stay in Paris.

ANCE INDIA USA

Date : Jun 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Troops Deployment in J & K

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jun 12, 1995 regarding troops deployment in J & K:

Responding to queries, the Official Spokesman said that we have seen media reports about a statement by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in Islamabad on June 6 regarding the deployment of security forces in J&K. The Pak allegation to the effect that army formations moved into J&K for election duties, is baseless. The fact of the matter is that for election duties, there has been no induction of additional troops into J&K and, therefore, the question of any withdrawal also does not arise.

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DIA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Haj 1996

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on

Jun 29, 1995 on the All India Annual Conference for Haj 1996:

The All India Annual Conference for Haj 1996 began its deliberations today in New Delhi to discuss and finalise the action plan for the next Haj. It will also review the arrangements of the last Haj. The meeting is chaired by Shri Salamat Ullah, Chairman of the Haj Committee, and is being attended by State Haj Committees as well as officers of the Ministry of External Affairs. Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia holds charge of this subject and was present on the occasion.

As compared to 25,000 pilgrims who proceeded for Haj in 1994, this year the number increased to 31,000. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this increase as well as for the cooperation extended by the Government to the Committee. Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia also addressed the Conference stating that this year a number of facilities have been extended to the Haj pilgrims and that the arrangements were upgraded which included travel by air, increase in the number of doctors and dispensaries and increase in the number of staff and volunteers to take care of the larger numbers. Number of other issues for further improvement would also be taken up with the Saudi authorities.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

QATAR

The Ruler Ship of Qatar

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on the Rulership of Qatar:

We have learnt from our Mission in Doha, Qatar that His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Althani, Crown Prince and Heir Apparent has assumed this morning, the Rulership of Qatar. We consider the development an internal affair of Qatar.

Our Mission in Qatar has further conveyed that all Indians in Qatar are safe.

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TAR INDIA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Labour Minister to Participate in International Labour meet

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1995 on Labour Minister's participation on 82nd International Conference:

Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister for Labour left today to participate in the 82nd International Labour Conference being held in Geneva. He is leading a 20 member tripartite delegation representing government, employers and trade unions. Employment promotion, respect for fundamental human rights, mine safety, and social protection for millions of home worker are the key issues for consideration at the conference.

Besides, addressing the plenary, he will participate in the informal ministerial meeting to review the ILO's role in the follow-up to the UN Social Summit. The Labour Ministers of Non-aligned and other developing countries will also consider the follow up of their last meet held in India where they had drawn up a plan of action.

There will be first discussion on home workers most of whom are women. The discussion will Centre on mechanisms to promote equality of treatment between home workers and others. There is also Convention and Recommendation on Safety in mines which sets out employer's responsibility for ensuring health and safety. Provisions relating to rescue in the event of accident. The conference will take up the report of committee of experts on the Application of Conventions and recommendations.

ITZERLAND INDIA USA

Date : Jun 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

50th Anniversary of the signing of UN Charter

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 23, 1995 on 50th anniversary of the Charter Day:

The Charter of the UN was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco on June 26, 1945. June 26, 1995 therefore marks the 50th anniversary of the Charter Day. The Charter, on behalf of the then Dominion of India had been signed by late Shri V. T. Krishnamachari and Late Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar.

India joined the United Nations on October 30, 1945 as one of its founder members. Through turbulent times and difficult years, the United Nations has been a major factor in maintaining peace and in changing the world, slowly and often imperceptibly, into a visibly different place.

India became independent within two years of the setting up of the United Nations. The two grew together, giving strength and inspiration to each other in a symbiotic relationship. Each was the

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product of a long struggle, one of the members of a violent world war and the other of the Sacrifices of a non-violent freedom movement.

The UN was founded On the age old dream of One World, envisioned for centuries by enlightened human beings. India's foreign Policy has been deeply influenced by the universal outlook of the stalwarts who led us to freedom. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru explained this relationship very effectively in his speech to the Constituent Assembly in January, 1947, "The only possible real objective that we, in common with other nations, can have is the objective of cooperating in building up some kind of world structure, call it One World, call it what you like. The beginnings of this world structure have been laid in the United Nations Organisation. It is still feeble; it has many defects, nevertheless, it is the beginning of the world structure. And India has pledged herself to cooperate in its work".

India's commitment to world peace and the progress of all human beings is deep and abiding. It has endeavoured to promote this goal through the United Nations. The prosperity and well-being of all peoples lies in such a world.

India, therefore, welcomed the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN in

an appropriate and befitting manner. Release of commemorative coins, specially minted by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India, on this occasion, will assist in making known our commitment to the ideals and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, to the world at large. These coins would also contribute significantly to advancing the goal of "We the peoples of the United Nations united for a better world", through promoting awareness of the United Nations at the grass-roots levels.

DIA USA

Date : Jun 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNCTAD

UNCTAD Support for trade points in India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1995 on UNCTAD support for trade points in India:

Dr. Carlos Moreira, Director of the Trade Point Development Centre, Bangkok, UNCTAD, who is visiting New Delhi from 5 to 8 June, made a presentation on the current possibilities and potential to be derived by India in the age of electronic commerce. The presentation was made in the presence of Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today. Shri Tejendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, and other senior officials representing, among others, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Electronics, Telecommunications, ITPO, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, FIEO and various Export Promotion Councils were also present. Dr. Moreira, who is here to provide support under the Trade Efficiency and Trade Point Programme handled in the Commerce Ministry and operationalise the Delhi Trade Point, has indicated that while UNCTAD provides technical support in developing the whole system for trade based on the electronic data interchange (EDI), countries are also investing their

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own resources to benefit fully from the programme. He has also conveyed that UNCTAD could help India in making the Trade Point revenue generating and selfsupporting within one year.

Trade Point is basically a trade facilitation centre where all agencies involved in foreign trade transactions can carry out

their business at the same location using the latest electronic, multimedia technology. It is a contact point in a worldwide network and is regarded as a gateway to the global trade networking. The principal objectives are to help traders find new market opportunities and lowering the cost of export and import transactions. There are at present about 60 Trade Points in the world.

India is among the first 15 countries to have set up the Trade Point which was launched in Delhi (Ministry of Commerce) in August, 1994 and to participate in the Electronic Trading Opportunities (ETO) system. The Trade Point Cell in the Commerce Ministry has developed data bases on exporters of 16 products in association with the EPCs and commodity Boards. Profile of technologies in electronics available from India have also been uploaded in the system. These are being accessed by the 60 Trade Points around the globe. The exercise will be completed with the uploading of the remaining exporter profiles to be received from the EPCs.

Over 6000 trade opportunities and other information are exchanged monthly by the global ETO system. By launching the ETO system India is thus able to access global data bases on line and business opportunities worldwide. The system removes barriers and disincentives to trade by cutting transactional costs substantially. In view of its distinct advantages for users and participants, UNCTAD foresees rapid expansion of its trade efficiency programme in the years to come.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA ITALY

Date : Jun 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNICEF

India Urges Coordinated Development Efforts

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1995 on India's urging Coordinated Development Efforts:

India has called for coordinated efforts in association with UNICEF and specialised agencies on health education, social and economic progress for an integrated process of development. Addressing the recent UNICEF Executive Board Meeting held in New York, the leader of the Indian Delegation, Dr. Sarala Gopalan,

Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development emphasised on collaboration of UNICEF with National Governments for devising cost effective and need based strategies to multiply the national resources for development. Lauding the role of UNICEF in addressing the basic problems ranging from the rights of the child to eradication of poverty she pointed out that in India several initiatives had been taken in this regard. She stressed on community participation with capacity building at the local level for effective implementation of development programmes.

On child labour, Dr. Sarala Gopalan said the country's laws were consistent

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with the International Labour Conference Resolution of 1979 which called for a combination of prohibitory measures and steps for humanising child labour wherever it could not be eliminated outright in the short run. Besides, she said a conducive environment was also being created with the establishment of special schools, skill development and supplementary nutrition. She informed the meeting that 300 million dollar would be spent by the Government to eliminate child labour in hazardous employment in the country by the year 2000. Dr. Sarala Gopalan pointed out that while nothing would be better than to give the child its childhood, overzealous action should not deprive the child of access to basic facilities due to poverty.

DIA USA

Date : Jun 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Comnet. International Formed by A.T.&T. Employees of Indian Origin Inaugurated

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1995 on Comnet International formed by A.T. & T. Employees of Indian Origin inaugurated:

The Union Minister of State for Industry, Shri M. Arunachalam yesterday evening participated in the inaugural function of COMNET INTERNATIONAL in Chicago, United States through a video conference between New Delhi and Chicago.

COMNET INTERNATIONAL is a spin-off of A.T. & T. employees mostly

of the Indian origin.

Addressing the inaugural function held in Chicago from here, Shri Arunachalam said India is looking forward to increased participation of private investment including foreign investments in various sectors including telecommunication. A.T.& T. has a role to play in the development of telecommunication sector in India, he added.

Shri Arunachalam hoped that COMNET INTERNATIONAL and A.T.& T. would expand their network in India and support the growth of local industry by forging alliances with the domestic manufacturers.

Shri Arunachalam appreciated the efforts being made by the COMNET INTERNATIONAL for opening their branch office at Madras. Nothing that the company will market its services in India, Shri Arunachalam. said the technology that this company will bring to India will benefit the telecommunication market. Shri Arunachalam wished the COMNET INTERNATIONAL all success in its operation.

Earlier, at the main function in Chicago the Vice President of A.T.& T. Mr. Erning spoke about the cooperation between COMNET INTERNATIONAL and A.T.& T. He said A.T.& T will provide all assistance to COMNET INTERNATIONAL. COMNET INTERNATIONAL will help A.T.&T. in achieving its goal of creating new market for the quality
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products of A.T.& T and generating more income.

Mr. Ravi Chandran of COMNET INTERNATIONAL spoke of the role the company will play in development and marketing of various telecommunication equipment in India and other Asian countries.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Jun 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

World Meteorological Meeting in Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 13, 1995 on World Meteorological meet in Geneva:

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations. It formally came into existence in 1950, and is a suscessor to the International Meteorological Organisation (IMO) which had been established in 1873. Plenipotentiary Congresses of the WMO are held at four-yearly intervals since 1951. The X11 Congress is currentlyunderway in Geneva from May 30 to June 21, 1995.

India has been a member of the Executive Council of the WMO contnuously from 1979 till date.

World Meteorological Congress elects a President and three Vice Presidents. During the current World Meteorological Congress, the Director General of the India Meteorological Department, Dr. N. Sen Roy, was elected as the Second Vice President of the WMO. He would serve in that capacity till the next World Meteorological Congress to be held in 1999. His election is a clear recognition of India's capacity and capability in the field of meteorology, his personal qualifications and the high esteem in which India is held in the world in the sphere. This is the first time in the last two decades that an Indian has been elected as the Second Vice President of the WMO. The last time India had occupied the post of a Vice President was in 1973 when it was elected, during a mid-term vacancy, as the Third Vivce President of the Organisation.

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ITZERLAND INDIA USA

Date : Jun 13, 1995

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NEPAL RUSSIA YEMEN PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA KOREA UZBEKISTAN

Date : Jul 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Austria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Austria:

External Affairs Minister had wideranging talks with his counterpart Dr. Wolfgang Schussel, Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria, this morning. The talks covered bilateral relations and the international situation including the situation in Bosnia. External Affairs Minister also met with Federal President Dr. Thomas Klestil and discussed bilateral and international issues. A lunch was hosted in his honour by Dr. Schussel. During the talks, the Austrian side indicated keen desire to strengthen economic relations with India and in particular looked forward to the forthcoming high level visit by the Austrian Chancellor to India later this year. External Affairs Minister along with Minister Schussel also attended a brief press conference during which they replied to several questions from the local media.

STRIA USA INDIA

Date : Jul 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Austria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Austria:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, presently on a visit to Austria, had an hour long meeting with Federal President Dr. Thomas Klestil. The discussion focussed on Austrian role in the European integration process, neutrality and the prospects and potential for a quantum jump in Indo-Austrian economic relations in the wake of the economic reforms in India.

Shri Mukherjee sought Austrian cooperation in ensuring that the European Union (EU) maintains an open trade policy and resists protectionist tendencies. He stressed that India's economic reforms would be continued and that foreign businessmen were showing great interest in India.

Briefing the Austrian President on the situation in South Asia, Shri Pranab Mukherjee highlighted positive developments in SAARC, including SAPTA, and improved relations between India and several of its neighbours. He apprised the President of the challenge posed by terrorism from across the border including the latest incident of kidnapping of foreign tourists and Pakistan's direct involvement in this incident.

He stressed that the political process in Jammu & Kashmir would be continued and that efforts would be made to hold elections in the near future.

Dr. Klestil stressed that Austria had decided to give priority to Asia in its foreign policy and said that India had a major role in the region. He paid tribute in India's role in securing Austrian independence in 1955. He assured Shri Pranab Mukherjee that Austria was strongly com

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mitted to a free trade system and would try to pursue this within the EU.

Dr. Klestil referred to the latest situation in Bosnia and the grave danger posed to peace and security in the region. He deplored the failure of the international community to stop the conflict and the loss of credibility of the UN.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee also addressed a joint meeting of Austrian and Indian businessmen at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber this afternoon attended by a group of 50 Austrian businessmen, bankers, and officials. The group included major Austrian companies such as Voest Alpine Technology, Siemens Austria, Austrian Energy and Environment, Bank Austria Creditanstalt Bankverein, etc. He gave a vivid picture of Indian economic reform process and the vast potential and opportunities available to Austrian companies in India. While trade and joint ventures had increased, the potential was enormous. He underlined that

India like Europe, offered certain basic conditions, such as the free press, democracy, independent judiciary, highly skilled manpower, a large market, and consistent and friendly investment policy. The biggest guarantee for continuance of economic policies was its basis in a consensus within India. India, he said, had participated actively in the work of GATT since 1948 and wanted it to succeed and the benefits to be enjoyed by all countries.

Responding to some questions, Shri Pranab Mukherjee stressed that the Enron case was very special and not typical. He was confident that the issues would be resolved through negotiations. Other power projects were going ahead. He also clarified that the reform process would be continued and further tariff reductions could be expected. On IPR's he assured the businessmen that India had to a large extent met the requirements of TRIPS and that further remaining issues would be resolved soon. On the question of trade with East Europe and Russia, Shri Pranab Mukherjee gave a detailed account of the available channels for such trade and said that volume of trade was growing steadily.

DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, also had wide-ranging talks with his counterpart, Dr. Wolfgang Schussel, Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria.

Discussions were wide-ranging and highly informative. These included specific proposals on further expansion of bilateral relations, exchange of views on developments in Europe and developments in India's neighbourhood and exchange of views on more important international issues.

Both sides agreed that there was great potential to deepen bilateral relations and evinced interest in doing so. In this context, specific importance was attached to the development of economic relations especially in the field of investment, industry and environment protection, technology, the Austrian side proposed that the two countries could enter into investment protection agreement and double tax avoidance agreement. The Austrian side also proposed more cultural exchanges and that the two countries should cooperate in fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. The Austrian side also evinced interest in air transport agreement. Expressing interest in cooperating with Austria on all matters, the Indian side also proposed regular consultation between officials of both Foreign Ministries. Both sides referred to the need for exchange of high-level visits and welcomed the planned visit by the Austrian Chancellor, Mr. Franz Vranitzky to India in September this year. The Chancellor will be accompanied by a large delegation of Austrian businessmen and industrialists.

Discussing developments in India's neighbourhood, Indian Foreign Minister,
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Shri Pranab Mukherjee conveyed to his counterpart details of Indian efforts in SAARC context as well as bilaterally to improve and expand relations with all countries in South Asia and in India's neighbourhood. He also conveyed information on assistance that India has provided to a large number of countries in India's neighbourhood as well as special steps that India has taken to further goals of SAARC. Shri Mukherjee also had occasion to explain the various efforts India has made to improve relations with Pakistan, including Shri Mukherjee's offer to hold talks. Shri Mukherjee also reiterated India's resolve to normalise situation in Kashmir but explained with facts and figures how Pakistan has been trying to frustrate that effort. In response to specific question on Kashmir, Shri Mukherjee conveyed that Government of India hopes to hold elections in Kashmir before end October. He reiterated that India would like the Kashmiris to have their own government and govern themselves within Indian Constitution.

Referring to India's approach to EU, Shri Mukherjee pointed out that EU was the largest trading partner of India. He also mentioned the other steps that India has taken to forge closer ties with EU. He urged that EU give full cognizance to India's position as large, democratic and (economically) emerging nation of Asia.

The Austrian side explained Austria's position of neutrality within the EU (of which Austria became a member on the 1st January, 1995) and also conveyed its views on enlargement of EU, Security and cooperation in Europe and NATO. The Austrian side also expressed its concern at the deteriorating situation in former Yugoslavia.

Both sides also discussed the need to reform the United Nations, including Security Council. The Austrian side agreed that the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council should give due recognition to regional factor as well as criteria (e.g. size of country, its commitment to democracy, etc.).

STRIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN RUSSIA MALI YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Jul 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

Meeting between External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Federal Chancellor of Austria, H.E. Dr. Franz Vranitzky on Jul 13, 1995

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on July 14, 1995 on Meeting between External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the Federal Chancellor of Austria H.E. Dr. Franz Vranitzky on 13th July, 1995:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, met and held discussions with the Federal Chancellor of Austria, H.E. Dr. Franz Vranitzky on 13th July, 1995. The discussion covered a wide range of substantive issues.

The External Affairs Minister gave account of India's economic development and plans, emphasising the importance of development of infrastructure. The Chancellor of Austria agreed that the economic relationship should go beyond mere trade.

External Affairs Minister conveyed that India has excellent relations with the EU but that there were instances when the EU's approach to countries like India could be more understanding. Attempts on the part of some EU member-states to introduce social clauses to restrict trade with India related to the conditions of labour should really be dealt with in the ILO and not in organisations like the WTO. He added that the EU should not be inclusive but outward-looking. As Austria has always been sensitive to the needs of developing countries. It is hoped that it will keep that in view when such matters are discussed in the EU. The

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Chancellor said that he himself has always believed in the EU being outward-looking. The Chancellor also gave a brief account of Austria's membership of the EU and referred to the expansion of the EU in graduated manner.

External Affairs Minister gave details of progress achieved in SAARC explaining our relations with Pakistan were troubled due to its involvement in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. However, India was resolved to bring back normalcy to Kashmir through the electoral process and that the elections in Kashmir would be held very soon.

The Chancellor said that the problem of Kashmir had remained unresolved for a long time and wondered what Austria or the EU could do to resolve the matter. External Affairs Minister conveyed that the problem has to be resolved bilaterally as provided for in the Simla Agreement. It was also conveyed to the Chancellor that the EU position that terrorism in Kashmir should

not be supported from out side was essentially sound and Austria could add its weight to this position.

As regards China, External Affairs Minister conveyed that our relations with China have improved considerably starting with Prime Minister's visit to China though we were apprehensive about Chinese supply of missiles to Pakistan. India had no intention of indulging in any arms race. As for Tibet and Dalai Lama, Shri Mukherji said that India recognised Tibet to be a part of China but that Dalai Lama and the Tibetans had been given refuge in India and were free to pursue their normal activities. Of course, India could not be used as a springboard for activities against China,

External Affairs Minister also referred to the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. He said that India was troubled about the recent developments. He hoped that the international community through the UN and other organisations, would succeed in putting pressure on all concerned. He referred to the initiative that is being taken by NAM through its Chairman, Indonesia.

STRIA USA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA PAKISTAN CHINA INDONESIA

Date : Jul 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMAN

Hitech Training Scheme with German Assistance

The following is the text of a Press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1995 on Hitech Training Scheme with German Assistance:

An Indo-German agreement to provide technical assistance for implementation of Hitech Training Programme in 20 Central and State Training Institutes including setting up of an Apex Hitech Training Institute at Bangalore was signed here today. It will involve a cost of about Rs. 100 crore.

The agreement was signed by Shri K. S. Sarma, Director General Employment and Training and Mr. Walter Jahn, Head of the CTZ, German Agency for Technical Corporation in the presence of Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister for Labour and other senior officials of the Government of Germany.

The contracted GTZ advisory inputs spanning over three years will

be in the form of Long Term International Advisors, Short-Term Experts (expatriates and
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local) to be based in India, Expert Services and Back up in Germany (GTZ Headquarters) and training of India personnel and counterparts in India and abroad.

The 20 institutes identified are Industrial Training Institute (ITI's) at Faridabad, Pune, Kalamassery, Meerut, Bangalore, Patiala, Visakhapatnam, Vadodara, Dhenbad. Advance Training Institute covered at Kanpur, Hyderabad, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Ludhiana. Besides it will cover Regional Vocational Training Institute, Indore, National Vocational Training Institute at Noida, Advance Training Institute EPI Hyderabad and Apex HiTech at Bangalore.

The Training Programmes proposed for introduction under the Hitech Training Scheme will be of short duration, demand driven, flexible and practice oriented that will cater to the need for training a new generation of skilled workers existing industrial workers, instructors from training institutions and staff from industrial enterprises. The Training programmes will mainly be in the areas of CAD I CAM, CNC Maintenance, Control Technology, Electronics and Microprocessor controls and consumer electronics fast picking with the user industry due to impact of electronic miniaturization and cost reduction.

Hitech Training Scheme is planned to impart new range of skills and knowledge to modern operatives and executive personnel of industries in high technology areas of supply manufacturing industry with necessary number to competently trained technicians to improve upon the productivity and quality.

DIA GERMANY USA RUSSIA

Date : Jul 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMAN

External Affairs Minister's visit to Germany, Austria and Portugal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 05, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Germany, Austria and Portugal:

External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is leaving tonight on a weeklong visit to Germany, Austria and Portugal from July 8-15, 1995.

In Germany, he will be holding talks and signing a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement with his counterpart, Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Klaus Kinkel.

External Affairs Minister will also hold talks on the spectrum of bilateral relations with his counterparts in Austria and Portugal. He will be calling on the Heads of State and Government of these countries as well.

External Affairs Minister will be accompanied by a 11-member business delegation representing CII, ASSOCHAM, and FICCI.

The visit is intended to consolidate and strengthen the already existing good relations with the countries and to intensify economic cooperation further.

STRIA GERMANY USA PORTUGAL INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMAN

Statement by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister at meeting with the press, Bonn, Monday, July 10, 1995

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 10, 1995 on statement by Shri Pranab Mukherjee EAM at meeting with the press, Bonn, Monday, July 10, 1995:

I am very happy to be here. Developments in international relations are moving at a swift pace; it is therefore necessary for major countries to stay in frequent touch, and a system of regular consultations has evolved between Germany and India.

2. There are, momentous developments taking place in Europe and India. Europe
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is moving towards integration, India towards rapid development and liberalisation. Both are areas of transition; what happens in

India and in Europe will affect the global economy.

3. This transition is taking place when the world is increasingly inter-dependent; Europe is not integrating and India is not developing in isolation. Each impacts on the other, and has major implications for the other. Therefore, particularly in this phase, it is very important for political leaders in Europe and India to ensure that we work together, take each other's concerns into account.

4. We are very pleased that, following Chancellor Kohl's visit to India and other Asian countries in February 1993, the German Government has drawn up an "Asia Concept" policy. India is one of the countries identified in this policy as those with whom mutually beneficial partnership must be developed, and we are described as a "partner of choice". We entirely reciprocate these sentiments, and place the highest priority on developing our partnership with Germany.

5. Our bilateral relations are excellent. Germany is our largest trading partner in Europe and the third largest globally. In 1994, Germany accounted for 6.9 per cent of total Indian exports and 7.7 per cent of total Indian exports. However, India still has a marginal share of Germany's global trade - 0.5 per cent of total German exports and 0.6 per cent of German imports. We want therefore to quantitatively and qualitatively improve our trading relations with Germany, in particular we would like to work towards a greater share of Germany's global trade. This is why I have brought along a strong business delegation with me, though we are appreciative of the steps taken by the German business community to set up an "India Committee", with very powerful representatives from a wide spectrum of German business industry. We have setup a similar "German Committee" in India, and hope that they will work together to provide the impetus that we desire in bilateral trade.

6. Germany was the second largest foreign investor in India in 1990, but slipped to tenth position in 1993. This is because other countries have increased their investments in India at a much higher rate than Germany has. We are glad to note, however, that in 1994, there was again a sharp rise in German investment, which brought it up to third place.

7. In this context, the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, which was signed last month by our Finance Minister was very useful. Today, I will be signing with the Foreign Minister a Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement (BIPA). We hope that with the signing of these two Agreements, there will be a rapid growth in German investment.

8. We are grateful that, despite the very heavy outlays on domestic expenditure, Germany continues to be the second largest bilateral aid donor to India.

9. One of the reasons why India has attracted so much attention globally, after we started our reforms, was that we were unique in offering a huge market, which is stable and transparent. Some doubts have been asked about what is perceived in some sectors as a slowing in the pace of the reforms, and questions have also been raised about the future of liberalisation.

10. On this, I can assure you that there is a solid national consensus that the reform process is irreversible. No matter what changes takes place through the electoral process, and change in India will be democratic as it is in Germany, the process of reforms will not be affected. The pace of change will depend on our perception of what the country needs. As in any democracy, decisions cannot be forced upon the population, but must be responsive to their needs and demands. We will therefore, follow what our Prime Minister refers to as the middle way. In effect, this means liberalisation with a human

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face, ensuring that where the market cannot meet the needs and problems of the ordinary, man, government continue to help.

11. Our energies as a government and a nation are focussed on a development that qualitatively improves the lives of our population. Development is not possible without peace, globally and in the region India shares Europe's longing for peace. We have taken several initiatives, globally and regionally to promote peace. In our neighbourhood relations with most of the neighbours are excellent, barring one unfortunate exception.

12. This exception points to the danger which open democracies face from countries that ignore all tenets of international relations and foment terrorism and violence to destabilise other societies. You will be aware that a German national was kidnapped in Kashmir by terrorists who are believed to be a front for an organisation based in Pakistan. Two British and two American tourists were kidnapped last week by the same organisation, though one of the American managed to escape yesterday. Everything possible is being done to locate and free the hostages.

13. Kashmir is an integral part of India. if it is allowed to live and develop in peace, the State will be able to resolve its problems. Elections will be held so that the people can choose their own representatives, who can then carry forward the essential task of peace and development. Unfortunately the terrorists, and their foreign sponsors, do not want this to happen. Nevertheless. we will continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the problem, which meets the aspiration of all Indians, including the people of Kashmir.

14. Terrorism of course cannot be countenanced; it is the

government's duty to defend innocent civilians against violence perpetrated by terrorists. We make every possible effort to ensure that the Indian security forces act according to the highest standards of discipline. We are a open, transparent democracy, completely committed to the protection and preservation of human rights. We have very recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to establish even more clearly that we have nothing to hide, and are willing to have a internationally respected agency like the ICRC operate in Jammu and Kashmir to satisfy itself. and all others, that human rights are not being violated in Kashmir by the security forces.

15. We are watching with close interest Europe's progress towards integration. We trust that an enlarged Union will be a growing area of peace and stability, open in its trading and foreign policy, and a major factor in international peace and stability.

UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY INDIA USA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

GHANA

Indian Art Exhibition in Ghana

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 31, 1995 on Indian Art Exhibition in Ghana:

The Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, Km. Selja inaugurated an exhibition of contemporary Indian Art in Accra, Ghana last week.

The exhibition consisted of 75 paintings from the National Gallery of Modern

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Art, New Delhi and was the first in an African Capital. The exhibition was mounted under the Indo-Ghana Cultural Exchange Programme.

Addressing the inaugural function Km. Selja said that it would be one more milestone in further cementing the close ties between India and Ghana. During her visit to Ghana at the invitation of the Minister of Education, Mr. Harry Sawyerr she had meetings

with Ministers of Education, Youth and Sports and Mobilisation and Social Welfare. She also met the Vice-Chancellors of all the five universities of Ghana.

ANA INDIA

Date : Jul 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

World Food Programme to Assist Integrated Child Development Services

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1995 on World Food Programme to Assist Integrated Child Development Services:

The World Food Programme would Provide nearly \$ 61 million worth of food assistance for the Government's Integrated Child Development services (ICDS) Scheme over a period of 3 years. A plan of operations to this effect was signed by Smt. Asha Das, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Michael Ellis, Country Director, World Food Programme on behalf of the United Nations World Food Programme here today. The World Food Programme is continuing assistance to this project since 1976 and its total commitment to this project is more than \$ 341 million.

The WFP aid will be in the form of supplementary food rations. Nearly 152,000 tonnes; of protein-enriched and micro-nutrient-fortified blended foods will be supplied for an estimated 2.20 million pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers in rural and tribal areas of Assam, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Children between three and six years attending pre-school education classes are eligible for supplementary nutrition. Take home ration will be provided to children under three years of age and expectant nursing mothers. The ration will be distributed weekly or fortnightly at the angawadi centres, where the children will be immunized, their growth monitored and women will receive health and nutrition education, family welfare information and other services provided through ICDS.

The WFP assistance will also help in improving the health, nutrition, hygiene and general childcare knowledge and attitudes

of adolescent girls (11-15 years old).

A strategy agreed for the new phase envisages the local production of a blended food called "Indiamix" on a pilot basis. A key feature of this commodity, which can be made with either local maize and or wheat combined with soya, will be its nutritional value and the possibilities for it to be adopted nationwide. The option of local processing, where feasible, will have advantages such as promotion of local industry, reduction in product and logistic costs and reduced dependence of ICDS on external aid. A major portion of the food will continue to be imported, while the local processing arrangements are developed and tested.

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DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jul 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Capt. Sharma Stresses Cooperation among Countries of AsianRegion

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1995 on Capt. Sharma Stresses Cooperation among countries of Asian Region:

India, alongwith other countries in Asia, is expected to draw a blueprint to establish a database and a system of networking to share and update relevant information in the energy sector.

This was disclosed here today by Capt. Satish Sharma, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas at the inauguration of a 3-day International Conference on "Possible Areas of Cooperation in Energy Related Fields between Central Asia, the Caucasus and other Asian Countries" organised by The Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) in collaboration with United Nations University (UNU), Japan and the Asian Energy Institute (AEI).

Capt. Sharma also called upon the participants at the Conference to identify specific areas of regional cooperation among Asian countries after taking stock of the state of economies of this region.

In this context he stressed that quick, reliable and cost-

effective collection and exchange of information were a prerequisite to international and regional cooperation. He said that information superhighways were making our world smaller than ever before and advances in telecommunication technology have made us far more familiar with each other. "But to derive maximum benefits from these opportunities, we need to set up a comprehensive information system for the region that will provide instant and up-to-date information, particularly on two broad topics, namely, energy inventory and energy technology. The inventory section will cover such topics as sectoral energy use, energy-use efficiency, sectoral data on emissions of greenhouse gases and standards and costs of strategies for abatement of adverse impacts on the environment. The technologies section will cover the details of different technologies available and their energy requirements, data on the costs involved and information of newly emerging technologies", Capt. Sharma explained.

The Minister also stressed the need to utilise our natural resources efficiently to make them last longer and to minimize the adverse effects of their use on our environment. Citing studies carried out by the Asian Energy Institute which have established that in such countries as Bangladesh, China, India, Taiwan and Thailand, the extent of savings in different sectors ranges from 15 to 35 per cent and also that it costs only half or even a third of what it takes to create the capacity for energy supply to implement energy-saving measures, Capt. Sharma said, "this is another area where we can share our knowledge: what kind of energy-efficient technologies are available, what has been our experience in implementing them, and what is the extent of saving they can achieve. Some of the specific areas of cooperation are technologies to enhance the exploitation of oil and natural gas, technologies that are environmentally benign and are based on renewable sources of energy, and oil field services and equipment. We should also cooperate in training our managers and technocrats in the adoption of such, technologies."

Touching upon another significant areas of cooperation, the Minister said that each country required appropriate financial infrastructure that could respond quickly to capitalise on the country's strengths, especially today when the world is moving towards a free market economy. He also felt that to take full advantage of this situation different countries could pool their skills and experience in order to compete more effectively as more experienced

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players have an advantage in this free-forall situation.

The Minister expressed hope that the deliberations at the Conference over the next few days would forge the links that strengthen network between Asian countries and ultimately present a model of cooperation and partnership to the rest of the world.

The Director, Tata Energy Research Institute, Dr. R.K. Pachauri in his welcome address apprised the participants that the conference will address the issues of common interest in the field of energy and environment covering oil and natural coals energy efficiency; environmental management; financial instruments and institutions.

DIA USA JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH CHINA TAIWAN THAILAND

Date : Jul 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Mining Delegation to CIS Countries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1995 on Mining Delegation to CIS countries:

Minister of State for Mines, Shri Balram Singh Yadava is leading a high level delegation to CIS countries to explore avenues of cooperation in prospecting in mining in important minerals. The delegation left for five-day tour today. Other members of the delegation are - Shri A. C. Sen, Secretary Mines, Shri D. B. Dimri, Director General, Geological Survey of India and Shri Ved Leekha, CMD, Hindustan Copper.

The specific objectives of the visit are -

(1) to explore possibilities of joint ventures to mineral sector between Indian and Kazakh I Uzbek companies.

(2) to offer the services of Geological Survey of India I Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited to act either as Consultations or as agents to carry out exploration activities in these countries.

(3) to tie up long term supply of copper concentrate as well as copper cathodes for utilisation by Hindustan Copper Limited, a public sector undertaking.

It is magnificant to note that future expansion plans of Hindustan Copper Limited are dependent on an assured supply of copper concentrate.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Visit of Prime Minister to Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1995 on visit of Prime Minister to Malaysia:

1. At the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao will pay a four-day official visit to Malaysia from August 2-5, 1995. The visit follows Prime Minister Mahathir's visit to India in December 1993 when a G-15 related visit was transformed into a bilateral one. The
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Prime Minister will be accompanied by Shri Jagdish Tytler, Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri R. L. Bhatia, minister of State for External Affairs and Shri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. He will also take with him a business delegation comprising leaders of Indian industry, many of whom already have business interests in Malaysia. The visit will be fourth by an Indian Prime Minister, the earlier visits being those of Pandit Nehru (1954). Smt. Indira Gandhi (1968) and Shri V. P. Singh (1990).

2. Our relations with Malaysia have traditionally been close and cordial. Our cooperation in different areas has grown and diversified over the years. There is evidently considerable scope for expansion. We attach importance to realising this potential and further developing our cooperation on a mutual beneficial basis.

3. The Prime Minister's visit is taking place in the context of our quest for closer links with the fast growth economies of neighbouring Southeast Asia. Other countries of the region earlier visited by the Prime Minister include Indonesia (NAM Summit, 1992). Thailand (1993), Vietnam (1994) and Singapore (1994). Ever since we started focussing special attention on ASEAN, there have been several exchanges of high-level visits including those of economic nature. In this context, we attach particular importance to Malaysia which had demonstrated great dynamism in economic growth. With a steady growth rate of over 8% for the last decade Malaysia has become a major player in the

region.

4. The visit of the Prime Minister is an important part of the continuing political dialogue to further develop our mutual understanding on regional and global issues. The visit is also significant in the context of India's relations with Southeast Asia (including ASEAN) which have grown substantially over the last few years.

5. The visit should also give a much needed impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries. The second largest number of Indian joint ventures abroad (42) are located in Malaysia. Indian companies such as BHEL, IRCON, HMT and Larsen and Toubro (L&T), EIL have successfully undertaken infra structural projects in Malaysia in power generation, railways and in the construction of bridges and other infrastructure projects. There has also been a substantial increase in Malaysian investments in India. From the figure of Rs. 19 million for 16 projects during the period 1982-90, GOI has approved Malaysian investment to the tune of Rs. 1100 million in 15 projects during the period January 1991 to December 1994. These projects are in the areas of telecommunication equipment, rubber products, software production, electrical apparatus, shrimp cultivation, food processing, industrial machinery etc. Some of the Malaysian groups which are involved are Renong, Hicom, Telkom Malaysia, Petronas, Binariang, etc. Our policy of economic liberalisation has provided new opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries. The range and depth of the business links between Malaysia and India thus make it the prime candidate for dynamic economic partnership with India.

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LAYSIA INDIA USA INDONESIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE THAILAND VIETNAM

Date : Jul 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

IRCON bags contract in Nepal and Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1995 on IRCON bags contract in Nepal and Bangladesh:

The Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has bagged a

contract for construction of Pension Paying Office Complex on a turn-key basis at Dharan (Nepal) at a cost of Rs. 345 lakhs.

In addition, IRCON has secured a contract for Railway signalling and interlocking work for six railway stations on Mymensingh-Jamalpur Section of Bangladesh Railways. The value of contract is Rs. 6 crores.

Using the state-of-the-art technology and Total Quality Management (TQM), IRCON has earned the rare distinction of being the first Indian construction company having bagged the ISO-9002 Certification for its New Bombay Unit in June 1995 and for its Malaysia Unit in January 1994.

NGLADESH NEPAL INDIA USA MALAYSIA

Date : Jul 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement of the Official Spokesman on the release of Daw AungSan Suu Kyi

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 10, 1995 on the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:

It is with a feeling of great satisfaction that the Government of India welcomes the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We felicitate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and laud her courage and commitment to values espoused by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Aung San. We hope that her release heralds an era of National reconciliation, freedom and democracy for the people of Myanmar. We appreciate the step taken by the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

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DIA USA

Date : Jul 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Co-Chairman of the Indo- Russian JointCommission

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 05, 1995 on the meeting of the Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission:

The Meeting of the Co-Chairmen of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission was held today. The Russian side was headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Mr. Yuri F. Yarov and the Indian side by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The two sides reviewed the progress made in various sectors since the First Meeting of the Joint Commission in Moscow last September. They also reviewed the schedule of meetings of the various working groups and sub-groups of the Joint Commission.

External Affairs Minister said that the Joint Commission is a principal vehicle for monitoring our cooperation across the broad spectrum of our relations as well as for the implementations of the decisions taken at the highest level between the two countries. He was gratified that the Joint Commission and its working groups have become functional and active.

On the substantive side, External Affairs Minister said that Indo-Russian trade had registered an increase of 44% and crossed Rs. 4,100I- crore in 1994-95, and was well on the way to meeting the target of Rs. 5,000I- crore by 1995-96 set by the Co-Chairmen when they met a year ago.

Some of the subjects discussed:

- a) Allocation of funds for the Novorossisk Port Modernisation Project for which Indian firms had an interest in participation for the which the Russian side had earmarked Rupee equivalent to US \$ 250 million.
- b) Identification of oil fields in Russia for development by ONGC.
- c) Russian interest in participation in the modernisation and upgradation of power projects, including the Tehri hydropower project.
- d) Cooperation in the field of science and technology.
- e) Cooperation in the field of culture.

External Affairs Minister concluded saying that the Indo-Russian

relations have been consolidated and the political will of the leadership of the two countries are being translated into cooperation in specific sectors in a wide-ranging and multi-facetal manner. He said that Indo-Russian relations are moving on the right track.

The discussions were held in a very cordial and businesslike atmosphere and the two sides agreed that officers of the various departments concerned would discuss further the issues that came up during this meeting and sort them out before the next meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee.

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SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 10, 1995 regarding incontrovertible evidence confirming the acquisition by Pakistan of M-11 missiles and launchers:

Responding to a query, the Spokesman stated that we are not surprised by the recent US media reports, based on information provided by US intelligence officials, regarding incontrovertible evidence confirming the acquisition by Pakistan of substantial numbers of M-11 missiles and launchers over the past few years and preparations for their deployment. We had arrived at this assessment based on our own information sometime ago. We have shared our assessment with friendly countries. The Government of India has kept a careful watch on developments regarding this matter, and taken necessary steps to safeguard our national security.

A INDIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of External Affairs Minister and Secretary (West) to Austria

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister and Secretary (West) to Austria:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, accompanied by Secretary (West) is paying a visit to Austria in response to an invitation from Mr. Wolfgang Schussel, Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria. The visit is to foster closer ties between the two countries, not only in the economic field but also generally. Austria is a member of the European Union.

External Affairs Minister will have discussions on bilateral relations, regional developments and international issues. He will also participate in Round-Table discussions on Indo-Austrian economic ties, organised by the Federal Economic Chamber, the apex institution of its type in Austria. The participants will be ten leading Indian businessmen accompanying the External Affairs Minister and 35-40 leading Austrian businessmen and industrialists. The discussions will commence with an address by External Affairs Minister on the Indian economic liberalisation programme.

He will be calling on Dr. Thomas Klestil, President of Austria and Dr. Franz Vranitzky, Chancellor of Austria.

STRIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The First meeting of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1995 on the first meeting of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee was held in Sana'a on July 10-11, 1995.

The first meeting of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee was held in Sana'a on July 10-11, 1995.

Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and H.E. Mutthar Abdulla Al-Saeidi, Vice-Minister for Planning and Development, Republic of Yemen, led the respective delegations.

The Joint Committee discussed a widerange of issues relating to trade, economic and industrial cooperation, interaction in the areas of hydrocarbons, vocational
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training etc. The two sides shared the view that present policies in both countries are conducive towards opening-up more investment possibilities.

While both sides were happy at the growth in trade between the two countries, they noted that the volume of US \$ 150 million bilateral trade had not really reflected the potentials available in both the countries. They also agreed that unified Yemen could provide more scope in promoting trade.

The subject of bilateral assistance was also discussed. The utilisation of training and exchange opportunities available would lead to the growth of institutional linkages in both countries.

Specific areas identified for cooperation during the Joint Committee Meeting were in the fields of hydrocarbons, more projects in the field of water management, telecommunications, construction and joint ventures.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at being able to complete the signing of the agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation. This will pave the way for identifying more specific areas for cooperation. Both sides also expressed the hope that the other three draft agreements on Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Scientific and Technical Fields and on culture would be signed soon.

During his stay in Sana'a, Shri K. Raghunath also called on H.E. Mr. Abdul Aziz Ghani, Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen: H.E. Mr. Abdul Qader Bajmal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development, Republic of Yemen and H.E. Staff Birg. Abdul Malik Al-Sayyani, Minister of Defence.

Date : Jul 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Bonn

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Bonn:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, had two rounds of talks with his German counterpart, Dr. Klaus Kinkel in Bonn. External Affairs Minister also met Mr. Friedrich Bohl, Minister in the Federal Chancellor's Office. A meeting was also arranged with German President, Dr. Roman Herzog. This was an exceptionally nice gesture.

A significant step in promoting German investment in India was taken with the signing of the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement by the two Foreign Ministers.

The talks were wide-ranging and covered a number of topics of mutual interest. German side, at all levels, were of the view that the Kashmir issue should be solved bilaterally through dialogue and that there was no scope for internationalising the issue.

Dr. Kinkel explained Germany's approach to the expansion of the UN Security Council. While seeking Indian support, he said that India too should be on the Security Council by virtue of her size and importance.

Both Ministers exchanged their views and positions on the NPT. Dialogue between the two sides on this would continue.

External Affairs Minister emphasised the irreversibility of India's economic reforms and expanding the scope for Indo-German economic partnership.

Issues of concern including visa problems faced by Indians and some consular problems faced by Germans were also discussed and it was agreed that these problems will be looked at sympathetically and steps taken to resolve them quickly.

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RMANY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA OMAN

Date : Jul 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Government of India is opening a Liaison Office in thePalestinian National Authority Territory

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jul 24, 1995 on Government of India is opening a Liaison Office in the Palestinian National Authority territory:

It has been decided by the Government of India to open a Liaison Office in the Palestinian National Authority territory. The structure of the proposed LO is being worked out. Exact date of opening will be fixed after completion of certain administrative formalities.

DIA MALI

Date : Jul 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Dilution of Indian stand on arms supplies to Pakistan

The following is the text from the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on y Jul 27, 1995 on dilution of Indian stand on arms supplies to Pakistan:

Responding to queries on media reports regarding dilution of Indian stand on arms supplies to Pakistan, the Spokesman said that Government have seen media reports in this connection. These reports are irresponsible and untrue. The Government of India has

made its strong opposition on the reported proposal of transfer of certain weapons to Pakistan by the US Administration, clear at various levels both in India and the USA and at the recent meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Jul 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

PALESTINIAN

Government of India recognise the Passport/ Travel Documents issued by the Palestinian National Authority

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 11, 1995 on Government of India recognise the Passport/ Travel Documents issued by the Palestinian National Authority:

Ministry of External Affairs has informed the Palestinian National Authority that the Government of India would recognise the Passport/ Travel Documents issued by the Palestinian National Authority. This is also being conveyed to the Embassy of the State of Palestine in New Delhi.

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DIA

Date : Jul 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

Official visit of External Affairs Minister Shri PranabMukherjee to Portugal:

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1995 on official visit of External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Portugal:

External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee began his Official visit to Portugal with a call on President Dr. Mario Soares in the morning on 14.7.95. Welcoming the Minister, President Soares recalled how the bilateral relations have grown stronger and closer since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations in 1974 when he, as Foreign Minister, signed the Bilateral Treaty with India. President Soares expressed the great esteem and regard that the Portuguese people and he personally had for India in all its aspects, especially its culture and religions. President urged the Foreign Minister to further strengthen bilateral relations fostering particularly the cultural interaction. On being briefed by External Affairs Minister on India's role in regional and international developments, President Soares expressed admiration for the policies being followed by India whose origin he traced to the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru. President Soares also expressed his complete agreement with India's position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally through peaceful dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Bilateral talks were then held by External Affairs Minister with his Portuguese counterpart Dr. Durao Barroso, both in tete-a-tete meeting and delegation level talks. External Affairs Minister expressed India's keenness to forge closer bilateral relations with Portugal particularly strengthening the bilateral, economic and commercial relations given the good potential for their further development. External Affairs Minister emphasised the importance India attaches to its growing relations with the European Union and sought Portuguese cooperation to ensure that the European Union opens itself to more trade with and investments in the developing world. External Affairs Minister referred to the necessity of maintaining the world trade flow free from fresh non tariff barriers such as the attempt to use social-clause, international labour standard, child labour etc. as trade instruments. The Portuguese Foreign Minister Dr. Durao Barroso expressed Portuguese support to maintain the world trade free and fair and assured India of Portuguese cooperation within the European Union.

On the bilateral front, the two Ministers noted with satisfaction the growing cooperation especially between the two Foreign Ministries. They instituted a mechanism for bilateral consultations between the two Ministries by signing a Protocol on Consultations. The agenda decided by the two Ministers for bilateral cooperation included a meeting for negotiations on Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation in Lisbon in September'95, meeting of the Indo-Portuguese Joint Committee on Economic, Industrial and Commercial Cooperation in New Delhi in November 1995 and talks for concluding an Air-Services Agreement in New Delhi in September 1995. The Ministers also decided to set up ad-hoc committees in New Delhi and Lisbon with the association of their respective Ambassadors to conceptualise and plan joint cultural projects and programmes for commemorating the 500th

anniversary of Vasco da Gama's historic voyage of discovery to India.

The two Ministers emphasised importance of joint concerted and sustained efforts to strengthen the bilateral economic links through more frequent exchange
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of business delegation and interaction between the India and Portuguese business community.

Reviewing international developments of mutual concern to the two countries, the two Foreign Ministers emphasised the importance of peaceful, bilateral dialogue in resolving disputes and expressed their total rejection of terrorism. Referring specifically to the Kashmir issue, the Portuguese Foreign Minister expressed support for the resolution of the Kashmir issue through peaceful and bilateral dialogue and welcomed the measures adopted by India to re-establish the democratic process in Kashmir, Portugal has always regarded Kashmir as an integral part of India.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister extended support to India's claim to a permanent seat on the UN Security Council as and when the Council is expanded. He mentioned Japan, Germany, Brazil and India as deserving candidates.

External Affairs Minister also visited the Lisbon Expo'98 site where the Expo Commissioner welcomed India's prompt decision to participate in the Lisbon Expo'98. The Commissioner gave the Minister a detailed briefing.

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee will address a representative gathering of members of the Portuguese businessmen, industrialists and entrepreneurs.

RTUGAL UNITED KINGDOM INDIA PAKISTAN USA BRAZIL GERMANY JAPAN

Date : Jul 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Visit of Shri V. K. Grover Secretary (West) to the SlovakRepublic

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 14, 1995 on visit of Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West)

to the Slovak Republic:

Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs visited the capital of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, on July 12, 1995 where he held talks with the State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovak Republic Mr. Gozef Sestak. The discussions were wide-ranging.

In the context of a Protocol signed during the visit of the Slovak Prime Minister to India last year on regular consultations between the Foreign Offices of India and the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Foreign Secretary proposed a visit to India in the near future. The visit is likely to materialise early next year.

The Defence Minister of Slovak Republic is also planning to visit India towards the end of November this year. The visit responds to India's interest in developing defence cooperation with the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic inherited a large part of the heavy industries of the former Czechoslovakia, and had also participated in a defence-related exhibition held in Delhi in February, 1995.

The Slovak side also plans to send a large business delegation to India before the end of this year. The Indo-Slovak Joint Committee which met in Bratislava last month has already identified several areas of cooperation including areas such as infrastructure, tourism and communications. Such cooperation is expected to take place primarily between private sectors of both countries. Mr. Grover also discussed the possibility of joint projects

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to be taken up under a multilateral fund instituted by the European Union to assist the economic transition of the former socialist Central European states to market driven economies.

Mr. Grover also handed over the papers relating to the appointment of India's first Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. India has already taken a decision to open an Embassy in Bratislava.

DIA SLOVAKIA USA NORWAY

Date : Jul 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

India-South Africa Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 19, 1995 on India-South Africa Joint Commission:

The Agreement to put up the India-South Africa Joint Commission was signed by President Mandela and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao early this year when the former paid state visit to India as Chief Guest at our Republic Day.

2. The first meeting of the India-South Africa Joint Commission started in Pretoria on July 18th, under the co-Chairmanship of the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, and the South African Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aziz Pahad.

3. While opening the Joint Commission, Mr. Pahad referred to the close historical links between India and South Africa and the commitment of the leaders of the two countries to establish special relations and said that the Joint Commission would give tangible substance to this commitment.

4. Mr. Pahad hoped that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations provided a useful opportunity to examine critically the functioning of the United Nations and to identify areas where it could be improved.

5. Mr. Pahad sought India's support and cooperation at important multilateral fora like NAM, CHOGM and the United Nations. He felt that India-South Africa relations should not only be mutually advantageous but should make a positive impact on the region and in the international arena as well. He added that as part of South Africa's desire to play a more active role in international affairs, she would be hosting the next UNCTAD conference.

6. In the area of bilateral cooperation, Mr. Pahad noted that progress had already been made in several areas including lowcost housing, small scale industries, defence, diplomatic training etc. In conclusion, the South African Minister emphasised the need for in-depth discussion to identify and promote fresh areas for bilateral cooperation.

7. In his response, the Indian Minister, Mr. Salman Khurshid expressed the joy of the Government and the people of India for the success of democracy in South Africa. He recalled the successful visit of President Mandela to India on the occasion of India's Republic Day earlier this year and said that President Mandela was a source of inspiration to people throughout the world as a symbol of fortitude and commitment to justice and equality. It

was a fitting tribute to him that the Joint Commission meeting was taking place on his 77th birthday.

8. Mr. Khurshid recalled the historical links between the two countries but added that we could now rest on the laurels of the past. We had to delve into our inner strengths and combine and harmonise them for a better future for our peoples.

9. The Indian Minister said that the Joint Commission was a historic occasion to cement bilateral ties and also to provide mechanisms for a joint approach in the wider regional interest. India and South Africa could play an important role in fostering cooperation in the Indian Ocean region since both countries were uniquely placed to contribute to the development of an Afro-Asian personality.

10. With regard to the issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mr. Khurshid noted that both countries were committed to global disarmament.

11. In the bilateral field, Mr. Khurshid said that the Joint Commission would lay strong foundations for future development and mentioned the possibility of exchange of visits of broad-based economic missions between the two countries. Several Ministerial visits were also expected from South Africa in the near future. He said that trade between the two countries had great potential and pointed out that as many as 44 trade delegations from India had already visited South Africa. The future in this area was extremely bright: already Rand 100 million worth of Indian investment had been made in South Africa and more investment were in the pipeline.

12. Mr. Khurshid said that Indian businesses also looked to South Africa as a major hub for the transshipment of goods to other countries in Africa and to Latin America. This would serve to greatly expand surface transport in the region as a whole.

13. In the area of technical cooperation the Minister said that 60% of India's funds under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme were earmarked for Africa and, in consultation with South Africa, these funds could be further enhanced.

14. The Minister identified science and technology as another important area for India-South Africa cooperation. In this context he noted that as a special gesture the Indian Prime Minister had directed the Minister of State in his Office, who is also the Minister responsible for Science and Technology, to specially come to South Africa to sign the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

15. In conclusion the Minister said that India proposed to organise a Festival of India in South Africa in 1997 and looked forward to cooperation from the South African Departments concerned in making this endeavour a success.

16. The India-South Africa Joint Commission is meeting in Pretoria on 18-19 July. It consists of 5 Sub-Committees: Political, Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation; Education and Culture; Health; and Science and Technology. At the end of the Joint Commission meeting, a Science & Technology Cooperation Agreement will also be signed.
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UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

India-South Africa Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1995 on India-South Africa Joint Commission:

The India-South Africa Joint Commission met in Pretoria on 18-19 July. It consists of 5 Sub-Committees: Political, Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation; Education and Culture; Health; and Science and Technology.

In the meetings of the various Sub-Committees of the Joint Commission, some of the specific proposals agreed to were the following:

(i) the two sides noted with satisfaction that the Agreements on Tourism and Culture were close to finalisation. They also emphasised the importance of the expeditious conclusion of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and the Promotion and Protection of Investment Agreement in order to facilitate trade and investments between the two countries.

(ii) the two sides agreed on the importance of concluding an Agreement for the exchange of convicted prisoners which would serve to address some of the concerns of the affected families. It was also agreed that there should be closer cooperation between the two countries to combat international terrorism,

organised crime, drug trafficking and related crimes.

(iii) the two sides agreed to develop cooperation in the area of Defence with an exchange of visits of delegations representing the various services wings to examine training facilities in the two countries.

(iv) the Indian side agreed to provide training facilities for South African diplomats; towards this end the officials involved with training in South Africa would visit India to work out the details of the programmes.

(v) in order to implement the bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, it was decided that a Joint India-South Africa Sub-Committee for Science and Technology would be constituted.

(vi) in order to promote economic and technical cooperation two delegations from South Africa will visit India from the Department of Trade and Industry and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); these visits will identify specific areas of cooperation in the small and medium enterprises sector and prepare the ground for the visit to India of Mr. Trevor Manuel, Minister of Trade and Industry.

(vii) it was decided that at multilateral economic fora, such as WTO, UNCTAD etc. the delegations of the two countries would consult closely with each other to develop appropriate joint strategies.

(viii) in order to further increase bilateral trade, various trade facilitation measures, such as reduction/removal of tariff and nontariff barriers, were examined

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carefully for implementation in the near future.

(ix) the two countries agreed to promote joint ventures in sectors such as mining, food processing, ports, power generation, electronics, engineering etc.

(x) the two sides agreed to finalise a Cultural Exchange Programme to cover areas such as holding of festivals/exhibitions, visits of artistes etc.

(xi) in the area of health, the two sides agreed to establish a formal working group and identified priority areas and mechanisms to promote cooperation. They noted that the details of the proposed visit to India of the SA Minister for Health would be finalised shortly.

Date : Jul 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

SOUTH KOREA

India and South Korea sign an Agreement on Cooperation in Small Industries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 28, 1995 on India and South Korea sign an agreement on Cooperation in Small Industries:

The National Small Industries Cooperation (NSIC) of India and the Small and Medium Industry Promotion Corporation (SMIPC) of South Korea have signed an agreement for cooperation between the small and medium industries of the two countries.

The agreement provides for exchange of information on goods, services and joint venture possibilities; mutual assistance in trade fairs; technology transfer; services for facilitating small/medium industry partnerships, exchange of industrial missions and organising of meetings, seminars by the two countries.

The agreement was signed in Seoul early this week by Dr. J. S. Juneja, Chairman of the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Mr. JAE UK CHAI, President of the Small and Medium Industry Promotion Corporation (SMIPC) of South Korea in the presence of Shri N. Mohanty, Secretary (Small Scale Industries) in the Ministry of Industry. The Indian Ambassador to South Korea Shri Shashank and senior officers of the Indian Embassy and the SMPIC of South Korea were also present on the occasion.

South Korea is one of the Eight priority countries identified by the Government for obtaining new technologies through enterprise-to-enterprise interaction between the Indian small enterprises and foreign companies.

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REA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Indo-US Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1995 on meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Indo-US Relations:

The Consultative Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs met on July 25, 1995 and discussed a wide range of issues on Indo-US relations. The meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister, who provided a broad overview in his opening statement of the recent expansion and diversification of Indo-US relations, particularly in economic cooperation, as well as the continuing divergences of approach in a number of areas such as nuclear and missile non-proliferation, J&K, international terrorism, etc.

2. Members of the Committee welcomed the recent improvement in Indo-US relations, particularly the expansion of mutually beneficial trade and investment. However, there was a widespread feeling that the impact of US policies in a number of areas needed careful assessment.

3. Members expressed great concern at the proposed US transfer of advanced offensive military equipment such as P-3C Orion aircraft, Harpoon missiles, etc. to Pakistan through relaxation of the Pressler Amendment. It was felt that such transfers had a direct and adverse impact on Indian security. It was also felt that India's indigenous programmes for development of Agni and Prithvi should not be held up by statements made by US officials. Members expressed the view that US authorities must acknowledge direct Pakistani involvement promoting terrorism in India for which there was incontrovertible evidence.

4. External Affairs Minister gave a preliminary response to some of the Members queries particularly on economic issues and undertook to respond more fully after the further discussions on the subject to be undertaken at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee. EAM categorically assured Members that there would be no compromise on matters affecting India's basic policies and its national security. At the same time, he emphasised the importance attached by the Government of India to the perceptible and qualitative change that had been brought about in Indo-US relations through the efforts of both sides, and expressed confidence that this trend would continue.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : Jul 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan to Supply 1000 MT of Copper Cathodes to India every Year

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1995 on Uzbekistan is supplying 1000 MT of Copper Cathodes to India every year:

Shri Balram Singh Yadava, Minister of State for Mines has concluded his visit to Uzbekistan. India and Uzbekistan have identified gold, copper and training of personnel by Geological Survey of India as areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. The Uzbek side has agreed to supply 1000 MT of copper cathodes to Hindustan
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Copper Limited this year and has also agreed to supply additional quantities on the long term basis. It was also agreed that further discussions with regard to the identified areas of cooperation would take place at appropriate official levels soon.

The five-member delegation included Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, Shri A. C. Sen, Director General of Geological Survey of India, Shri D. B. Dimri, and CMD, Hindustan Copper Limited, Shri Ved Leekha. The Minister had meetings with Mr. Utkur Sultanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. Yuri Paigin, Deputy Prime Minister in-charge of Geology, and Mr. Tulkin Shoyakubov, Chairman of State Committee for Geology. The delegation also visited the Almaliq Mining and Metallurgical Plant.
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BEKISTAN INDIA USA MALI

Date : Jul 20, 1995

August

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Date : Aug 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid to Belarus

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Aug 31, 1995 regarding the visit of Minister of State for
External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid to Belarus:

After visiting Estonia, Minister of State for External Affairs
Shri Salman Khurshid visited Belarus from August 29-30, 1995.
During his stay in Belarus, Minister of State met Prime Minister
Chigir and President's Chief of Administration Sinityen. MOS held
detailed discussions with Minister of Foreign Economic Relations
Mr. Marinich and the First Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Tseokalo.

2. Belarus enjoys excellent relations with India and all
interlocutors of MOS reaffirmed their desire to continue and
nurture them. The need for increasing economic cooperation
between India and Belarus was highlighted. It was decided to
operationalise the Joint Commission between India and Belarus at
the earliest.

3. Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid would visit Lithuania
and Latvia before returning to India on September 3, 1995.

A INDIA ESTONIA LATVIA

Date : Aug 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

Common SAARC Stand at Beijing

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1995 on Common SAARC stand in Beijing:

SAARC countries will adopt a common position at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. In a resolution at the recently held SAARC ministerial meeting on women in Dhaka, Bangladesh, they have called upon the Conference to reflect their perspective on women. The resolution noted the common socio-economic problems faced by women in the SAARC region particularly, poverty, lack of opportunities for education and health services and discrimination against the girl child. It is imperative that national efforts for eradication of poverty are re-enforced by a favourable international economic environment for the SAARC countries including access to market, financial resources and technology on equitable terms, it said. The resolution called for empowerment of women at all levels in the economic, political and social process. It pointed out that while SAARC had taken the lead in adopting a plan for the girl child, a similar reaffirmation and commitment would be required from the international community to the special needs of the girl child.

Addressing the meeting the leader of the Indian delegation, Smt. Basavarajeshwari, Minister of State for Women
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and Child Development described the Beijing Conference as a symbol of hope which would help in building a new partnership. She briefed the meeting about various affirmative actions taken by the Government to empower women in decision making through constitutional amendment reserving one third of seats in local bodies. A special credit system for women in the informal sector and a savings scheme called the Mahila Samridhi Yojana for Women in the rural areas had been launched. The child care programme has been extended covering 20 million children and women through the Integrated Child Development Services which has become the world's largest child care programme, she said.

INA INDIA BANGLADESH USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 01, 1995

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid to Estonia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 29, 1995 regarding the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Estonia:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid visited Estonia from August 27 to August 29, 1995. This was the first visit to ESTONIA at a Ministerial Level since its independence.

2. During his stay MOS called on President Meri. Discussions with the President were substantive and the meeting lasted for nearly an hour. MOS was also received by Minister of Interior Mr. Saviseaar, who is number two in the Cabinet and was deputising for Prime Minister of Estonia, who was abroad. Foreign Minister of Estonia Sinijarv discussed several issues of bilateral multilateral importance with MOS and also hosted a luncheon in MOS's honour. MOS also met the top ten businessmen of Estonia and held detailed discussions with them on the possibilities of India-Estonia bilateral trade.

3. All interlocutors stressed the importance of relations between India and Estonia, emphasising the warm and friendly ties between the two countries. Reference was also made to the long-standing cultural links between the two countries. University of Tartu in Estonia, which was established in the 14th century places a strong emphasis on study of ancient languages. It also boasts of a Centre of Indology. There are also believed to be similarities between the Estonian language and Tamil. Both countries also share the concepts and beliefs of non-violence as exemplified by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

4. Both sides agreed on the need to significantly expand the Indo-Estonian trade. Estonia is emerging as an export-oriented economy. It has entered into a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, without a transition period. It also has free trade agreements with EFTA and several East European countries. Timber, pulp, paper, pharmaceuticals and food processing were identified as promising items of trade and joint venture. India will invite a team of Estonian businessmen in November to visit India during the currency of India International Trade Fair.

5. A Protocol on Annual Foreign Office consultations between India and Estonia was also concluded.

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Date : Aug 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Commerce Minister Releases First Pass Book under New Scheme

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1995 on Commerce Minister releasing First Pass Book under New Scheme:

In the revised Exim Policy effective from 1st April, 1995, the Government has introduced a Pass Book Scheme. This Scheme entitles certain specified exporters to effect exports and earn duty credits on the national import content of the said exports based on the standard input output norms. These duty credits are credited in the Pass Book issued to the exporters. The accumulated duty credit can be used towards the payment of Custom duty leviable on the subsequent imports of any item not included in the negative or sensitive lists.

The operation of this scheme is simple in nature, and eliminates the procedural requirements under the Advance Licensing or Duty Drawback Schemes.

The exporting community has shown considerable interest in the Scheme. The Scheme has been so devised that instant credit is given after the shipment of an export consignment. For this purpose, an officer of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade known as the Designated Authority has been posted at each of the four major Custom Houses, namely, IGI Airport, New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras who will exclusively deal with this Scheme in close cooperation with the concerned Customs authorities.

Some of the leading exporters like Ms, Polyplex Ltd., New Delhi and Ms. Worldwide Leathers Ltd., New Delhi who are exporters of flexible packagings and leather footwears leather garments respectively have already opted for this Scheme, to whom the Pass Books have been released by the Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, at an inaugural function organised by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, here today.

DIA USA

Date : Aug 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India to benefit from the agreement on Movement of Personnel

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 07, 1995 regarding India benefitting from agreement on movement of personnel:

India is likely to benefit from the agreement on movement of natural persons and its position is not likely to be adversely affected by the U.S. position on financial services, Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today. Negotiations on financial services and the movement of natural persons, scheduled to be completed by 30th June, 1995 finally concluded on 28th July, 1995. The US had taken the position that in the area of financial services it will be taking an MFN exemption. To deal with this situation a proposal was mooted by EU that all members agree to a fixed term arrangement under which members other than U.S. will extend MFN treatment in financial services. This proposal was generally endorsed by all members and as a result for a period valid upto 31.12.97 members have tabled their modified market access schedules in the financial services sector, with improvements in certain cases. In the case of some countries including India their offers contain certain limitations vis-a-vis the MFN principle. India has taken sufficient safeguards to deal with the situation arising out of the U.S. position. Offers on movement of natural persons have, however, been tabled by member countries including U.S. on MFN basis.

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DIA USA

Date : Aug 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

 Consultations of the eighth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group in the Boundary Question

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 09, 1995 on the eighth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group between Foreign Secretary and Vice Foreign Minister of China in New Delhi:

The eighth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG) and Foreign Secretary Vice Foreign Minister level consultations will be held in New Delhi on August 18-19, 1995. The Chinese delegation will be led by Vice Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan. The Indian delegation will be led by Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar. It will comprise of officials from the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence and the Army Headquarters.

2. During the meeting, the two sides will continue discussions on the two tasks assigned to the JWG, namely, settlement of the India-China boundary question and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. The focus of these discussions is expected to be on the issues relating to the implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement, which was signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993. These issues include, inter alia, clarification of the line of actual control (LAC), force reductions along the LAC and confidence building measures.

3. The two delegations also propose to hold discussions on various other bilateral issues. They will also exchange perceptions on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

4. Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan is reaching New Delhi on the evening of 17th August and will leave on the evening of 20th August, 1995.

DIA CHINA USA

Date : Aug 09, 1995

 Volume No

1995

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 17, 1995 regarding India's participation activity in the process of establishing alongwith other like minded countries, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance:

India has participated actively in the process of establishing, alongwith other like-minded countries, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance as an inter-governmental organization, based in Stockholm. India looks forward to participating in all its activities as a Founder Member, aimed at promoting and advancing democracy, improving and consolidating electoral processes, strengthening and supporting national capacity to develop the full range of democratic instruments and promoting transparency and accountability in the context of democratic development. Other Founder Members of the institute are Australia; Barbados; Belgium; Chile; Costa Rica; Denmark; Finland; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; South Africa; Spain and Sweden. India is the only developing country, from Asia, to join the Institute as a Founder Member. As the largest functioning democracy in the world, India would be ideally placed to contribute to the development and growth of democracy worldwide. India's membership of the Institute would ensure that the interests of developing countries are fully projected and taken care of. India, as the world's largest democracy, is seen by other members of the Institute, as a major contributor and provider of assistance in the democratic electoral processes.

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India would also be voluntarily contributing US \$ 150,000 for the functioning of the Institute for the first three years at the rate of US \$ 50,000 per annum. The contribution represents India's commitment to the spread and strengthening of democracy and reinforcing development, world-wide.

India is committed to democracy, human rights and development. India believes that democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of the society are indispensable foundations for the realisation of social development. India acknowledges the inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy and development. Democracy ensures that decisions are taken with the fullest participation of those who will be affected. It ensures not only local selfgovernance but also participative self governance.

DIA SWEDEN AUSTRALIA BELGIUM CHILE COSTA!!USA DENMARK FINLAND NORWAY
PORTUGAL SOUTH AFRICA SPAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Second Special Session of SAARC Standing Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 26, 1995 regarding the second special session of SAARC Standing Committee in New Delhi:

The Standing Committee of SAARC Foreign Secretaries met in New Delhi on 25-26 August 1995. The Committee concluded its work successfully today (26.08.1995). The Special Session was mainly devoted to reviewing the institutional mechanism and activities of SAARC including evaluation of the functioning of the Technical Committees and streamlining of their mandate. Several measures were agreed upon by the Standing Committee on these matters. The Standing Committee, inter alia, directed that the Technical Committees should in future formulate their activities by incorporating specific targets and quantifiable performance criteria within certain time frame so that their achievements could be evaluated objectively. It also decided to avoid increase in the number of Technical Committees and amalgamate some of the Technical Committees for ensuring cost effectiveness of the SAARC activities.

2. The SAARC Foreign Secretaries agreed upon several measures to enhance the role of Secretary General and the SAARC Secretariat. Secretariat was granted necessary flexibility and discretion to increase its interactions with other regional and international bodies in such a way as to derive more concrete benefits.

3. The Special Session also discussed "The SAARC Youth Awards Scheme" which is intended to provide suitable recognition to extraordinary young talents and to encourage the overall development of the youth in the region. The details of the Scheme are expected to be worked out in the near future. The SAARC Council of Ministers, during their meeting in New Delhi in last April, had approved, in principle, the idea of SAARC Youth Awards Scheme.

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DIA USA

Date : Aug 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Prime Minister Rao Calls for a World Order free from Politicalpower play

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1995 regarding Prime Minister Rao's calling for a world order free from political power play and addressing at Malaysian Institute for Diplomacy and Foreign Relation, Kuala Lumpur:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said that the blueprint for a future must be worked collectively by the comity of nations in order to make the world a better place for everyone to live. Delivering an address entitled "The PostCold War Scene: A Blue Print for the Future" at the Institute for Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Kuala Lumpur here on August 4, 1995, Shri Rao further said that prescriptions coming from anyone side will in some form carry forward the mindset of the Cold War period. Countries such as India and Malaysia are members of the NAM which today find themselves in an advantageous position as they are not limited by this mindset. Shri Rao further said that the future of the human race will be determined by neither political power play nor the artificial imposition of discipline distilled from dogma. Shri Rao dispelled the impression that sought to be created that security either national or world-wide would come from the barrel of a gun. any blueprint for the future must be underlined by universal disarmament which goes beyond rhetorics and does not just be an attempt of arms control. In this context the Prime Minister said that Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Action Plan for disarmament expounded in 1988 offered a workable and realiable objective. The Prime Minister said that the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemicals Weapons Convention which were both nondiscriminatory and universal were agreements in the right direction. On the other hand, NPT and its extension, showed the wrong approach which went to confirm the supremacy of the nuclear powers.

The Prime Minister further said that through various means those who possess deadly arms want to preserve their supremacy while using rhetoric to restrain developing countries from developing and using technologies that would help them to progress faster.

Another element of the blueprint is reliance on the multilateral framework. However, such multilateral framework must be truly representative of the contemporary geographical, political and economic world. He drew pointed attention to the structure of the decision-making bodies of the UN which have been frozen in their

Cold War form. He called for a broader dialogue on the restructuring of the United Nations in order to make the world body a truly representative one.

In this context he commended the ASEAN as having shown to the world the success of multilateral engagement. Such regional arrangements should be meshed with other regional economic and other forums so that the sum total meshes with the global multilateral network. In this context, he said, besides promoting SAARC, India is also promoting another regional grouping of countries in the Indian Ocean Rim to cast its net wider.

In the international economic arena, the goal must be to work for multilateral fora which do not lose sight of the objectives that is the highest good of the highest number. The Prime Minister regretted that some countries were not looking at this objective to facilitate a more inclusivistic vision of the policies. No global institution should be made to serve as the instrument of particular
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States; also institution should not be seen as punitive rather than as cooperative fora. When the world is moving towards free choices, fear should not be injected to regulate human affairs. The Prime Minister said that while much has been accomplished in the negotiations leading to the establishment of WTO, a close look at the fine blueprint leaves me somewhat dismayed. In this context, the Prime Minister also felt that the UN had taken a more active and even intrusive roles in recent years. While many of its initiatives are well intentioned, there is a need to be careful to match intention with the situation to be addressed.

Any blueprint for the future has to address the socio-economic forces that are at play. Referring to India's liberalisation policy, he said that such policies were based on the intrinsic strength of the Indian economy. While the Government can dismantle rules, results must come from economic activators - the labourer, the farmer, the professional. But there is need to realise the demands coming from the structural base of poverty that India and several other countries still have to eradicate. Total reliance on market forces could retard progress. New concerns which were not noticed earlier had come to the forefront. These are environmental concerns and likely spurt in economic offenses. "While we continue to dismantle barriers between men and their money, we must ensure that transactions are regulated in order to eliminate activities which distort socio-economic landscape".

Any blueprint for the future will be incomplete unless it emphasises the role that the continent of Asia must play. This part of the world is witnessing momentous changes in every sphere, it is the destiny of people of this continent, Asia to seize the moment and shape the blueprint for all mankind.

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's address at the Malaysian Institute for Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Kuala Lumpur:

"It is a pleasure to address this august institution which has built up a very strong reputation in the field of diplomacy and international relations since its launch in 1991. I am particularly gratified to be in Malaysia and especially in Kuala Lumpur, which I understand means a delta or confluence of rivers. The Malaysian writer Rahman Rashid described Malaysia as the confluence of three great civilizations -Malay, Indian and Chinese. It is perhaps appropriate that we attempt to chart out a blueprint for the future at this great delta of Asian civilisation.

So much has been said about the postCold War scene that many of us tend to attempt to delineate the development of a new era in international relations from somewhere around 1991. It is a coincidence for me, since that is the year my Government in India coming to power and perhaps that is the year this great institution was founded.

It would be prudent to bear in mind the inexorable force of certain trends in international relations since the most significant event of this century, namely the World War II. These trends include the sober realisation of man's proclivity to selfdestruction, arising out of the horrors perpetrated particularly by weapons of mass destruction; the success of multilateral endeavours starting with the United Nations; the birth of new nations and the resurgence of our own gigantic continent in world affairs.

The world continues to be in conflict within itself. The Commission for a New Asia in its report last year has acknowledged the role of "constructive conflict" in international relations. It also recognises and decries, the doctrine of "the glory of conflict". In their words, "We do not hold that progress can only come out of the crucible of conflict. Conflict is all too often barren of productivity and productive of societal destruction".

The Cold War perhaps symbolised in real political terms the glory of conflict
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for both sides. But we cannot be oblivious of developments in the realms of diplomacy, international economics, cultural interaction and technology that kept changing the complexion of human interaction across the globe during, and despite, the decades of the Cold War.

A blue print for the future, therefore, was already being traced.

We have now only to harmonise the scales and the patterns of our respective national perceptions of this blueprint. This is not to say that we must accept the blueprint handed down to us; the analogy is more of a dynamic matrix over which we must collectively superimpose the imperatives evolved during the decades of the Cold War and which today must be given freer rein if we are to make this world a better place for us all.

If ideology was the motive force behind the Cold War, I believe Malaysia and India, along with several others who believe in the concept and practice of non-alignment, are today at an advantage. We have proved to the world that neither political power play, nor the artificial imposition of discipline distilled from dogma, will determine the future of the human race. But we must enunciate the principles that will. Today we are confronted with a bewildering array of doctrines, fragments of the broken edifice of the Cold War from which we must rebuild a new world order.

Some may believe that power comes out of the barrel of a gun, but it is difficult to argue that security too comes the same way, particularly because there are always two guns on opposite sides. The gun as a guarantee of security is by no means dependable. Universal disarmament has therefore to be one of the major elements in the long-term blueprint we chart for ourselves. Judging from recent developments, one does not find any clear signs of universal disarmament going beyond the realm of rhetoric into reassuring action. In this connection, India's late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had put forward a specific Action Plan for Disarmament in 1988, at the UN Disarmament Session. If the world is to be saved, and an ambience of peace and security to prevail, the international community must work towards such a clear-cut plan for universal disarmament.

It is difficult for me to understand the argument that the security of the world could only be safeguarded by the continued possession of nuclear weapons exclusively by some powers for all time. This formulation can only imply a worldwide nuclear policing regime, as also the persistence of reservations and suspicions among the nuclear "haves" themselves. Both these factors do not augur well for world security. The only way is to match rhetoric with action and take concrete steps to bring about universal nuclear disarmament within a definite time-frame, along with verifiable performance components in shorter periods.

The other disarmament treaties negotiated after the NPT such as the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention are non-discriminatory and universal and we, therefore, subscribe to these.

Unfortunately the outcome of the Review and Extension Conference of the NPT put the cart before the horse, the extension before the review. Indeed, it inevitably resulted only in an extension of the Treaty and not any credible review. What we now find is a

continuing attempt by the nuclear weapon States to introduce increasingly intrusive mechanisms into peaceful nuclear programmes of nonweapon States under the guise of nonproliferation. India is fully in accord with the goal of nonproliferation, but wants, like many other countries, that nonproliferation restraints are truly and universally applied without any discrimination.

Our diplomats today are busy negotiating a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a Convention for the cut off of produc-

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tion of fissile material for weapons purposes. While the objectives, behind these negotiations are laudable, in order to contribute to the eventual goal of universal disarmament, we must ensure that there is no hidden agenda, and no loophole.

The current proposal for Fissile Material Cut-off (FMC) is of limited scope, because the extent to which the nuclear powers will open up their stockpile to international safeguards is not yet known. According to the Report of the US-Japan Study Group on Arms Control and Nonproliferation after the Cold War, as of 1994, the US had placed only 2 tonnes out of its 90 tonnes of plutonium and 10 out of 550 tonnes of high enriched uranium under safeguard. Russia has yet to begin. I understand that technically the FMC cannot be fully effective unless all the so-called trigger material is brought under safeguard. Without this even a small quantity of unsafeguarded fissile material can be converted for weapon purposes. According to the US-Japan Report, the US is prepared, and has urged others, to place their fissile material stocks in "excess" of their military needs under IAEA safeguards; but the amount considered "excess" is classified! Situations such as these only serve to heighten suspicion that it is not disarmament that is the aim but arms control, which will ensure supremacy of a few. We can almost feel the chill of the Cold War in the air once again!

Similarly the Missile Technology Control Regime seeks selective application of sanctions against self-respecting space programmes, denying developing countries technologies that would have a multiplier effect on their economic and social development. All this to safeguard against the elusive beast called "proliferation", which however, continues its rampage all over the globe, despite claims to the contrary.

We have no option, however, but to rely on the multilateral framework, on the mesh of political and economic relationships that have been established over the past few decades, to achieve the equity and progress we seek in international relations.

A reliable multilateral framework, however, is predicated upon proper representation. We are all aware that representation in the decision-making bodies of the United Nations, particularly

the United Nations Security Council, has been frozen in the Cold War form. Now that the world has changed, we must look at this structure afresh. For how long must we delude ourselves that the decisions imposed by some national interests are equally good for all of us? I need hardly go into specifics to make my point here. We and like minded countries who have a growing stake in world affairs must make our voices heard in order to prevent any "quickfix" outcome of the deliberations on the restructuring of the United Nations. The General Assembly must be allowed to play its due role in world affairs and the composition of the Security Council must reflect contemporary realities, particularly the large number of developing countries who do not find voice in this forum.

ASEAN has shown the way to successful multilateral engagement through the establishment of concentric layers of multilateral cooperation. The members of ASEAN have cautiously avoided precipitate expansion of their core group and have restricted themselves to an eventual grouping of nine or ten culturally homogeneous Nation States. Beyond these are the overlapping layers of ASEAN Dialogue, ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Economic Caucus, APEC and so on eventually blending with the specialised UN agencies and the global international groupings. This makes sense since it permits the countries concerned to negotiate at different levels with differing emphases on strategy, depending upon the forum.

India too has promoted, over the last decade, sub-regional cooperation through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation on SAARC . SAARC has achieved significant progress, despite some

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political difficulties, in several socio-economic sectors and by the end of this year we will formalise, through the South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA), tariff cuts in well over 600 items mutually agreed among the member States, eventually leading, we hope, to a South Asia Free Trade Area. We are also promoting another regional grouping of countries in the Indian Ocean Rim which casts its net wider. Our sectoral dialogue with ASEAN will, we are confident, lead to far greater interaction which is long overdue.

The political dominance of the super powers has given way to inevitable economic inter-dependence. But we find ourselves in fora where we can be isolated by powerful vested interests, whether it be in negotiations on multilateral trade or concerted and often motivated attacks on our human rights record, the so-called "social clause", protection of esoteric forms of intellectual property, and a host of issues. The complexity of intra-State economic activity also creates pressures from within, which make it difficult for many of us to cogently respond to such attacks. We must, therefore, never lose sight of the

ultimate aim of the negotiations in multilateral fora, which is the highest common good for the highest number.

While it may be simplistic to hark back to the days when multilateral negotiations were conducted under the shadow of the two competing ideological blocs, the end of the Cold War has in a way introduced considerable lack of clarity in most multilateral fora, be it GATT, international banking or the UN agencies. We need to imbue multilateral negotiations with a clear vision of the future and trace steps in our blueprint which will lead towards such a future. At times this may mean that the rich and the powerful may have to make a little more sacrifice. This may not always be easy because we are in an unprecedented situation. A leading nation or group of nations can use their powers wisely or with limited vision. They can use their powers to advance not only their own interests but also the interests of the international community as a whole; or they can deploy their powers selfishly. Whether countries in a pre-eminent position globally use their powers in an inclusivistic or exclusivistic way, remains a supremely important question in international life, one that all of us must take account of as we contemplate our choices. The question for us is: Is there anything that the international community can do to facilitate a more inclusivistic vision of the policies of such countries or groups of countries? I believe there is. First, they must be increasingly made partners in multilateral arrangements that work towards common goals. The public in these countries must be seen as a key resource or ally in this endeavour. It must be cultivated. This will perhaps succeed in evolving ways, as I have just pointed out, to achieve the greatest good of the greatest number of the world's people. This is realism tempered by idealism; it recognizes power where it lies, and attempts to channel power for the betterment of as wide a community of interests as possible. This is imperative if we are to create and retain faith in the multilateral system.

An important characteristic of the post Cold War scene has been a reinvigorated belief in international institutions. I mean institutions in the widest sense of the term. In this sense, I would distinguish several levels at which the new institutionalism is operating; the UN, global bodies such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), which focus on a smaller complex of issues; regimes in particular areas; and regional organizations which are geographically delimited.

Everyone supports the new institutionalism in principle, but the picture is not altogether rosy. I would cite at least two concerns. First, there is a fear that institutions serve as the instruments of particular states, and could degenerate into realms of manipulation - of the small by the big. Second, institutions are seen as punitive rather than as cooperative fora they threaten to hurt those who disagree

rather than try to persuade them. If this is a growing view of the new institutionalism, then there is trouble ahead. Fear is not an efficient basis for regulating human affairs, particularly when we are looking for free choices.

Many perceive that the last five years have shrunk the extent of debate. This is ironic, gives the guests of freedom and openness that have swept through the world with the end of the Cold War. While much has been accomplished in the negotiations leading to the establishment of the World Trade Organisation, a close look at the fine print leaves me somewhat dismayed. A large developing country which needs to create mass scale employment is left holding out hope to hundreds of millions. This hope is based on promises which are unwritten and must be fulfilled by the policy makers and bureaucrats in countries that have achieved far more tangible gains in the negotiations. This is an extremely difficult condition, but it has to be fulfilled if the multilateral system is not to collapse. This incidentally has become the dilemma of many developing countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, a significant feature of the new world order is the realisation that freedom and democracy are the inalienable rights of all peoples. The English philosopher Hobbes once remarked that human beings will be like a pack of wolves unless they have a common reason among them or a common power over them. The dynamic nature of politics today demands that governments play an important role. Democracy presupposes respect for law and civic order. Subject to this broad restriction, civil and political rights are sacrosanct and will increasingly be sought to be enforced by external agencies whether they be nongovernmental organisations, the media or international organisations. The UN has taken on a more active and even intrusive role in recent years through peace keeping operations, direct intervention, the Human Rights Commission, the ILO etc. Many of the initiatives would be well-intentioned, but we must be very careful to match intention with the situation to be addressed and also with the capability we possess to set things right. In many cases, we find the external agency gets embroiled and creates more problems than it set out to resolve. This is not to make out a case for the perpetuation of an undesirable situation but to give pause to any impulse; howsoever well meaning it may be, to intrude without trying to establish that "common reason" that Hobbes referred to.

Any blueprint for the future has to address the economic forces that are at play. Even as countries like India seek to finally dispel the darkness of illiteracy, we are struggling with three new Rs that the globalisation of our economy has forced us to study; namely rules, regulations and results.

The policies that my government has put in place, based incidentally on the intrinsic strength of the Indian economy

established through four decades, have now expanded expectations, all round.

While governments can dismantle rules, they cannot deliver results on their own. Results must come from economic activators the labourer, the farmer, the industrialist, the professional, all of whom in India today have increased their incomes, savings and spending when compared to a few years ago, and I am sure it is the case with many other developing countries. But we must realise the immediacy of the demands that are bound to emerge from the structural base of poverty that we and several other nations still have to eradicate. I quote from the Report of the South Commission which says : "Excessive reliance on market forces can lead to concentration of economic power and wider disparities in income and wealth, to the under-utilisation of resources, to unemployment and to the wastage of savings potential, with the result that the pace of development and technical progress is retarded". We do pay heed to the

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words of this Commission, one of whose members was my present Finance Minister, under whose care the new economic policies of India are fashioned now, I am clear in my mind that facing the mass problems that we do, we cannot afford to wait for benefits to trickle down. We must directly address the problems of poverty. This is being done in India. adopting what I have called the by-pass model. We should ensure that the fundamental ideological dichotomy that sustained the Cold War does not surface yet again and create problems of a new kind.

Abject and continuing poverty may not exactly throw up another Marx but can unleash forces which will try to destroy the political and economic structures perceived to be the causes of continuing misery. This is worse than what we witnessed in the Marxist era, since that era developed at least as an alternative ideology and vision with which we may not agree, whereas what today's all pervading poverty threatens us with is only destruction of the existing order, with nothing calculated to replace it. Our blueprint therefore cannot afford to speculate hypothetically on the results to be achieved only by dismantling certain rules. The results flowing from it must also be quantified and actually delivered.

So long as human nature continues to be what it is, some regulation is essential for the harmonious and smooth functioning of any society or economy. Till a decade ago, very few urban people considered pollution to be a serious problem. Today pollution is seen not merely as a problem, but a fundamental socio-economic affliction. Similarly we must regulate other areas of activity, such as the stock markets, our banking transactions which are susceptible to money laundering, our immigration and customs infrastructure to guard against political and social upheaval, and so on. While we continue to dismantle rules that

create barriers between men and their money, we must ensure that transactions are regulated so as to eliminate subterranean activities which distort the social and economic landscape and eventually have their impact on the vulnerable polity of several states.

Ladies and Gentlemen, no blueprint for the future of the world could be complete today unless it emphasizes the role that the continent of Asia must play. Within an area of 44 million square kilometers from the Arctic to the Tropics, from the Eastern Pacific Rim to the Ural mountains and the Arabian Peninsula, resides the population of half the world, an amalgam of fascinating ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. This continent today accounts for 25 per cent of global exports, 22 per cent of global imports, and 33 per cent of global international reserves. It is also witnessing some of the fastest economic growth rates in the world -- through the 1980s -- East Asia by 7.8 per cent and South Asia by 5.2 per cent, compared with 3.1 per cent for the OECD countries, 1.6 per cent for Latin America and 2.1 per cent for Sub-Saharan Africa. At this rate our GDP base will grow to 28 trillion US dollars in the year 2020 from 5 trillion US dollars in 1990.

We are also witnessing momentous changes in this part of the world in the area of communications, information, science and technology and the syncretism of cultures on a scale witnessed in no other continent.

Ladies and gentlemen, history perhaps witnesses Continents taking turns to come on top. We in India believe in Change coming in cycles over regular periods so that what goes down has to come up and there is always hope. It is, therefore, our destiny and that of succeeding generations of Asians, to seize the moment, as it were, and fashion a blueprint for all mankind that will ensure a brighter and better future".
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LAYSIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC JAPAN RUSSIA MALI TOTO

Date : Aug 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Prime Minister's Address at meeting with Malaysian Businessmen

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1995 regarding Prime Minister's address at meeting with Malaysian businessmen:

The following is the text of the address by the Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, at the meeting with Malaysian Businessmen, organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia on August 3, 1995 in Kuala Lumpur:

"It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be with you and talk to you about the major developments taking place in India. Our countries have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations both at the political and economic levels. And we have had flourishing cultural and commercial ties since antiquity. Conditions are now propitious to further strengthen economic cooperation in the modern context.

Before coming here, my first programme this morning was to call on the Malaysian Prime Minister, whom I have known for a number of years and who was good enough to visit my country twice in quick succession in 1993 and 1994 in connection with some group meetings of G-15 etc. We discussed the immense possibility that lie ahead of us in economic co-operation as well as cooperation at international levels where in many areas we have similarity of views, in some we have actual identity of views. So, we decided, that being so close in thinking and so close even geographically, it should be possible for us to enhance the level of cooperation between the two of us - internationally and also bilaterally.

So, I am coming to you with those very good noble intentions having been expressed and our having come to this conclusion that this is something which we vow to ourselves, and to Asia in general. And I am very happy that soon after that meeting, I am meeting all of you here, because you are the real players in the kind of cooperation we envisage, between two prime ministers.

Executives of some of the most wellknown Indian companies are present here today. They represent the best of entrepreneurial talent available in India. Like you, they have contributed much to India's economic development. In collaboration, both sides can achieve much more. I trust you will get to know them well as partners and friends. We also have representatives from three apex business bodies of India, namely, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry. We have representatives from Small and Medium Enterprises. Their presence provides the opportunity for the strengthening of mutual beneficial institutional linkages.

We have noted with admiration Malaysia's remarkable economic growth in recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Mahathir. There is much to be learnt from this experience of reform and growth without social tension. Malaysia, in a short

period, has ensured that the results of reform manifest themselves quickly and, by ensuring the participation of all sections of society, are spread evenly.

Since Independence in 1947, India has established deep rooted democratic institutions. We have achieved agricultural self-sufficiency - now, we even export foodgrains. A strong industrial base and entrepreneurial culture has been developed. We have nurtured a huge pool of skilled and talented people through myriad technical institutions. All this has resulted in steady growth. But although growth was sustained, it was neither rapid nor high enough to bring about a striking improvement in the living standards of the mass of our people. Hence we had to consider how growth could be further stimulated.

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The year 1991 marked a watershed in the economic life of India. It was a time of crisis and of change. Spurred by setbacks, we initiated wide-ranging changes affecting virtually every sector of our economy. Our goal was to remove poverty as quickly and comprehensively as possible, to generate a high growth trajectory, multiply employment opportunities and, above all, to unleash the potential, both human and economic, lying inadequately tapped for too long.

There was a clear realisation then, as there is now, that in order to enter this new world of economic growth possibilities, India required to exploit the full potential of her resources and her people as well as the technology, capital and management skills and expertise available abroad. In a world where competition and the survival of the fittest are the order of the day, it was necessary for our own industry to match global standards. In a world of increasing global economic integration, it was necessary for India to seek its rightful place through both setting its house in order and extending its hand of partnership to countries around the world.

Industrial licensing was almost entirely abolished. Virtually every sector of the economy was opened up to Foreign Direct investment. Procedures for approval of joint ventures were streamlined and simplified, shareholding was made attractive. In view of the importance attached to the smooth and expeditious implementation of our new economic policy, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board was set up to expedite investment decisions.

Our trade policy also was liberalised. Quantitative restrictions almost areas were removed. Customs duties were reduced sharply. In the financial sector, significant changes, both in banking policy as well as in our capital markets, were announced. Guidelines for the entry of new private and foreign banks were issued. Public sector banks were permitted to raise equity from the market. The entry of Foreign Institutional Investors, in both primary and secondary capital markets, was allowed. Our public

sector enterprises began a process of gradual disinvestment.

As is to be expected in this process, all problem areas have not been overcome. But there is no turning back on the road we have taken.

Our focus on core infrastructural sectors - power, telecommunications, roads, highways and ports, oil and natural gas - arises from the realisation that a lack of infrastructure facilities of international standards has become a major impediment to rapid growth generated by the reform policies. It is for this reason that special schemes have been announced for attracting investment into these sectors. All these sectors have been opened to foreign investors. We have only recently completed the necessary legislative changes required for opening up our roads and highways sector to foreign investment. This is a sector in which we are particularly keen for cooperation with Malaysian companies, these companies have developed considerable experience over the last few years, as we know. The Mining Sector is another area which is being progressively opened up. Infrastructure offers reciprocal opportunities. Indian companies have created an excellent track record in the power and railways sector in Malaysia.

I am often asked whether this transformation of the economy is stable or whether change is linked to the continuance of a particular political party. I am convinced that, despite the political controversies which you hear and read about in the media, the changed course on which we are embarked cannot be reversed. A surge of enthusiasm and ambition for the country has taken hold among the people. The one significant achievement of my Government on the economic front has been the de-politicisation of economic policy in general and the achievement of a broad consensus on economic reform. All State Governments, including those that have recently come to power and are ruled by opposition parties, have supported our economic policies. In fact,

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States are now vying with each other to attract foreign investment, improve the industrial climate by setting up single window clearance mechanisms and even what in India are referred to as "Investor Escort Services" to ease the path for foreign companies. One of our opposition MPs, particularly belonging to the Communist party who has been criticising our policies for the last - I do not know how many years - as long as he has been in Parliament told me the other day, 'look you have changed our course and what you can do, we can do better', that is what he said. I said, 'I agree that what we can do, you can do better. So, please go ahead do better, so that everybody understands that you also subscribe to the same policies'.

At the same time, we in India are conscious of the fact that some

segments of the population might remain outside the ambit of the modern economic system. Many of them do not immediately partake of the benefits of change. It is this consciousness which has determined the pace of our economic reform programme. Rather than allow the economy to be overheated, we have opted for economic growth with macroeconomic stability, particularly by exercising close control over inflationary pressures. Our economic strategy has also meant the release of considerable governmental resources from areas which were hitherto reserved for the public sector and the channeling of these resources into programmes for rural areas and for the upliftment of the poorer sections of our society. Special social welfare programmes have been devised for this purpose. We are also emphasising the need to strengthen agriculture-industry linkage. One of the priority sectors for investment is value-added agro-processing. In terms of potential, this is a colossal and virtually untapped sector which foreign investors should examine. As demand for agricultural produce for the processing sector increases, there will be growth in rural incomes, investment, technology and agricultural productivity. This will benefit both, the producer and the processor.

It is this twin policy of opening up our economy, while at the same time ensuring that social services - basic health, shelter, education, food, water, electricity - for the under-privileged are met, which I have referred to as a Market Plus Approach or the "middle path". I believe that such an approach is necessary in order to strengthen and sustain our economic reform programme.

India really presents a model which is not replicated anywhere, both in its potential and its problems. There is one respect in which one matter in respect of which India and Malaysia are totally different in their situation. I am told that Malaysia is not very much in need of labour - they are labour - short. Now, we have so much of labour, so much of man power, we really have of a problem of dealing with all that man power. So, here is an opportunity, where the skilled labour, the scientific personnel available in India could perhaps combine with the economic muscle of Malaysia and bring about results which are satisfactory to both, which are profitable to both, and this is how perhaps we have to make use of these complementarities. What you have, we lack and what we have, you are perhaps are need of. And this could be done between any two, three, four countries, multilaterally. No need of only confining to bilateral arrangements. So, the whole world is opening up to cooperation like this - multilateral cooperation in a multifarious fields in a manner which we have not yet been able to chart out. We have to imagine these things and start acting on these things.

India, as I said, presents a particular example in its problems. What is our problem. Our middle class is about 300 million, let us say, out of 900 million. And we are a democracy. This 300 million will not be able to make or unmake a government. Those who can make and unmake a government are the 600 million.

So, we have to be primarily thinking of them; their satisfaction, their contentment. And it is not easy to reconcile. What are the needs of these 600 million people and what are the priorities of these 600 million and how do they fall in line with the priorities of the others. They do not sometimes fall in line, they are different in many areas they are the same. And then it has to be understood that if 300 million people are able to get satisfaction out of the huge potential that we have and is being exploited, the 600 million also will take it.

The bypass model, which I have talked about, is because of the fact that there is time lag between benefits trickling down to the masses. And because of that time lag, no one is prepared to wait for next ten years, 15 years and then say, 'hope that he will get some benefit'. He has to get the benefit right now. That is what people in India are asking. And we have no way of stopping them from asking. We have no way of gagging them, because it is democracy. So the democratic set up on the one hand and the raising aspirations of the largest number of people, on the basis of the pyramid, on the other. This is the combination, which you perhaps do not find anywhere in the world. So this is the problem for which we have to devise special methods, our own methods and to that extent we can cooperate with other countries and depend on the complementarities - to that extent we will be solving our problems and also helping other countries in solving common problems of the mankind. After all, ultimately what is India's problem is the world's problem and vice versa. So this the way we want to fashion the cooperation if tomorrow between our two countries and generally among countries in the world.

India's liberalisation programme still has some way to go. We need to streamline our public sector enterprises; labour sector reforms are demanded; further removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, reduction of the fiscal deficit and lasting efforts to keep inflation low are required. But even this relatively short period has given a glimpse of the economic potential of the country that can be tapped.

It would give us great satisfaction to see our Malaysian friends as partners in the transforming and growing Indian economy. The sectors where we can join hands range from computer software, which represents an emerging Indian strength, to numerous sectors of industry and services. The MOUs concluded during my visit are only a foretaste. We invite you to explore the world of possibilities which has opened up in India. India and Malaysia do not start by any means with a blank slate. Our two countries have had many mutually rewarding ties-ups in the past. The ground is well prepared. We share the same region. We believe in the value of South-South partnership and cooperation. We value for national independence of action. We are willing to have mutually beneficial cooperation. In a word, we are natural partners".

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LAYSIA USA INDIA PERU

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

An Agreement between India and Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1995 regarding an agreement between India and Maldives to enhance bilateral relations in the field of trade, tourism and joint ventures:

India and Maldives have agreed to enhance bilateral relations in the field of trade, tourism and joint ventures. This was agreed when External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee and his Maldivian counterpart, Mr. Fathulla Jameel, concluded the deliberations of the Third Session of the Indo-Maldivian Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation on August 13. The highlight of the decisions taken at the Joint Commission was the agreement to set up two subgroups to give special focus to Trade and Industry Cooperation, and Cooperation between the two countries in the field of Tourism.

During his visit to Maldives, on 12th August, 1995, the External Affairs Minister reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional issues and matters relating to the UN in his meeting with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. External Affairs Minister had a detailed exchange of views with Fathulla Jameel with regard to SAARC, regional and global issues as well as the bilateral relations. During his visit the Maldivian Minister of Health, Minister of Transport and Communication, Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of Planning, Human Resources and Environment, called on the External Affairs Minister.

On 11th August, 1995, The External Affairs Minister addressed the Indian community in Maldives, during a function arranged by the High Commission of India, Male'. On 12th August, he visited the Indira Gandhi Hospital. India is also providing training to Maldivian medical and para-medical staff and assistance in the maintenance of the Hospital.

The Maldivian leaders expressed great appreciation of India's

assistance in providing Maldives with an upto-date and well equipped Hospital which has vastly improved the medical facilities available in the country and reduced the need for Maldivian nationals to go abroad for medical treatment.

The External Affairs Minister also visited other major projects being undertaken in Male'. The Maldives Institute of Technical Education (MITE) will assist Maldives for upgradation of skills in a large number of technical field.

The Joint Commission arrived at a decision for completion of the projects being constructed with bilateral aid and possible new projects in the field of rural development and hotel service training. In the area of Human Resources Development, India will assist Maldives in the fields of meteorology, survey, air services, teacher's training, training of administrators, etc.

The External Affairs Minister conveyed to the Maldivian authorities that a Tripartite Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Maldives and Educational Consultants India Limited to further develop the co-operation in the field of manpower training, would be signed shortly.

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LDIVES INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALI

State Visit of H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 29, 1995 regarding the visit of H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, President of the Republic of Mali to India:

H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, the President of the Republic of Mali, Mme. Konare, accompanied by an official delegation, are currently on a State Visit to India from August 28-31, 1995. The President had meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, of India. Delegation level talks were also held between the visiting President and Prime Minister of India. H.E. Mr. Modibo Traore, Minister for Rural Development and Environment of Mali assisted by senior officials had meeting

with H.E. Mr. R.L. Bhatia, the Minister of State for External Affairs and H.E. Col. Ram Singh, Minister of State for Rural Development of India, assisted by senior officials, to discuss specific areas of bilateral cooperation.

President Konare gave a detailed account of political developments in his country leading to the establishment of his democratic government four years ago and efforts of his government for bringing peace, security and development to his people. He highlighted provision of drinking water, improvement in agricultural production, development of alternative sources of energy, notably solar and gas energy installation of food processing units, value addition to items of exports like cotton and groundnuts, activities related to promotion of education, health, employment, and human resources development, as priorities for his government.

President Konare also gave an exposition of the current political situation in the African continent and the role he and his country were playing through the Organisation of African Unity, other regional organisations and bilaterally for conflict prevention in Africa and resolving the conflicts peacefully. In this regard, President Konare supported India's stand for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir issue with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral negotiations under the framework of the Shimla Agreement. He called for a bigger role for India in Africa's development, noting that India was well-known in all African villages through its culture and films, role in the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), presence of an Indian origin community, a dynamic democracy relying on the philosophy of self-reliance and a country with multi faceted agricultural, industrial and economic advancement and offered his country as a partner for cooperation.

President Konare laid emphasis on the relevance of NAM and impressed on the need for giving a new impetus and direction to it. Mali under its first President, Modibo Keita, was among the founder members of NAM movement and President Konare offered to work closely with India, and other leading countries of NAM, in achieving this objective. He also advocated democratisation of the United Nations and the UN Security Council. He supported the candidature of India for one of the permanent seats of UN Security Council.

President Konare stressed the need for greater South-South cooperation among developing countries. He said, North-South cooperation had not yielded the

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desired results, which reinforced the need for South-South cooperation amongst developing countries.

There was an identity of views on the Indian side. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narasimha Rao welcomed the sincerity,

transparency and frankness with which President Konare had expounded the socio-economic conditions existing in his country, his views on Africa and other international issues, including NAM and the United Nations. The Prime Minister offered India's full cooperation to the visiting President.

On international issues, Prime Minister Rao stated NAM countries would be meeting in October at the Summit-level, and soon thereafter, would gather again for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly. The end of the Cold War and of confrontational international politics was undoubtedly a welcome development, it left many issues -especially developmental issues - unresolved. At the same time, religious, ethnic and other tensions, international terrorism, drug trafficking, unfair trade practices etc. had increased. These forthcoming gatherings provide opportunities for countries like India and Mali to work together for a safer and more equitable world, a world free from fear and want.

During Ministerial level expert talks, the following specific areas were identified for providing Indian assistance. (i) provision of drinking water by supplying drilling rig with spares, diesel pump sets, hand pumps, and training facilities, (ii) lift irrigation, for lands adjacent to river Niger, (iii) technical cooperation in soil conservation and dry land farming (iv) provision of agricultural implements and equipment (v) feasibility study to be conducted for setting up a fertilizer plant using natural phosphate available in Mali, (vi) setting up of small units for fruit and vegetable processing, (vii) assistance for cotton processing, rice milling, cattle feed to be examined. Cooperation programmes would be discussed in other areas as well such as organic pesticides, linking of specialist institutions in agriculture and animal husbandry (specially for producing vaccine for poultry), employment generation programmes, gold mining, health, and primary education, training facilities in Indian institutions to Malian nominees under India's technical cooperation programme. India would also assist Mali in setting up a science centre for school going children and establish a children's park. Both sides agreed to sign Cultural and Trade Agreements at an early date.

President Konare addressed leaders of the Indian business and industry over a dinner reception hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

LI INDIA USA PAKISTAN LATVIA NIGER

Date : Aug 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

India and Mauritius to Promote Greater Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1995 on promoting greater economic cooperation between India and Mauritius:

A delegation led by the Hon. Ramakrishna Sithanen, Minister of Finance of Mauritius, had talks with, Union Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on ways of promoting closer economic cooperation between the two countries.

The talks were held in a very cordial atmosphere and both Ministers have under-

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scored and reaffirmed the special and privileged relationships that exist between India and Mauritius.

The delegations shared views on the working and operation of the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty between the two countries.

Both delegations agreed to establish a joint working group to have regular exchange of views between the two countries.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Aug 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

MYANMAR

Second Indo-Myanmar National level meeting

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1995 on meeting between Union Home Minister and Myanmar's Deputy Minister for the second Indo-Myanmar national level talks:

Col. Tin Hlaing, Deputy Home Minister, Government of Myanmar, leading an official delegation, called on Shri S. B. Chavan,

Union Home Minister, here today. Recalling the excellent cooperation existing between India and Myanmar on various issues, Shri Chavan expressed confidence that the way Government of Myanmar is interacting with India on issues of mutual concern clearly indicates that Myanmar would extend its full cooperation in foiling the activities of some negative elements involving smuggling of arms, narco-trade etc. across the borders. Such a cooperation will give a proper signal to all negative elements indulging in insurgent and militant activities that they will be dealt with firmly, Shri Chavan added.

Shri Chavan stated that with a view to increasing trade between the two countries, a trade route had already been opened and operating Moreh (Manipur) and Tamu (Myanmar) and another one is under active consideration of both the Governments.

After calling on Shri Chavan, the Myanmar delegation led by Col. Tin Hlaing will meet today with the Indian delegation led by Union Home Secretary, Shri K. Padmanabhaiah, for the second Indo-Myanmar national level talks.

DIA USA

Date : Aug 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Russian Federation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 02, 1995 regarding the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Moscow from 3-5 August, 1995:

External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee is visiting Moscow from
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3rd to 5th August, 1995, at the invitation of the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei V. Kozyrev. He will be accompanied by Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haider and Joint Secretary (EE), Shri R. L. Narayan. During the visit, External Affairs Minister is expected to call on the Prime Minister of Russia, Mr. Victor S. Chernomyrdin and other dignitaries.

India and Russia have traditionally had a long, warm and cooperative relationship. President Yeltsin came to India in 1993 and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin in December, 1994. Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao has also visited Russia. Besides, there have been a number of other high-level visits.

External Affairs Minister is also the co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation. He had visited Moscow in that capacity in September last year. He has also held the post of co-Chairman of this Commission as Commerce Minister.

Russian co-Chairman, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yuri F. Yarov, had visited India last month, for the meeting of the two co-Chairman, External Affairs Minister's visit will afford an opportunity for consultation on bilateral, regional and international issues. The two Ministries of Foreign Affairs have a tradition of consultation at official levels, both on bilateral and specialised matters.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Aug 02, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 11, 1995 regarding the proposal by the Government of Sri Lanka for devolution of power for a political resolution of ethnic issue in their country:

We have seen the proposal by the Government of Sri Lanka for devolution of power for a political resolution of ethnic issue in that country. It may be recalled that the Government of India has consistently stood for a peaceful political solution of this issue. The proposal of the Government of Sri Lanka constitutes a bold stand to resolve the issue and they require the most serious consideration of all concerned.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Aug 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1995 regarding condolences conveyed by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to the Norwegian Minister, Mr. Bjorn Tore Godal at the killing of Mr. Hans Christian Ostro:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, spoke today on telephone, to the Norwegian Minister, Mr. Bjorn Tore Godal. He expressed his deepest regrets at the killing of Mr. Hans Christian Ostro, the Norwegian hostage, at the hands of "Al Farhan" terrorists.

The Minister conveyed his condolences to the next of kin and offered his deepest sympathies to the Government and the people of Norway. The Minister informed his counterpart that nothing had been done that could have provoked this outrage and the safety of the hostages had been of paramount importance in the resolution of the issue.

Shri Mukherjee also stated that we would however, not give in to terrorism

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and that if we did, the terrorists would be emboldened to carry out more such outrages. The international community had to stand firm and united in making it clear that terrorism does not pay.

All Kashmiri groups had denounced the kidnapping and the murder. India had received indications that the kidnappers were foreign mercenaries. This latest killing confirmed what we have always said that the terrorism in Kashmir was being fomented from across the border. The unfortunate killing would also give the foreign Governments an idea of the brutality and ruthlessness with which the terrorists operates.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM NORWAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 17, 1995 regarding reports of a press conference held by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan:

We have seen reports of a press conference held by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan this morning. He has made totally unfounded charges against India and has tried to manufacture arguments for accusing India as being responsible for the hostages crisis in Kashmir. These are absurd allegations and will deceive nobody. It is widely recognised that the Al-Faran group, like other militant groups active in Jammu & Kashmir, is supported, armed and trained by Pakistan. The proforma condemnation of hostage taking by Pakistani leaders can only be intended to obscure the abundant evidence of Pakistani complicity.

There has been an overwhelming international response against the Al-Faran group's seizure of hostages in Kashmir. Countries from around the globe, including the OIC, have joined together in expressing their revulsion at this action. The brutal slaying of a Norwegian hostage has shocked the international community and brought out renewed denunciations of the hosatge takers. The Pakistan Foreign Minister's uncomfortable situation where Pakistan stands identified with the kidnappers.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister has produced a number of "reasons" in support of his accusations. He has also made unwarranted observations about India's intention to violate the LOC, and has held out rash threats against India. We deeply deplore such attempts to create tension on the border, which is clearly an attempt to divert attention. We wish to make it clear that India will not be provoked by such methods. We will continue to confront the militants in Kashmir and will deal effectively with, those who engage in kidnapping and hostage taking.

We stand ready to resume a dialogue with Pakistan, without any preconditions. Rather than trying to exacerbate the problem, Pakistan would do well to draw back from its discredited policy of support and promotion of terrorism and take up our repeated

offer of dialogue.
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KISTAN INDIA RUSSIA USA

Date : Aug 17, 1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjeeto Japan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 21, 1995 regarding the visit of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Japan:

At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Yohei Kono, the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will pay an official visit to Japan from 6-10th September, 1995.

During his visit, he is expected to call on the Emperor and on Prime Minister of Japan. He will also hold talks with his counterpart. Shri Mukherjee will meet other dignitaries, including the Minister for International Trade and Industry, Mr. R. Hashimoto and members of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship Association.

External Affairs Minister will visit Hiroshima on 9th September, 1995.

The last visit of Indian External Affairs Minister to Japan in January, 1992.

The visit of Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to Japan in June, 1992, marked a new phase in India-Japan relations, which have expanded steadily. Japan acknowledges India as an influential country among the developing nations of the world and a potentially significant economic partner. India sees Japan not only as a major source of investment and economic assistance, but also as a country with the ability to play a major role in providing peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world. Japan is India's largest bilateral donor with a commitment during 1995-96 of 131.43 billion yen (approx. US \$ 1450 million). India's twoway trade with Japan in 1994, reached 4700 million US

\$. The balance of trade is in India's favour. Total foreign investment approvals during 1991 - May, 1995, from Japan is Rs. 1368.97 crores.

ITED KINGDOM JAPAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 21, 1995

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Eighth SAARC Summit in New Delhi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1995 on the Eighth SAARC Summit in New Delhi:

Following the recent decision at the Eighth SAARC Summit in New Delhi this year, the second session of the SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries will meet in New Delhi on August 25 and 26, 1995. The Agenda of the meeting focusses the institutional aspect of the SAARC. Substantive agenda basically is: Review of institutional mechanism and activities of SAARC, including evaluation of the functioning of the Technical Committees and amalgamation\alteration of the mandate of the Technical Committees and Review of the role of SAARC Secretariat.

India has ratified the agreement on the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives have already ratified the agreement. Bangladesh and Pakistan are expected to do so shortly. SAPTA will come into effect within 30 days after all members have ratified.

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DIA USA BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL SRI LANKA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 23, 1995

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Shaikh Saleb Al Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 24, 1995 regarding the visit of Shaikh Saleb Al Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs to India:

Shaikh Saleb Al Sabah, Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs, accompanied by a 6-member delegation, called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee today. Shaikh Al Sabah conveyed thanks for India's support for the liberation of Kuwait and sought India's assistance to secure the release of Kuwaiti POWs and persons missing on account of the Gulf war. Shaikh Al Sabah and his delegation briefed Shri Mukherjee on the latest efforts to resolve this issue. External Affairs Minister expressed sympathy over the issue of POWs and persons missing on account of the Gulf war, conveyed India's understanding and appreciation of the human aspects of the matter and assured him that India would act accordingly in this regard.

The External Affairs Minister hosted a lunch in honour of Shaikh Al Sabah and his delegation.

WAIT INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Aug 24, 1995

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Third Round of Indo-Japan talks in New Delhi between the two countries

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 24, 1995 on the third round of Indo-Japan talks in New Delhi between the two countries:

The third round of Indo-Japan talks on disarmament, non-proliferation and international security issues was held in New Delhi on 23rd August, 1995. These talks are part of the on-going

exchange of views between the two countries on issues of mutual concern with a view to obtaining better understanding of each other's perceptions. Japanese delegation was led by Mr. Kawamura, Director General of Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Security Affairs. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. T. C. A. Rangachari, Joint Secretary (East Asia).

During the talks, both sides reviewed the changing international security environment and briefed each other on security related developments in the respective regions. Discussions also covered on-going negotiations such as those relating to comprehensive test ban treaty and other issues on the multilaterally discussed agenda, such as the Missile cut off treaty, preparations for entry into force of the chemical weapons convention etc. Japanese side approved changes in India's export control policy, relating to the dual use of equipment and technology and provided a briefing on development of dual use of export control, currently under consideration in Japan. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

During his stay, Mr. Kawamura also paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Secretary.
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DIA JAPAN USA

Date : Aug 24, 1995

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Agency Reports on Nuclear issues between India and Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 28, 1995 regarding agency reports on nuclear issues between India and Pakistan:

Responding to queries regarding agency reports datelined Islamabad attributing to US Senators Mr. Hank Brown and Mr. Arlen Specter's remarks following their meeting with the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi to the effect that India and Pakistan have agreed to take part in a five-nation conference to discuss matters relating to nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, the Official Spokesman stated that there was no truth to such reports. The Senators did meet the Prime Minister. Discussions on

nuclear issues covered only the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan on nuclear disarmament. Asked further why such reports have emanated, the Spokesman felt that this was either based on misunderstanding or disinformation from certain quarters.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Aug 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Guidelines for Pass Book Scheme, EPRS and Trade with Russianotified

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1995 on guidelines for Pass Book Scheme, EPRS and Trade with Russia:

A new Scheme of Pass Book was introduced under the Duty Exemption Scheme in the revised version of the Exim Policy brought out on 1st April, 1995. The procedure governing the Scheme is contained in the Hand Book of Procedures brought out on 1st May, 1995.

For facilitating easy operation of the Pass Book the format of the Pass Book, as contained in the Hand Book, has now been streamlined. Guidelines have also been issued to the Licensing Authorities for the proper implementation of the Scheme. An exporter after having made exports shall get his entitlement of duty saved on the basis of input-output norms from the Custom officials which will be credited to the Pass Book by the Designated Authorities.

The revised versions of the Exim Policy also provides that trade with Russia under the Debt Repayment Agreement, would be governed by the instructions as may be issued by the DGFT from time to time. The Policy also provides that exports to Russia and the other erstwhile RPA countries would not be counted for grant of status as EH/TH/STH/SSTH and the benefits available to EH/TH/STH/SSTH.

Policy and Procedure have now been prescribed for permitting exports to the erstwhile Russian Federation against funds available in the Special Escrow Accounts in the name of Russian entities subject to 100% value addition or the percentage of value addition as indicated in the input-output norms whichever is higher. Hitherto the above provision was applicable only in

the case of exports made against repayment of State credits to the Russian Federation and against liquidation of balance to the credit of erstwhile RPA countries. Ex-
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ports to the Russian Federation as well the RPA countries under the above dispensations have also been made eligible for the grant of status as EH/TH/STH/SSTH. However, the benefits of double/triple weightage on products manufactured in the SSI/Cottage Sectors shall not be available in the case of these exports.

Re-exports of goods imported against payment in convertible currency would also be subject to minimum value addition of 100% if re-exported against payment in non-convertible Indian rupees.

A new Scheme (EPRS) for Engineering Products Exports (Replenishment of Iron and Steel Intermediates) has been introduced w.e.f. 1.4.95 in place of IPRS which was withdrawn. The Scheme is contained in the revised version of the Hand Book of Procedures 1992-97 as brought out on 1st May, 1995. The Scheme has now been further streamlined keeping in view the representations received from the steel producers as well as from the exporters of Engineering goods. The Scheme now permits imports of consumables including spares, upto a limit of 5% of the cif value of the Licence. This will enable the intermediate manufacturers of steel products to source their inputs at competitive rates and also to improve the quality of their production. The Advance Intermediate Licence holders would also now be entitled to claim MODVAT subject to payment of additional Customs duty as provided in Paragraph 47 of the Exim Policy. The Advance Intermediate Licences have also been made freely transferable, except for consumables and spares. This will enable the steel producers to be more competitive and also maximise their profits as the transferable licences are likely to command good premium in the market. It is expected that with these modifications the Scheme will become operational.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Aug 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Meeting between External Affairs Minister and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 04, 1995 on meeting between External Affairs Minister and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin on August 3, 1995:

External Affairs Minister met Prime Minister Chernomyrdin at 1630 hours. (Moscow time).

The two sides discussed developments in bilateral issues since Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit to India in December 1994, and generally touched upon the shared interests and concerns of the two countries. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin emphasized the high importance attached by the Russian Government to External Affairs Minister's visit, which represented the first official visit of an Indian External Affairs Minister to the Russian Federation. Highlighting the importance of the Moscow Declaration on Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States, which was not only relevant for India and Russia but also for the world community, both sides agreed that the ideas contained in that Declaration should be promoted and internationalised, including at the forthcoming 50th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly.

Both sides emphasised the importance of combating the growing menace of international terrorism and agreed that this was an area in which both countries could cooperate through firm and positive steps.

Both sides noted with satisfaction several positive trends in bilateral relations since the revival of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission under the co-chairmanship of External Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Yarov. For instance, bilateral trade turnover for 1994-95 had registered an increase of 44% over the -210>

comparative figures for 1993-94 and the trade turnover during the current year would exceed the target - set for it by the Joint Commission in September last year - of doubling trade during the current year compared to two years ago.

Both sides discussed possible areas for investments and in this context identified projects in power, metallurgical and other spheres. While noting these positive trends in commercial and economic exchanges, it was recognised that there was much untapped potential yet to be realised and that the momentum of enhanced cooperation must be maintained.

The implementation of the bilateral agreement for defence cooperation upto the year 2000, signed during the visit of Prime Minister Chernomyrdin to India in December 1994, was referred in general terms. Both sides expressed satisfaction over, the implementation of this long term plan, which is to be reviewed during the Second Meeting of the Joint Group on Military -

Technical Cooperation to be held in Moscow later this month.

The two sides expressed their gratification over the revival of Indo-Russian cultural cooperation, with particular reference to the 'Days of Russia' cultural manifestation, to be organised in India in December this year, and the 'Days of India' to be held in Russia some time next year.

External Affairs Minister expressed his gratitude at the decision of the Russian authorities to instal a statue of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in Moscow. The Russian side expressed happiness that our Prime Minister had consented to visit Russia for the unveiling of the statue of Jawaharlal Nehru. This may take place during the "Days of India" to be held in Russia next year.

External Affairs Minister conveyed our Prime Minister's greetings and good wishes to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. The latter requested External Affairs Minister to convey his personal best wishes and warm regards to our Prime Minister, adding that he had very warm memories of his visit to India in December last year.

The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Aug 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Special Postage Stamp on Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre,Bangkok

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1995 on releasing a special postage stamp of Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre, Bangkok:

The Department of Posts is releasing a special multi-coloured postage stamp on September 4, 1995 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre, Bangkok. The stamp is in the denomination of Rs. 10/-.

It was in the year 1970 that the Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre was set up in Bangkok with the primary objective of training and development of postal administrators and providing a nucleus of

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personnel to meet the training needs of the countries in the region.

The design of the stamp represents the beacons of knowledge spreading out to the region from this centre of postal excellence and symbolizes the concept of "one region-one world" for the Post. The stamp is being released on the first day of the Asian-Pacific Postal Training Centre Governing Board meeting being held in Singapore and during the course of the World Philatelic Exhibition "Singapore 95".

The First Day Cover and Information sheet will be available for sale at Philatelic Bureaux/Counters and selected Post Offices.

AILAND INDIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Aug 30, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Arjun Sengupta appointed member of U.N. Body

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 09, 1995 on appointment of Dr. Arjun Sengupta member of U.N. body:

Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, Member, Planning Commission, has been appointed Member of U.N. Committee for Development Planning. The New York-based organisation is one of the prestigious international Committees deliberating on the problems of development and policy for last 25 years.

Dr. Sengupta, who is already a Co-Chairman of the United Nations High Level Group on Development Strategy in the Market Economy, has been appointed as Member of this Committee in his personal capacity for a period of 2 years.

Many distinguished economists including Nobel laureats like Professor Tinbergen of the Netherlands, Professor Leontief of Harvard and Professor L.R. Klien of Pennsylvania have been on this Committee at different times. The terms of the previous Committee came to an end in 1991 and at the initiative of the UN Secretary General it has now been reconstituted. Among the distinguished Members of this new Committee are Professor Nurul

Islam, former Deputy Director General of FAO, Professor Hirono of Japan, Dr. Frances Stewart of Oxford, Professor Louka T. Katseli of Greece and Professor Nora Lusting of Mexico.

DIA USA THE NETHERLANDS FRANCE JAPAN UNITED KINGDOM GREECE MEXICO

Date : Aug 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

UNDP Assistance of \$ 1.266 million for GIS based TechnologyProject

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1995 on UNDP assistance of US \$ 1.266 million for implementation of GIS based Technology Project:

An Agreement was signed between the Government and the UNDP for technical assistance of US \$ 1.266 million for the implementation of the project "Geographical Information System (GIS) Based Technologies for Local Level Development Planning", here today.

Shri Gajendra Haldea, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Bayani S. Aguirre, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP signed on behalf of
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Government of India and the UNDP respectively.

The project aims at enhancing the capacity of local level authorities to store, update and utilize social and natural resource data needed for planning and decision making. To this end a PC based GIS system will be fully developed by the Department of Science & Technology and tested in situ in a few pilot areas. The experience gained will form the basis for dissemination of the technology and the approach to all districts nation wise.

The UNDP technical assistance of US \$ 1.266 million will be utilized over a period of three years for the services of international experts, training fellowships abroad, study tours and import of some essential items of equipments. The project will be executed by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

DIA USA

Date : Aug 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNDP

UNDP Assistance of \$ 746,890 for Introduction of EnvironmentEconomics into Decision Making

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1995 on an agreement between government and the UNDP assistance of US \$ 746,890 for introduction of Environmental Economic into decision making for Substantial Development:

An Agreement was signed between the Government and the UNDP for technical assistance of US \$ 746,890 for the implementation of the project "Introduction of Environmental Economics into Decision Making for Sustainable Development", here today.

Shri Gajendra Haldea, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Bayani S. Aguirre, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP signed on behalf of Government of India and the UNDP respectively.

The purpose of this project is to build capacity at various levels of Government and other national institutes (including private sector, NGOs and womens groups) associated with decision making about resource use to introduce concepts of environmental economics enabling them to incorporate sustainability constraints into their resource use and planning decisions. The project further aims at capacity building for natural resources accounting in various organisations.

The UNDP technical assistance of US \$ 746,890 will be utilized over a period of thirty months for the services of international experts, training fellowships abroad, study tours and imports of some essential items of equipments. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India.

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DIA USA

Date : Aug 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

EIL's Services for Vietnamese Project

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Aug 14, 1995 of EIL's servicing for Vietnamese Project:

Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) has been awarded design and engineering services for a Gas Compression Platform for the White Tiger Oil Field Offshore, Vietnam. The project has been awarded to a consortium of South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries and the French firm Buoygyes Offshore on a turnkey basis and Samsung Heavy Industries has in turn awarded the engineering for the platform to Engineers India Ltd.

Engineers India Ltd. had earlier provided pre bid engineering services to Samsung Heavy Industries based on which Samsung developed its bid to Petrovietnam. The project was fiercely competed by a number of international bidders from Korea, Japan and Western Europe.

The project will be completed in two years. This assignment is expected to lead to further work for Engineers India in Vietnam.

Vietnam with its growing oil and gas production, is emerging as an important market for engineering and contracting organisations. EIL has been pursuing different business prospects in Vietnam and has recently provided its services for training personnel from Petrovietnam in Project Management and Construction Management of Refinery Projects.

ETNAM INDIA KOREA USA JAPAN

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia for the Promotion

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties";

Desiring to expand and strengthen economic and industrial cooperation on a long term basis, and in particular, to create favourable conditions for investments by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party;

Recognizing the need to protect investments by investors of both Contracting Parties and to stimulate the flow of investments and individual business initiative with a view to promoting the economic prosperity of both Contracting Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this Agreement:

(a) "investments" means every kind of asset invested in accordance
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with the laws, regulations and national policies of the Contracting Parties in whose territory the investment is made in particular, though not exclusively, includes:

(i) movable and immovable property and any other property rights such as mortgages, lines or pledges;

(ii) shares, stocks and debentures of companies or interests in the property of such companies;

(iii) rights to money or a claim to any performance having financial value;

(iv) intellectual property rights, including rights with respect to copyrights, patents, trade-marks, tradenames, industrial designs, trade secrets, technical processes and know-how and goodwill in accordance with the relevant laws of the respective Contracting Party;

(v) business concessions conferred by law or under contract, including concessions to search for, cultivate, extract, or exploit natural resources.

(b) "returns" means the amount yielded by an investment and in particular, though not exclusively, includes profits, interests,

capital gains, dividends, royalties or fees;

(c) "investor" means any national or company of a Contracting Party;

(d) "national" means any natural person possessing the citizenship of or permanently residing in the territory of a Contracting Party, and not having the citizenship of the other Contracting Party, in accordance with its laws;

(e) "company" means any corporation, partnership, trust, jointventure, organisation, association or enterprise incorporated or duly constituted in accordance with applicable laws of that Contracting Party;

(f) "territory" means:

(i) with respect to India, the territory of the Republic of India including its territorial waters and the airspace above it and other maritime zones including the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf over which the Republic of India has sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with its laws in force, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and International Law;

(ii) with respect to Malaysia, all land territory comprising the Federation of Malaysia, the territorial sea, its bed and subsoil and airspace above;

(g) "freely usable currency" means the United States dollar, pound sterling, Deutschemark, French franc, Japanese yen or any other currency that is widely used to make payments for international transactions and widely traded in the International principal exchange markets.

2. Any alteration of the form in which assets are invested shall not affect their classification as investments, provided that such alteration is not contrary to the approval, if any, granted in respect of the assets originally invested.

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ARTICLE 2

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

1. Each Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to invest capital in its territory and, in accordance with its laws, regulations and national policies, shall admit such investments.

2. Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded equitable treatment and shall enjoy full and adequate protection and security in the territory of the

other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 3

TREATMENT OF INVESTMENTS

1. Investment made by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall receive treatment which is fair and equitable, and not less favourable than that accorded to investment made by investors of any third State.

2. The provisions of this Agreement relative to the granting of treatment not less favourable than that accorded to the investors of any third State shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) any existing or future customs union or free trade area or a common market or a monetary union or similar international agreement or other forms of regional cooperation to which either of the Contracting Parties is or may become a party; or the adoption of an agreement designed to lead to the formation or extension of such a union or area within a reasonable length of time; or

(b) any international agreement or arrangement relating wholly or mainly to taxation or any domestic legislation relating wholly or mainly to taxation.

3. Each Contracting Party shall, subject to its own laws, regulations and national policies, accord to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party treatment no less favourable than that which is accorded to investments of its own investors.

ARTICLE 4

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

Investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, revolution, a state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection or riot in the territory of the latter Contracting Party shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to investors of any third State or to its own investors in accordance with its own laws, regulations and national policies.

ARTICLE 5

EXPROPRIATION

1. Neither Contracting Party shall take any measures of expropriation or nationalization or measures having effect equivalent to nationalization or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") against the investments of an investor of the other Contracting Party except under the following conditions :

(a) the measures are taken for a lawful or public purpose in accordance with law;

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(b) the measures are non-discriminatory;

(c) the measures are accompanied by provisions for the payment of adequate and effective compensation without undue delay. Such compensation shall amount to the market value of the investments affected immediately before the measure of dispossession became public knowledge, and it shall be freely transferable in freely usable currencies. Any unreasonable delay in payment of compensation shall carry an interest at prevailing commercial rate as agreed upon by both parties unless such rate is prescribed by law.

2. The investor affected shall have a right, under the law of the Contracting Party making the expropriation, to review, by a judicial or other independent authority of that Party, of his or its case and of the valuation of his or its investment in accordance with the principles set out in this paragraph. The Contracting Party making the expropriation shall make every endeavour to ensure that such review is carried out promptly.

3. Where a Contracting Party expropriates the assets of a company which is incorporated or constituted under the law in force in any part of its own territory, and in which investors of the other Contracting Party own shares, it shall ensure that the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article are applied to the extent necessary to ensure fair and equitable compensation in respect of their investment to such investors of the other Contracting Party who are owners of those shares.

ARTICLE 6

TRANSFERS

1. Each Contracting Party shall, subject to its laws, regulations and national policies allow without unreasonable delay the transfer in any freely usable currency:

(a) the net profits, dividends, royalties and technical fees, interest and other current income, accruing from any investment of the investors of the other Contracting Party;

(b) the proceeds from the total or partial liquidation of any investment made by investors of the other Contracting Party;

(c) repayment of any borrowings/loans, including interest thereon, relating to the investment; and

(d) the net earnings and other compensations of nationals of one Contracting Party who are employed and allowed to work in connection with an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. The exchange rates applicable to such transfer in the paragraph 1 of this Article shall be the rate of exchange prevailing at the time of remittance.

3. The Contracting Parties undertake to accord to the transfers referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article a treatment as favourable as that accorded to transfer originating from investments made by investors of any third State.

ARTICLE 7

SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTE BETWEEN A CONTRACTING PARTY AND AN INVESTOR OF THE OTHER CONTRACTING PARTY

1. Any dispute between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in relation to an investment of the former under this
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Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably through negotiations between the parties to the dispute.

2. Any such dispute which has not been amicably settled within a period of six months may, if both Parties agree, be submitted:

(a) for resolution, in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party which has admitted the investment to that Contracting Party's competent judicial or administrative bodies; or

(b) to international conciliation under the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission or International Trade Law.

3. Should the Parties fail to agree on a dispute settlement procedure provided under paragraph 2 of this Article or where a dispute is referred to conciliation proceedings are terminated other than by signing of a settlement agreement, the dispute may be referred to Arbitration. The Arbitration procedure shall be as follows:

(a) if the Contracting Party of the investor and the other Contracting Party are both parties to the Convention on the

Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States, 1965 and the investor consents in writing to submit the dispute to the international Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes such a dispute shall be referred to the Centre; or

(b) if both parties to the dispute so agree, under the Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-Finding Proceedings; or

(c) to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal by either party to the dispute in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, 1976, subject to the following modifications:

(i) The appointing authority under Article 7 of the Rules shall be the President, the Vice-President or the next senior Judge of the International Court of Justice, who is not a national of either Contracting Party. The third arbitrator shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

(ii) The parties shall appoint their respective arbitrators within two months.

(iii) The arbitral award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(iv) The arbitral tribunal shall state the basis of its decision and give reasons upon the request of either party.

ARTICLE 8

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, if possible, be settled through diplomatic channels.

2. If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot thus be settled, it shall upon the request of either Contracting Party be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

3. Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted for each individual case in the following way. Within two months of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting

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Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two (2) months from the date of appointment of the other two members.

4. If within the periods specified in paragraph 3 of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make the necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

5. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings; the cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties, and this award shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. The tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

ARTICLE 9

SUBROGATION

Where one Contracting Party or its designated agency has guaranteed any indemnity against non-commercial risks in respect of an investment by any of its investors in the territory of the other Contracting Party and has made payment to such investors in respect of their claims under this Agreement, the other Contracting Party agrees that the first Contracting Party or its designated agency is entitled by virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and assert the claims of those investors. The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claims of such investors.

ARTICLE 10

APPLICABLE LAWS

1. This Agreement shall apply to investments made in the territory of either Contracting Party in accordance with its laws, regulations or national policies by investors of the other Contracting Party prior to as well as after the entry into force of this Agreement.

2. Nothing in this Agreement precludes the host Contracting Party from taking necessary measures in accordance with its laws normally and reasonably applied on a non-discriminatory basis, in

circumstances of extreme emergency for the prevention of diseases or pests.

ARTICLE 11

ENTRY AND SOJOURN OF PERSONNEL

A Contracting Party shall, subject to its laws applicable from time to time relating to the entry and sojourn of noncitizens, permit nationals of the other Contracting Party and personnel employed by companies of the other Contracting Party to enter and remain in its territory

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for the purpose of engaging in activities connected with investments.

ARTICLE 12

APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES

If the provisions of law of either Contracting Party or obligations under international law existing at present or established hereafter between the Contracting Parties in addition to the present Agreement contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Contracting Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 13

AMENDMENT

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of both Contracting Parties at any time after it is in force. Any alteration or modification of this agreement shall be done without prejudice to the rights and obligations arising from this agreement prior to the date of such alteration or modification until such rights and obligations are fully implemented.

ARTICLE 14

ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the later date on which the Governments of the Contracting Parties have notified each other that their constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled. The later date shall refer to the date on which the last notification letter is sent.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten (10)

years, and shall continue in force, unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.

3. Either Contracting Party may by giving one (1) year's written notice to the other Contracting Party, terminate this Agreement at the end of the initial ten (10) year period or anytime thereafter.

4. With respect to investments made or acquired period to the date of termination of this Agreement, the provisions of all of the other Articles of this Agreement shall continue to be effective for a period of ten (10) years from such date of termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Kuala Lumpur this third day of August 1995 in Hindi, Bahasa Malaysia and the English Language, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
For the Government of the
Republic of India

Sd/-
For the Government of
Malaysia
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DIA MALAYSIA USA JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE - II

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation in the Development of Highways

The Government of India and the Government of Malaysia;

Recognising that the Government of Malaysia has experience in privatisation of infrastructure projects, in particular the extensive experience and expertise in privatisation of

expressways;

Recognising that the Government of India has embarked upon a programme of upgrading the National Highways networks throughout the country by additional development of Super National Highways (hereafter referred to as SNH programme);

Desiring to cooperate in the formulation of the strategy for the planning development and implementation of the SNH programme with private sector funding and considering the desire of the Government of India to benefit from the Government of Malaysia's extensive experience and expertise in such privatisation of expressways;

Desiring that the establishment of such cooperation would serve the common interest and contribute to the enhancement of the economic and social development of grading the National Highways networks the people of the both countries.

Have agreed as follows :

ARTICLE I

The Government of India and the Government of Malaysia are desirous of cooperating in the development and implementation of the SNH programme.

ARTICLE II

The Government of Malaysia is desirous of sharing its knowledge and experience in the privatisation of Infrastructural projects, in particular for the purpose of the development and implementation of the SNH programme.

ARTICLE III

The areas of cooperation may include the formulation of strategies, plan and chart of a definite framework and direction, coordination and organisation of fact finding, the gathering of requisite information, preparation and study of the most effective highway alignment, methods of land acquisition for the SNH programme.

ARTICLE IV

The Government of India and the Government of Malaysia envisage future and further cooperation and assistance to be provided in other infrastructural privatisation programmes in India and believe that the establishment of such cooperation will be constructive and productive.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Memorandum

of Understanding.

DONE at Kuala Lumpur on this Third day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninetyfive in two originals in English.

S/d

Signed for and on behalf of
the Government of India
Jagdish Tytler

S/d

Signed for and on behalf of
the Government of Malaysia
Sany Vellu
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DIA MALAYSIA USA

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Agreement for the Provision of Technical Training and Consultancy Services between Malaysia Space & Telecommunications Research Consortium and Antrix Corporation Limited

THIS AGREEMENT is made this 3rd day of August, 1995 between MALAYSIA SPACE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM, comprising of the members whose names are set out in the Schedule attached hereto (hereinafter referred to as "MAXSTAR"), with an address for correspondence at 1st Floor, Block B, Wisma Semantan, No. 12 Jalan Gelenggang, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and

ANTRIX CORPORATION LIMITED (hereinafter referred to as "ANTRIX"), a corporation existing under the laws of India with its principal office at Antariksh Complex, Near New BEL Road, Bangalore 560 094, India.

MAXSTAR and ANTRIX are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the members of MAXSTAR are desirous of cooperating in the development of the space industry in Malaysia and to this

end, they have on 13 January 1995 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") with ANTRIX for the provision by ANTRIX to MAXSTAR of satellite based services.

WHEREAS, ANTRIX is an Indian corporation under the administrative control of the Department of Space, Government of India, set up for the marketing of space products and services using the resources of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Department of Space.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the MOU, MAXSTAR has requested ANTRIX and ANTRIX has agreed to provide (a) technical training and (b) technical consultancy services to MAXSTAR upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set out.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed as follows:

1. PROVISION OF TECHNICAL TRAINING

1.1 ANTRIX hereby agrees to provide technical training (hereinafter referred to as "Training") to MAXSTAR, for the purposes of developing MAXSTAR's technical expertise in the field of space science and in particular microsatellite programmes. The Training will focus on, inter alia, the following :

- (a) examining various microsatellite missions ranging from scientific experimentation/applications to communications;
- (b) defining microsatellite configurations for specific missions;
- (c) spacecraft system engineering and integration of systems and subsystems used in microsatellites.

1.2 The Training will be held in Bangalore, India, at a date to be mutually agreed between the Parties. Cost of accommodation, travel and travel-related expenses for MAXSTAR's representatives undergoing the Training shall be borne by MAXSTAR.

1.3 The Training will be for a duration of total of thirty five (35) hours conducted over a period of five (5) days.
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1.4 MAXSTAR shall be entitled to nominate up to fifteen (15) representatives to attend the Training.

1.5 The Training will be conducted in the English language by an experienced and qualified personnel from ANTRIX.

1.6 ANTRIX agrees to make available to and allow MAXSTAR to use for whatever purpose all materials provided by ANTRIX during the course of the Training.

2. PROVISION OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

2.1 ANTRIX hereby agrees to provide technical consultancy services in the field of space science and in particular microsatellite programmes, commencing on 1 September 1995 for a period of two (2) months.

2.2 The scope of technical consultancy services (hereinafter referred to as "Consultancy Services") to be provided by ANTRIX shall include, inter alia, the following:

- (a) providing input into the strategy of the overall development of Malaysia's space science technology programme;
- (b) providing guidance and consultation on the development of the national microsatellite programme;
- (c) providing assistance to the Space Science Studies division of the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, Government of Malaysia.

3. CONSULTANT

3.1 For the purposes of providing the Consultancy Services, ANTRIX agrees to make available one (1) technical consultant (hereinafter referred to as "Consultant") to be stationed in Malaysia on a full time basis for the duration specified in Clause 2.1. The Consultant provided by ANTRIX shall remain unchanged for the duration of this Agreement, except by mutual consent of the Parties.

3.2 ANTRIX shall ensure that the Consultant it provides is experienced and qualified and is able to converse fluently in the English language. If requested by MAXSTAR, ANTRIX shall provide MAXSTAR with a full curriculum vitae of the Consultant.

3.3 MAXSTAR shall have the right, at any time, to request for a replacement of the Consultant provided by ANTRIX for the provision of the Consultancy Services if such Consultant is found to be unsuitable for the purposes contemplated herein. However MAXSTAR shall prior to any such request, provide ANTRIX with a statement of reasons for unsuitability, which shall be reasonably agreed by the Parties. In such an event, ANTRIX shall replace such Consultant at no additional cost to MAXSTAR as soon as possible.

3.4 Taking into account the need for expertise in different fields, the Parties may, by mutual consent, replace the Consultant, within the overall period of consultancy as defined in Clause 2.1.

4. CHARGES AND PAYMENT TERMS

4.1 In consideration of the provision of the Training by ANTRIX,

MAXSTAR hereby agreed to pay ANTRIX the sum of United States Dollars Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight (US \$ 27,778.00). Fifty percent of this amount is payable in advance and the balance on the completion of the Training.

4.2 In consideration of the Consultancy Services to be provided by the Consultant MAXSTAR hereby agrees to pay ANTRIX the sum of United States Dollars Twenty Seven Thousand
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Seven Hundred Seventy Eight (US \$ 27,778.00) per month payable monthly in advance.

4.3 Accommodation, airfare and traveling within Malaysia will be arranged by and the cost will be paid by MAXSTAR directly. The cost of the Consultant's other reasonable travelrelated expenses shall be borne by MAXSTAR against monthly invoices for the actual cost incurred by ANTRIX subject to a maximum of United States Dollars Fifty (US \$ 50.00) per day, duly supported by all relevant documentation.

4.4 All invoices for payment shall be addressed to Binariang Sdn Bhd, Block B, 1st Floor Wisma Semantan, 12 Jalan Gelenggang, Bukit Damanasara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (hereinafter referred to as "BINARIANG") Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoices from ANTRIX.

4.5 BINARIANG reserves to right to withhold from payments due to ANTRIX ten percent (10%) withholding tax and pay the same to the Malaysian Inland Revenue Department in Compliance with the Malaysian tax laws.

5.INSURANCE

5.1 During the term of the Consultancy Services stated in Clause 2.1, ANTRIX shall ensure that the Consultant is covered by all necessary insurance (or equivalent self insurance) including disability insurance, workers compensation insurance, comprehensive general liability insurance and other insurance required by Malaysian law to be procured which is adequate to cover any liability for injury to persons to loss or damage to property caused by the Consultant.

6.CONFIDENTIALITY

6.1 ANTRIX shall ensure that all information received by the Consultant or any other employees, personnel or agents of ANTRIX in the course of providing the Consultancy Services shall not be disclosed to any third party except.

(a) with the written consent of MAXSTAR;

(b) if the information is lawfully in the possession of ANTRIX or

the Consultant through sources other than the members of MAXSTAR;

(c) if required by law to be disclosed;

(d) in connection with legal proceedings by authority of a court of competent jurisdiction;

(e) if the information is or becomes generally and publicly available but not as a result of breach by ANTRIX or its Consultant of its obligations under this Agreement; or

(f) if required by the respective Governments of the Parties.

6.2 ANTRIX shall ensure that the Consultant and any of its employees, personnel or agents to whom information is disclosed by any of the members of MAXSTAR pursuant to this Agreement shall undertake to observe the confidentiality undertakings herein. ANTRIX shall protect all information of the members of MAXSTAR using not less than the standard of care with which it treats its own confidential information but in no event less than reasonable care and shall ensure that the information is stored and handled in such a way as to prevent unauthorised disclosure.

6.3 The obligations of confidentiality here in shall survive the termination of this Agreement and remain binding on the Parties without limitation of time.

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7. USE OF DOCUMENTATION

7.1 ANTRIX agrees to make available to and allow the members of MAXSTAR to use for whatever purpose all documentation and materials prepared by the Consultant or employees, personnel or agents of ANTRIX in connection with the provision of the Consultancy Services. All documentation and materials prepared pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed confidential information and the obligations of confidentiality stated in Clause 6 shall be applicable.

8. TERMINATION

8.1 MAXSTAR shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, at any time without giving any reason whatsoever, by giving fourteen (14) days written notice. Upon termination, MAXSTAR shall be released from its obligations under this Agreement provided that ANTRIX shall be paid for (a) Consultancy Services performed up to the date of termination; and (b) the balance owing for any reimbursable expenses incurred by ANTRIX and properly under this Agreement if any).

8.2 ANTRIX hereby agrees that termination of this Agreement under this Clause 8 shall not constitute a breach or default by MAXSTAR under this Agreement and that the payments to ANTRIX as provided

in this Clause shall constitute full and final payment of all and any claims by ANTRIX against MAXSTAR arising from termination under this Clause 8.

9. VARIATION OR MODIFICATION TO AGREEMENT

9.1 No variation, modification or alteration of any provisions of this Agreement shall be effective unless made with the prior written agreement of the Parties.

10. WAIVER

10.1 Failure by either Party at any time to require performance by the other Party or to claim breach of any provision of this Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach nor affect the effectiveness of this Agreement nor prejudice either Party as regards any action.

11. GOVERNING LAW

11.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Malaysia.

12. AGREEMENT EXECUTED IN TWO ORIGINALS

12.1 This Agreement is executed in two (2) original texts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have signed this Agreement on the day and year first abovewritten.

BINARIANG SDN BHD as authorised signatory for the members of MAXSTAR for the purpose of signing of this Agreement

ANTRIX CORPORATION LIMITED

Sd

Name: TUN HAJI MOHAMMED

HANIF BIN OMAR

Title : Chairman

Sd

Name:N.SAMPATH

Title:Executive Director

THE SCHEDULE

The members of MAXSTAR comprise the following entities:

1. Bahagian Kajian Sains Angkasa (BAKSA), Prime Minister's Department, Government of Malaysia.

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2 Binariang Sdn Bhd

3. Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems (MIMOS)

4. Telekom. Malaysia Berhad

5. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

6. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

7. Universiti Malaya (UM)

8. Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
(UTM)

9. Universiti Pertanian Malaysia
(UPM)

10. HICOM Communications Sdn Bhd

LAOS USA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Memorandum of Understanding between Doordarshan and Measat Broadcast Network Systems SDN BHD

DOORDARSHAN ("Doordarshan") and MEASAT BROADCAST NETWORK SYSTEMS SDN BHD (Measat Broadcast") wish to record their understanding in this Memorandum dated the Third day of August 1995.

WHEREAS

A.1 Doordarshan is the national broadcasting organisation of the Republic of India and operates terrestrial and satellite free-to-air broadcasting services throughout the Republic of India. Its free-to-air satellite broadcasting service is operated in the Republic of India using the INSAT satellite system utilising C-Band and S-Band transponders.

II. Doordarshan owns and operates about seven hundred (700) terrestrial television transmitters with a coverage of about 85% of the geographical area of the Republic of India. In addition, it owns and operates a network of more than 30 programme production studios with an aggregate production output of approximately twenty-five thousand (25,000) hours of new programmes and 100 movies every year and has built up a vast film library.

III. Doordarshan is interested in enhancing, developing and broadening its existing broadcasting services by introducing a Direct-to-User ("DTU") satellite broadcast service in the

Republic of India. Doordarshan is also keen in exploring the opportunities available to exploit its existing programme library and to develop new premier programming for exhibition on different release windows like pay-per-view, pay television and free television.

B.I Measat Broadcast, a company incorporated in Malaysia, is exclusively licensed by the Malaysian Government to provide multi-channel DTU satellite broadcast services in Malaysia utilising the high-powered Ku-band transponder payload of the Malaysia East Asia Satellite (MEASAT) system. Measat Broadcast has secured the exclusive use of all the Ku-band transponders, over the Republic of India, on the MEASAT system for its Broadcast activities.

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II. The MEASAT system which will initially comprise the MEASAT-1 and MEASAT-2 satellites, will be colocated at the prime 91-50 East longitude and is being fully IFRB coordinated for all frequencies over the Republic of India and other coverage regions. The MEASAT Ku-band system is specifically designed to deliver world standard quality service to equatorial rain belt targets in Asia, in particular, Malaysia, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Philippines, Indonesia (Java), Vietnam and Northeastern Australia.

III. The MEASAT system has a footprint over the Republic of India with an average power of 55 dBW, and has been allocated broadcast frequencies in the 10.95 and 12.417 GHz range with a capacity to provide at least 60 video channels capable of reception on a 50-60 cm satellite dish with a guaranteed reception availability of 99.95% Measat Broadcast has secured adequate channel capacity for its DTU operations and enhanced services such as pay-per-view.

IV. Measat Broadcast has developed or otherwise acquired significant expertise in digital broadcast technology including marketing and management of pay television system. It is also affiliated to and associated with a number of organisations with significant interest in the information, communication, media and telecommunications industry ("the Measat group"), for example, Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd which owns and operates the MEASAT system of satellites carrying communication and broadcast payload and Philippines Animation Studios Inc, a leading international animation studio which employs in excess of 600 animators in Philippines and Vietnam.

V. Measat Broadcast will undertake broadcast of its services from the Asia Broadcast Centre in Kuala Lumpur to the entire service coverage region. The Broadcast Centre will contain sophisticated and state-of-the-art broadcast equipment for digitisation, compression, and encryption of signals, sophisticated subscriber management system and conditional access system, broadcast studios, editing suits, uplink and downlink facilities and

training facilities.

NOW THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING provides as follows:

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTIES

1.1 Doordarshan and Measat Broadcast (together, "the parties") have agreed to enter into long term arrangements to enhance programming and introduce new delivery systems to expand the range of existing broadcasting services in the Republic of India and accordingly enter into this Memorandum of Understanding ("this Memorandum") to cooperate and collaborate with each other to establish and operate by way of contract or through a joint undertaking ("this operating Company") to implement, inter alia, the following matters and any other activity which will be to the parties' mutual benefit ("Broadcasting Business Venture"):

1.1.1 Jointly develop or procure a range of quality new programmes to support diverse channel offering such as premier Hindi movies, sports, news, music and premier English movies for use by the Operating Company, Doordarshan, and Measat Broadcast and to optimise revenues from release windows such as pay-per-view, paytv and free-tv.

1.1.2 Jointly develop and produce a premium channel of "niche" Indian programming which will be broadcast, in appropriate release windows in the Republic of
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India by Doordarshan including all its Channels on INSAT and other Satellites, and the Operating Company and be available to Measat Broadcast for distribution in other territories on commercial terms to be settled between the parties.

1.1.3 Jointly develop and market an encrypted DTU satellite broadcasting service in the Republic of India using the MEASAT system offering initially at least six (6) channels of programming which could be expanded to include pay-per-view and near video-on-demand capability and other interactive services, subject to coordination of MEASAT 1, 2 and 3 Ku-bands with its neighbouring satellites.

2. SCHEDULE

2.2 Upon execution of this Memorandum of Understanding:

2.2.1 The parties shall discuss, negotiate and agree on principal terms and conditions for the contractual terms of collaboration with a view to implement the Broadcasting Business Venture envisaged by this Memorandum of Understanding.

2.2.2 The parties shall jointly prepare a Business Plan by 31st October 1995, to determine a suitable method, including the

formation of an Operating Company to undertake and implement all the activities envisaged by this Memorandum of Understanding and the agreement stated in 2.2.1.

2.2.3 Subject to the findings of the Business Plan and having obtained the Indian Government approval, the parties shall immediately set up and establish a Joint Venture Company in the Republic of India to be used for the Broadcasting Business Venture in which Doordarshan shall have the majority equity.

2.2.4 Doordarshan shall obtain all relevant consents and approvals from the Government of the Republic of India and other relevant authorities including the Registrar of Companies, the Foreign Investment Promotions Board and the Reserve Bank of the Republic of India to enable its participation in the joint Operating Company;

2.2.5 The parties shall immediately identify the key personnel from their respective organisations who will undertake the negotiations stated in 2.2.1 and the development of the Business Plan as stated in 2.2.2. Measat Broadcast undertakes to bear all initial start up costs, including the preparation of the Business Plan, which will be subsequently for the account of the Joint Operating Company.

2.2.6 The parties shall undertake all necessary work to commence the operations of the Broadcasting Business Venture by April 1996 or such other date as the DTU satellite broadcast service in relations to services in the Republic of India is operational and transmission from the Asia Broadcast Centre in Kuala Lumpur and Doordarshan uplink facilities in the Republic of India respectively take place.

3. THE PARTIES RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The proposed Broadcasting Business Venture will require access to the broadcasting infrastructure of the Republic of India and the parties recognise that the participation and
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cooperation of strategic parties in the Indian broadcasting industry are fundamental. To this end, Doordarshan agrees to approach the relevant parties, corporations and governmental authorities and negotiate and seek the commitment of the said parties to the Broadcasting Business Venture.

3.2 To advance the objectives of the parties stated herein, Doordarshan shall assume responsibility to the joint venture company for inter alia the following matters to:

3.2.1 Obtaining or securing from the Indian Government or other authorities, subject to Indian Laws and Regulations, such licences, consents, approvals and permits that may be required

for the conduct of business and in relation to the Broadcasting Business Venture, including but not limited to downlinking from outside the Republic of India or uplinking from within the Republic of India, and for the use of any wireless telegraphy apparatus for broadcasting;

3.2.2 Liaising with the Indian Central Government, State authorities and private Corporations in the setting up of a retail distribution network and a revenue collection service in respect of the Broadcasting Business Venture;

3.2.3 Make available to the DTU service all new general programming and movies of release windows as Doordarshan finds appropriate for pay-per-view and pay tv and for pay tv, a release window at least prior to general release over free-to-air television in order to optimise the attractiveness of the DTU service;

3.3 Measat Broadcast shall assume responsibility to the joint operating Company for the following matters including but not limited to:

3.3.1 Allocate the use of the approved broadcast frequencies of the MEASAT System to the joint Operating Company for the undertaking of the Broadcast Business Venture and any other commercial activities decided by the parties;

3.3.2 Provide uplink and downlink facilities, production, post-production, dubbing and others studio facilities and services from the Asia Broadcast Centre in Kuala Lumpur;

3.3.3 Obtain and secure from relevant Malaysian Government authorities such licences, consents, approvals and permits that may be required for the conduct of the broadcasting Business Venture;

3.3.4 Procure and/or assign rights to programmes and other software to the Joint Operating Company acquired by Measat Broadcast for exploitation under the Broadcasting Business Venture company;

3.3.5 Secure animation programmes and software from the Measat group and from other sources for exploitation by the Broadcasting Business Venture;

3.3.6 Provide operational expertise and know-how in relation to the encrypted DTU services, in particular with regard to Subscriber Management Systems, conditional access, Integrated Receiver Decoder, and interactive services.

4. JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

4.1 The parties shall negotiate, subject to be determined under

clause 2.2.2,a
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Joint Venture Agreement which shall set forth the rights and obligations of the parties as shareholders of a joint venture company ("JV Company") to undertake the Broadcasting Business Venture. Subject to clause 2.2.3, Measat Broadcast shall be entitled to take up the maximum equity position in the joint venture company as permitted under the existing laws of the Republic of India.

4.2 It is agreed that if the JV Company is established all the associated cost of setting up the JV Company shall be borne by the parties in proportion to their respective shareholding in the JV Company.

4.3 The parties further agree that they shall endeavour to explore, consider and recommend the best ways and means of developing the Broadcasting Business Venture and the JV Company in line with the broad objectives stated in clause 2 above. It is envisaged that the parties shall explore such opportunities including but not limited to:

4.3.1 Jointly identify, procure or create suitable scripts for developing, producing, and expanding a library of programmes or software including animation programmes based on common cultural values which can be targeted not only to viewership in the Republic of India but extended to give a global appeal.

4.3.2 Jointly exploit and optimise release windows for all new programming in the areas of pay-per-view, pay-television and free-to-air television in the Republic of India, Malaysia and other regional and international markets;

4.3.3 Jointly exploit the frequencies allocated over the Republic of India on the Measat System to provide new and additional services to government and commercial users in the Republic of India and to lease transponder capacity on the Measat Satellite systems.

4.3.4 Sourcing and securing major producers, production houses and programme suppliers in the Republic of India and elsewhere in relation to the purchase, joint production and distribution of programmes;

4.3.5 Setting up of dubbing and production facilities with a view of tapping regional niche markets;

4.3.6 Exploitation of all programmes and software created and produced by the Joint venture such as to optimise the release windows, in particular with regard to DTU service by the joint venture company and by Measat Broadcast and free to air service by Doordarshan;

4.3.7 Jointly develop a comprehensive distribution system to market the DTU service compatible with the Measat DTU system of the end user hardware and software systems such as the Integrated Receiver Decoder, Subscriber Management System and Conditional Access System.

4.3.8 Importation or manufacture, and distribution of satellite dishes, Integrated Receiver Decoders, Television Broadcast equipment, delivery systems and all other related equipment and other related equipment for the DTU service.

5.CONFIDENTIALITY

5.1 The Parties hereto undertake with each other that they will at all times keep confidential and will not at any time use, divulge or communicate to any person other than to their respective officers, employees or agents and such officers, employees and agents of the Government of the Republic of India whose province it is to

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know the same, all negotiations carried on in respect of the Broadcasting Business Venture and this Memorandum of Understanding and the fact that such negotiations are carried out, and any information concerning the business, accounts, finance or contractual arrangements or other dealings, transactions or affairs of one party and its related companies which are provided from one party to the other and that they will use their best endeavours to prevent the publication or disclosure of any confidential information concerning such matters.

5.2 The above confidentiality undertaking shall not apply to information which is or becomes generally and publicly available, but not as a result of breach by either party of its obligations under this clause.

5.3 Any information disclosed by one party to the other shall be used strictly in relation to the activities to be performed under this Memorandum and for the purpose of the negotiations and discussions between the parties concerning the subject matter herein and for no other purpose whatsoever.

5.4 All information confidential or proprietary to a party shall be returned to that party forthwith upon its request by the other.

5.5 Any announcements proposed to be made by either party in respect of the Broadcasting Business Venture, this Memorandum or the negotiations pertaining thereto shall only be made after the prior consultation with and agreement of the other party.

6. TERM

The parties agree that this Memorandum shall expire on the earlier of (i) the date of execution of a Joint Venture Agreement by the parties, or (ii) twelve (12) months from the date of execution of this Memorandum or such later date as the parties may agree in writing.

7. EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATION

The parties hereto hereby undertake with each other that during the continuance of this Memorandum they shall negotiate exclusively with each other in respect of the establishment, operation and development of the Broadcasting Business Venture and undertake not to engage or be interested or concerned in any capacity whatsoever with any other parties in respect of the Broadcasting Business Venture.

8. COSTS

Each of the parties herein undertakes to bear its own costs in relation to and arising from this Memorandum.

9. INTENT OF THE PARTIES

This Memorandum sets out the intention of the parties to undertake the activities stated herein save for clause 2.2.2 insofar as it regulates the form of the Operating Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands on the date and year first written above.

SIGNED by
V K NAMBIAR
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA
IN MALAYSIA
For and on behalf of
DOORDARSHAN

in the presence of
(Deepak Vohra)
Deputy High Commissioner
High Commission of India
Kuala Lumpur

SIGNED by
SYED HUSSEIN BIN SYED ABU BAKAR
DIRECTOR
For and on behalf of
MEASAT BROADCAST NETWORK
SYSTEMS SDN BHD

in the presence of
RALPH MARSHAL

A INDIA MALAYSIA INDONESIA PHILIPPINES VIETNAM AUSTRALIA CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Aug 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Memorandum of Understanding between Confederation of Indian Industry and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the Confederation of Indian Industry, referred to as CII and the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as MIDA.

Whereas it is the mutual wish of both CII and MIDA to assist in the promotion and development of industrial co-operation as well as overseas investment between India and Malaysia.

It is now, therefore, agreed between CII, represented by its President, Mr. Rajiv Kaul

And

MIDA, represented by its Director-General, Dato' Zainun Aishah Ahmed as follows:

1. Both CII and MIDA will:

(a) Take the initiative to exchange disseminate information on economic and industrial development to facilitate the identification of investment opportunities;

(b) Provide assistance to businessmen of both countries to facilitate the establishment of business or investment activities;

(c) Assist each other in identification of suitable partners interested in investment and technical collaboration in establishing manufacturing projects in either countries;

(d) Co-organize meetings and seminars in both countries to promote investment, exchange of technology, joint-ventures and exports;

(e) Take all such steps as may be necessary and feasible to

promote industrial cooperation between the two countries;

(f) Hold joint meetings when necessary and during the course of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding.

2. In the event that CII or MIDA is involved in any investment mission or seminar which is sent or held in the country of the other party, such other party shall render assistance and cooperation in order that investment in such other country may be facilitated;

3. CII and MIDA shall act in good faith in implementing the items described in this Memorandum of Understanding, but shall not assume any legal obligation in this regard.

4. Neither CII or MIDA shall have any financial obligation to the other except for the reimbursement of expenses relating to a specific project which may from time to time be mutually agreed.

5. This Memorandum of Understanding shall not preclude either CII or MIDA from entering into similar arrangements with any other party.

6. This Memorandum of Understanding is for an initial period of three years starting on the date on which it is signed, and may be renewed by an exchange of letters between CII and MIDA. In the absence of such letters,
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the Memorandum of Understanding shall be deemed to have expired at the end of its term. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been executed by the duly authorised

representative of CII and MIDA on August 3, 1995.

on behalf of CII
Rajive Kaul
President

on behalf of MIDA
Dato' Zainun Aishah Ahmad
Director-General
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DIA MALAYSIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Aug 14, 1995

September

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SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MADAGASCAR COMOROS
MALAYSIA MALDIVES TURKMENISTAN THAILAND PAKISTAN REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SRI
LANKA ISRAEL UZBEKISTAN

Date : Sep 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

ARGENTINA

Bilateral Discussions of the External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Ministers of eight countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Sep 28, 1995 on bilateral discussions of the External
Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee with the Foreign
Ministers of eight countries:

Apart from attending the Foreign Ministers meeting of the G-15,

the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, today (27th September, 1995) had an extremely busy schedule and held bilateral discussions with the Foreign Ministers of eight countries. The talks focussed on the need for the reform of the UN system, the expansion of the Security Council, the threat to national sovereignty and international peace & security posed by terrorism apart from various bilateral issues.

In his meeting with the Vice Chancellor & Foreign Minister of Germany the situation of hostages held by the Al Faran in J & K was discussed. The German Foreign Minister conveyed his appreciation of the Government of India's willingness to do its best to ensure the safety of the hostages who include a German national, apart from nationals of USA & UK. The two leaders also exchanged their perceptions of the process of the expansion of Security Council.

During the discussions with the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Herve De Charvette, the External Affairs Minister conveyed tour deep concern regarding the supply of arms to Pakistan by France. He pointed to the destabilising nature of the sale of submarines and Exocet missiles and explained that these would only result in fueling an arms race. Various bilateral economic issues were also discussed apart from the subject of Security Council reform.

Dr. Mate Granic, the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Croatia, briefed External Affairs Minister regarding the status of talks presently underway between Croatia, Bosnia & FRY to resolve the crisis in the Balkans, Shri Mukherjee expressed his hope that a peaceful and just solution would be achieved.

In addition, Shri Mukherjee also met the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss various regional issues, the Italian Foreign Minister Ms Susana Agnelli, the Belgian Foreign Minister Mr. Derycke, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mr. Gueorgia Pirinski and the Slovak Foreign Minister Mr. Juraj Schenk to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues of common interest.

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GENTINA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY FRANCE PAKISTAN CROATIA IRAN
BULGARIA

Date : Sep 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA CROATIA & YUGOSLAVIA

Welcoming of the Joint Statement and Agreement by the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 12, 1995 on welcoming of the Joint Statement and the agreement by the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Geneva:

Government of India welcomes the Joint Statement and the Agreement on Basic Principles arrived at by the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at their meeting in Geneva on 8th September, 1995 under the auspices of the Contact Group.

Government of India have consistently maintained that only a negotiated political settlement which is just, equitable and acceptable to all the parties concerned can provide the basis for an enduring solution to the conflict in Bosnia and other parts of the former Yugoslavia. It notes that, for the first time, all the concerned parties have agreed to a common approach. The present Agreement, therefore, could provide a basis for further negotiations leading up to a political settlement.

Government of India have always maintained that there is no military solution to the conflict, and have always condemned the killings and ethnic cleansing which have taken place in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other parts of former Yugoslavia. It hopes that all the concerned parties will continue to negotiate to arrive at a satisfactory political settlement, and will strive to bring peace to their suffering peoples.

CROATIA YUGOSLAVIA INDIA SWITZERLAND USA

Date : Sep 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Visits Jewel Craft '95

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1995 on visit of Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister to Jewel Craft '95:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development, Bulgaria, Mr. Roumen Gechev visited Jewel Craft '95, the Gold Jewellery Exhibition here today. He evinced keen interest in the gold jewellery items on display from all over India.

The Jewel Craft '95 exhibition has been organised by the MMTC Ltd. in collaboration with the World Gold Council and has on display a collection of gold chains, rings, bangles, kadas and tops etc. from Coimbatore, Bangalore, Kanaikudi, Madras, Hyderabad, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Delhi made to exacting standards and its purity certified by MMTC Ltd.

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LGARIA INDIA

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Commonwealth Action Plan on Women Adopted

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 04, 1995 on adoption of a Commonwealth Action Plan on Women in Beijing:

A new Commonwealth Plan of Action, 1995 on women was adopted in Beijing last night on the eve of the 4th World Conference on Women. It seeks to provide a strategic, forward looking and practical framework for gender mainstreaming.

Addressing the meeting of Commonwealth ministers, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Smt. Basavarajeshwari said that the action plan on gender and development represents a landmark in Commonwealth cooperation. She described the formulation of the policy as timely and appropriate.

Smt. Basavarajeshwari pointed out that it would not be enough to integrate women into existing structures and Policies. There is need for resetting priorities and taking a new look at the processes of development through women's perspectives and participation. The new Commonwealth plan on women attempts to institutionalise a gender management system within a set of core policy imperatives through which the different outcomes of development of women and men can be assessed and non priorities

set out, she said.

INA INDIA

Date : Sep 04, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Inter Parliamentary Union Meeting Opens in Beijing

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1995 on the Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting in Beijing:

The Inter-Parliamentary union meeting opened in Beijing today where the parliamentarians world over will adopt a resolution expressing support and solidarity with the 4th World Conference on Women now in progress in the Chinese capital. The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptullah and about 50 women MPs from India including several union ministers attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Dr. Heptullah had a meeting yesterday with Mr. Li Rui Huan, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. She also had talks with Ms. Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General of the Women's Conference. The Members of Parliament had also had several interactions with a cross-section of opinion makers like the NGOs at Huairou, near Beijing, members of delegations of other countries and attending plenary sessions and group meetings.

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INA INDIA

Date : Sep 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India Scores off Major Victory on International Commitment in Women's Conference

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1995 on a major victory on International Commitment in Women's Conference in Beijing:

India has scored a major victory in ensuring international commitment to women's welfare programme in addition to national commitments. The victory has come despite stiff initial opposition from the Western block at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing.

While the draft Platform for Action (PFA) to be adopted at the conference in para 293 has talked only of national commitments, India had taken the firm stand that commitment from the international community including financial institutions and donor agencies would also be essential. India also pointed out at the working group meeting where the issue was being discussed that national commitments had already been made by States in country statements at the plenary session.

While the working group meeting was adjourned because of opposition of the Western block, the G-77 countries unanimously supported and endorsed India's proposal. Finally the Western block also has come round to support India's move and the PFA, when adopted, is expected to reflect that the 4th World Women's Conference is one of commitment and action by Governments and the international community. Other countries have complimented India for its success in building into the document the principle of international community's commitment.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India's Key Role in Beijing Conference

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 19, 1995 on India's key role in Beijing Conference:

India played a key role at the just concluded fourth World

Conference in Beijing in shaping the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (PFA). The two documents reflected India's priorities and concerns for its advancement and empowerment of women. These included eradication of poverty, sustained economic growth, commitment of the international community, access to market and technology, emphasis on the girl child and the adverse impact of terrorism on women. Women's participation in decision making process and the critical role of education and health were some of the other issues stressed by India which were reflected in the two documents.

The Beijing Declaration and the PFA were adopted after 12 days of arduous negotiations. India, along with Canada co-chaired the drafting committee for the declaration. The detailed action plan or PFA involved intense successful lobbying by India for carrying its concerns. India was also the first country to announce its unreserved acceptance of the two documents which was granted with loud applause at the final plenary session.

The draft PFA had been discussed at preparatory meetings for the last year and a half during which about 80 per cent of the document was cleared and the sections on which there was disagreement were left in brackets. At the Beijing Conference two main working groups examined in detail the bracketed sections. During the deliberations, India played a constructive role facilitating consensus on vital areas of concern.

India actively lobbied for inclusion of its stand on major issues and also provided support to formulations proposed by others

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which would improve the chances of securing women's empowerment. A striking feature was that the official delegation worked in concert with the NGO groups from India.

In the PFA, under the section 'Mission Statement' which emphasised on women's empowerment as its main plank, India made a successful bid for inclusion of sustained economic growth and development as the key factor. It was the only section where the agreed and unbracketed text was altered.

In the section 'Global Framework' there was intense debate between the European Union and the Islamic countries on empowerment, human rights and implementation strategies in view of differing priorities, policies and socio-cultural factors. India succeeded in putting together a balanced draft which was finally accepted covering empowerment, human rights and sovereign responsibilities of the countries.

India mobilised support for acceptance of the right to development as an inalienable right and to overcome poverty within the framework of sustained economic growth and sustainable development. It was instrumental in securing commitment from the

developed countries to provide new and additional resources.

Violence against women was acknowledged as one of main obstacles to achieving the goal of equality, development and peace. India strongly projected terrorism as contributing towards increased violence against women which was included in the PFA.

INA INDIA USA CANADA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Indo-China Task Force on Coal Meets Tomorrow

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1995 on the meeting of the Indo-China Task Force on Coal:

The first meeting of the Indo-China Task Force on Coal will begin in Beijing, China tomorrow. The task force will review the progress of the on-going projects being undertaken by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) with Chinese assistance. The Task Force is led by Shri R. K. Sachdev, Advisor (Projects), Ministry of Coal.

During the three day meeting the matters regarding procurement of Chinese Powered Support Longwall Equipment, Briquetting of Coal and Indigenous development of Longwall Equipment and spares by Coal India Limited will be monitored. The progress of Padmavathi Khani project of SCCL will be also reviewed. China has provided two sets of Longwall equipment and one trunk conveyor for this project. Progress in regard to Indian offer of assistance to China in development of opencast mines in China will also be reviewed.

The task force was constituted during the second meeting of Indo-China Working Group held in December, 1994, at New Delhi. The main objective of the task force is expedite the implementation of projects taken up with Chinese Cooperation. It comprises of representatives of Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Ministry of Coal Industry of People's Republic of China, and concerned enterprises CIL, SCCL.

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Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Visit of Prime Minister Rasmussen and Mrs. Lone Dybkjaer to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 06, 1995 on visit of Prime Minister Rasmussen and Mrs. Lone Dybkjaer of Denmark to India:

Prime Minister Rasmussen and Mrs. Lone Dybkjaer arrived in New Delhi last night, on the inaugural SAS flight from Copenhagen. They were received by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid.

Today, the Danish Prime Minister was given a ceremonial reception in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhawan, in the presence of the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and of the diplomatic corps.

Prime Minister Rasmussen and his wife called on the President and Smt. Sharma, Prime Minister Rasmussen talked about the continuing influence of Mahatma Gandhi in Denmark. The President and the Danish Prime Minister had an exchange of views on bilateral relations and on the evolution of the European Union. The President hosted a lunch in their honour.

In response to Prime Minister Rasmussen's request for the President's views on relations with Pakistan, the President said that the only possible solution to any problem between the two countries must be found peacefully and through bilateral discussions.

In the evening, Prime Minister had talks with Prime Minister Rasmussen, accompanied by their delegations, followed by a dinner which Prime Minister hosted.

The Prime Ministers expressed their keen interest in strengthening all aspects of bilateral relations, building on the very cordial political relations between Denmark and India to deepen and broaden areas of economic cooperation. A Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement, and a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations, were signed in the presence of the Prime

Ministers.

Prime Minister briefed the Danish Prime Minister on domestic and regional issues of interest, including our determination to fight terrorism. The Danish Prime Minister conveyed his condolences on the assassination of the late Chief Minister of Punjab.

Views were exchanged on non-proliferation and security issues. The Prime Minister conveyed that India's security concerns went well beyond South Asia, but reiterated our commitment to the promotion of disarmament and genuine non-proliferation, through global and non-discriminatory undertakings in line with India's 1988 Action Plan.

Views were also exchanged on the ongoing discussions in the UN on the expansion of the Security Council.

NMARK USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Sep 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

DENMARK

Visit of the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Poul NyrupRasmussen to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1995 on visit of the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen to India:

The Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen will be paying an official visit to India from 5-15 September 1995. This will be the first visit by a Danish Head of Government to India since that of Prime Minister Poul Schluter to India in 1987. It is also the first major official visit abroad by Mr. Rasmussen. The Danish Prime Minister will be accompanied
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by his wife Mrs. Lone Dybkjaer and a high level business delegation of more than 60 executives from Danish corporations.

2. The Danish Prime Minister's programme in Delhi includes a call on the President and the Vice President and a meeting with the Prime Minister. The Ministers of Finance, External Affairs and Commerce would also be calling on him. The Danish Prime Minister will be addressing a select audience on the European Union at the

India International Centre on 6.9.95, and he will inaugurate a Trade Seminar organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) at the Maurya Sheraton hotel.

3. A Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement will be signed during the visit, as will a Memorandum of Understanding between CII and the Confederation of Danish Industries.

4. The Danish Prime Minister, accompanied by the business delegation, would also be paying a visit to Calcutta, Agra, Bangalore and Bombay, before departure for Denmark scheduled for the morning of 15 September.

NMARK INDIA USA

Date : Sep 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

SAARC Secretary Level meeting on Poverty Alleviation Tomorrow

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 05, 1995 on SAARC Secretary level meeting on poverty alleviation:

The SAARC group of Secretaries concerned with poverty alleviation and Social Development are meeting in New Delhi tomorrow. The meeting is aimed at assessing the efficacy of the poverty eradication mechanism in the region and will serve as a meeting point for exchange of information on experiences of member States.

The meeting will review the status of formulation of national level poverty eradication programmes in each of the member states. Besides presenting country papers, the members will share their experiences in anti poverty programme.

It may be recalled that at the Eighth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in May 1995, the Leaders had "committed themselves to addressing the fundamental causes of poverty and to provide for the basic needs of all".

DIA USA

Date : Sep 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed between India and Denmark

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1995 on Investment Protection and Protection Agreement signed between India and Denmark:

An Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed between India and Denmark, here yesterday. The Agreement was signed by Secretary Banking Dr. Y. V. Reddy and Ambassador of Denmark, Mr. Bjarne H. Sorensen in the presence of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the Danish Prime Minister, Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen. The Agreement will impart a new momentum

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to the continuing Indo-Danish economic relations particularly making investment by Danish companies to India more attractive.

The broad intent of the Agreement is to promote and protect investment from either country into the other. "Investment" is defined broadly as every kind of asset including intellectual property rights invested in accordance with the national laws of the country in which the investment is made. Each country is required to accord treatment which is fair and equitable and to provide full protection and security to investments from the other country. The core of the Agreement lies in its positive assertion of the principles of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and National Treatment. MFN is fundamental, requiring each Government to accord treatment no less favourable than that accorded to investors of any other third State. National Treatment shall also be extended to investments. Departures from MFN and National Treatment will be permissible on matters concerning taxation. Further, the Agreement provides that nationalisation or expropriation shall not be resorted to except in the public interest, by laws and on a non-discriminatory basis, and against compensation. Nationalisation or expropriation shall also be subject to review by a judicial or other independent authority. There are also special conditions under which compensation for losses can be paid. Each country shall grant to investors of the other country the free transfer of investments and returns. There is also a subrogation Article which requires each Government to

recognise rights and claims which may have been subrogated by investors of the other country to its Government or designated agency.

The Agreement provides elaborate dispute resolution mechanism to guide disputes between an investor and the host government, as well as between the two governments. For settlement of disputes between an investor and the host government, provisions have been incorporated for prior negotiations to resolve disputes as well as for conciliation and international arbitration.

The Agreement also provides that either Government shall subject to its laws relating to the entry and sojourn of noncitizens, permit nationals of the other State and personnel employed by companies of the other State to enter and remain in its territory for the purpose of engaging in activities connected with investments. The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of both Governments at any time after it is in force. The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years and may thereafter continue in force indefinitely unless either Government gives one year's written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement at any time after the initial ten year period.

It is perceived that the Agreement will serve as a major catalyst for investment flows from either country. The Danish Prime Minister is currently leading a large delegation representing a cross section of Danish industry. The high powered delegation has evinced considerable interest in cementing several business partnerships involving equity investment.

The Agreement with Denmark is the fifth such agreement signed by India and follows broadly similar agreements with Malaysia and Germany (July, 1995), Russia (December 1994) and UK (March 1994).
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DIA DENMARK USA MALAYSIA RUSSIA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

UNDP Project for Promoting Export of Indian Spices

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on

Sep 13, 1995 on UNDP Project for promoting export of Indian spices:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), along with the Government of India, is implementing a project for promoting the export of valueadded spices from India, upgrading the quality and generating income and employment opportunities in the spice growing areas of the country. The project, being implemented since April 1994, is of 3 years' duration with a total outlay of US \$ 1,772,987 (or \$ 1.7 million). Of this, the UNDP contribution is \$ 968,500 while the counterpart input is \$ 804,487, with the Spices Board as the executing agency on behalf of the Government of India.

There are already several schemes of assistance to spice exporters such as Brand Promotion, Logo Promotion and grant of "Spices House Certificate". The Logo Mark is awarded to exporters of spices in consumer packs and only on fulfilment of stipulated conditions for hygienic processing, packaging and product quality. Under the Brand Promotion Scheme, interest-free long term loan upto a maximum of 50% of the promotion cost for a period of 3 years is provided by the Spices Board to exporters of spices in consumer packs for promoting their individual trends in overseas markets. Emphasising the importance of clean spices, a concept of "Spice House" has been introduced and is awarded only to those exporters who fulfil the prescribed quality standards and have necessary processing infrastructure for clean, quality spices. The objective is to create a group of dedicated quality conscious, long-term exporters who will keep pace with the changes in the international market.

Export of spices is freely allowed under the present Exim Policy. As against the total estimated production of 20 lakh tonnes, the normal export of spices has been in the range of 1 to 1.75 lakh metric tonnes. The size of domestic market, thus, can be estimated to be around 18.25 lakh to 19 lakh metric tonnes per annum. Export of spices from India have shown an increasing trend during the last three years. Pepper is the most important spice exported from India. Cardamom, chillies, ginger, turmeric, seed spices, curry powder and spice oils and oleoresins are the other main spices products exported from India.

The details of export of spices during the last three years are given below:

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. crore)
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1992-93	1,30,734.71	418.63
1993-94	1,75,709.74	547.72
1994-95	1,54,112.00	607.73

The world trade in spices is estimated at 4.5 lakh tonnes, of which India's trade share is 27% in terms of quantity. While almost all states produce spices, the important states accounting for sizeable area and production are Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan & Maharashtra.

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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

ITEC Programme Instituted by the Government of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1995 on ITEC Programme instituted by the Government of India:

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by the Government of India on 15th September 1964. The ITEC Programme is administered by the Economic Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Programme is an expression of India's earnest desire to share - albeit within its limited resources - the fruits of its socio-economic Development with other developing countries. The ITEC Programme operates through a series of bilateral programmes with recipient countries in core areas of technical assistance, namely, (a) Provision of training facilities in Indian technical institutions for experts from these countries in a wide variety of disciplines; (b) making available services of highly qualified Indian experts to assist in developmental activities in partner countries; (c) assistance in setting up projects; (d) provision of consultancy services and undertaking techno-economic surveys; and (e) sponsoring foreign study teams to visit India to gain insights into our economic and technical capabilities.

2. Over 60 regular training programmes are being organised in 35 premier institutes in India in 26 disciplines, ranging from traditional fields like small-scale industries, rural development, poultry, textiles etc. to new areas like computers, medical and electronic equipment, flow-process technology etc. Special courses attachments in select areas based on specific requests of partner countries are also undertaken. Training is also organised in defence institutions for courses at the

prestigious National Defence College (NDC) as well as elsewhere geared to technical short duration courses for the defence personnel of friendly countries.

3. Projects undertaken through ITEC are aimed at meeting the specific requirements of the recipient countries. They also serve as show-cases of India's technological progress and serve to increase awareness of our capabilities. Among the projects recently executed or under implementation are the solar energy projects in Cuba, Syria and Oman; an eye clinic and mobile hospital in Ghana; a technical demonstration centre in Senegal; multipurpose vocational training centres in Mongolia, Vietnam and Zimbabwe; a thermo-container plant in Kazakhstan and an artificial limb fitment camp in Cambodia.

4. Indian experts are deputed to partner countries at their specific requests under the ITEC Programme. Currently 28 experts ranging from agriculture, banking, planning, small scale industries, taxation etc. have been deputed abroad. These experts also assist in identifying specific proposals for promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

5. Under ITEC, study visits by delegations from partner countries, are organized for enabling them to obtain first hand information on Indian capabilities. On an average, ten study visits are undertaken annually.

6. The ITEC Programme has currently a total annual outlay of Rs. 15 crores. It covers 105 countries. While Africa has traditionally been a thrust area for ITEC Programme, the coverage has now been extended to cover the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as several East European countries. ITEC provides ample testimony to India's abiding faith in and deep commitment to Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and, through it, to the larger cause of South-South Cooperation.

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DIA USA CUBA OMAN SYRIA GHANA SENEGAL MONGOLIA VIETNAM KAZAKHSTAN
ZIMBABWE CAMBODIA

Date : Sep 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1995 on buying of Indian marine products by Japan:

Japan, which is the largest importer of marine products in the world, is the single largest buyer of Indian marine products in terms of value. The European Union (EU) continues to be the second largest buyer of Indian seafood even though some of the European countries did not show a steady growth during 1994-95. South East Asia has emerged as the largest market for Indian marine products in terms of volume. Thailand South Korea, China and Taiwan have also commenced import of marine products from India as have Mauritius and South Africa. In fact, exports of Indian seafood to South East Asia recorded a growth of 134% in terms of value and 63% in terms of volume in 1994-95 over the previous year as compared to 36% in value and 25% in volume in exports to the US. The items in demand in these countries are generally ribbon fish, black ponfret, mackerel, squid etc.

The export of marine products from India exceeded US \$ 1 billion for the first time in 1994-95 which is an all-time high although marine products have been showing continuous increase since 1985-86. Exports in value terms in 1994-95 stood at Rs. 3553.08 crores (or US \$ 1127.98 million), indicating a growth of 41% over the previous year. The growth in exports has been achieved despite stiff competition in major markets like Japan, the EU and USA from the supply of farmed shrimp by Thailand, Indonesia, Ecuador, China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Major development schemes of the Marine Products. Export Development Authority (MPEDA), which is the coordinating agency with Central State government establishments engaged in fisheries development, include export production schemes such as subsidy assistance for development of new farms and increasing production from traditional farms and induction of new technologies and modernisation of processing facilities.

DIA JAPAN CHINA KOREA THAILAND TAIWAN MAURITIUS SOUTH AFRICA USA ECUADOR
INDONESIA PHILIPPINES VIETNAM

Date : Sep 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 18, 1995 on fixation of a Haj quota for Indian Muslim pilgrims visiting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah by Indian Government:

Government of India fixes a Haj quota every year for the Indian Muslim pilgrims visiting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah for the Haj Pilgrimage under arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee. For Haj-1995, the quota was fixed at 31,000, representing an increase of 6000 pilgrims over the quota of 25,000 fixed for Haj-1994.

2. This year, there have been demands from the Muslim community for a substantial increase in the quota in order to ensure that all those who wish to perform the holy pilgrimage are enabled to do so. At the All India Haj Conferences held in New Delhi in March and June, 1995, and attended by representatives of the Central Haj Committee and the State Haj Committees, Resolutions had been adopted calling for an increase in the quota to 50,000 pilgrims for Haj-1996.

3. Keeping in view the sentiments of the Muslim community, which is respected by the Government of Mr. Narasimha Rao, -245>

Prime Minister of India, it has been decided to increase the quota for Haj-1996 to 50,000 pilgrims.

4. This unprecedented increase has been made possible partly because of Government's decision to discontinue Haj sailings by ship with effect from Haj-1995. The experience of Indian pilgrims who performed the Haj in 1995 has been good and Government have received reports of their satisfaction at being able to travel to and from Saudi Arabia quickly and with greater comfort.

5. Government therefore propose to send all 50,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by air for Haj-1996.

DIA USA SAUDI ARABIA

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Bids Received Under Joint Venture Exploration Programme

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 26, 1995 on bids received by Government of India under Joint Venture Exploration Programme:

Government of India has received 22 bids for 7 blocks under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme (JVEP) -1995. 10 foreign and 12 Indian companies have submitted their bids either on their own or in consortium. The bid closing date for the JVEP was 15.9.95.

The foreign companies which have bid are Tullow Oil Plc., Ireland, Joshi Technologies Inc., U.S.A., Okland International, U.S.A., Polish Oil & Gas Company, Poland, Midcon Offshore Inc., U.S.A., Drilling, Exploration & Operating Company, U.S.A., Arakis Energy Corporation, Canada, Global Oil & Gas Development Corporation, Canada, Jerez Investments, Canada and Niko Resources, Canada.

The Indian companies which have bid are Assam Company Ltd., Calcutta Re-
liance Industries Ltd., Bombay, Essar Oil Ltd., Bombay, Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Bombay, Mesco Petrochemicals Ltd., New Delhi, European Software Alliance Ltd., Kanpur, Shiv-vani Drilling Company, New Delhi, Enpro India Ltd., New Delhi, Geoenpor Petroleum Ltd., New Delhi, Duncan Macneill Petroleum Ltd., Calcutta, Gontermann Peipers (India) Ltd., Calcutta and Interlink Petroleum Ltd., Baroda.

A total of 28 blocks, 18 onshore and 10 offshore, covering 15 sedimentary basins were put on offer.

The bids will be evaluated by a team of officers from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd., (OIL), on the basis of bid evaluation criteria covering the technical capability and financial capacity of the bidders, the work programme offered by them in the exploration period and the commercial terms offered.

DIA IRELAND USA POLAND CANADA

Date : Sep 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

First Indo-Russian Joint Venture in Pharmaceutical Launched

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 26, 1995 on first Indo-Russian Joint Venture in Pharmaceuticals:

Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce and Mr. E. A. Nachaev, Minister of Health, Russian Federation, jointly inaugurated the new joint venture project between Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Hyderabad and AO-BIOMED in Moscow last week. AO-BIOMED is a well known pharmaceuticals factory in Russia and has several decades of experience in the manufacture of vaccines, immunologicals and other health care products. The

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joint venture company which will be called Reddy-Biomed, will also manufacture antibiotics and formulations for the Russian and international markets. This is the first joint venture in the field of pharmaceuticals between an Indian and Russian company. Initially, Dr. Reddy's Labs will hold 35% equity in the company.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Chidambaram welcomed the setting up of the joint venture and hoped it would demonstrate the great synergy that exists between Russian technology and Indian management. He said that Dr. Reddy's Labs was a World class pharmaceuticals company and hoped that this joint venture would be followed by many others.

In discussions between Shri Chidambaram and Mr. Nechaev, it was agreed that a new sub-group on pharmaceuticals would be set up under the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation. This is likely to give a boost to export of Indian drugs and pharmaceuticals to Russia.

DIA RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Special Postage Stamp on India-South Africa Cooperation

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on

Sep 29, 1995 on a special postage stamp on India-South Africa Cooperation:

The Department of Post is releasing a set of two special commemorative stamps of Mahatma Gandhi on India South-Africa Cooperation' on October 2, 1995 on completion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi's crusade against racist laws was taken up by the Africa National Congress. In Nelson Mandela it found a leader who thinks reconciliation is to be preferred to recrimination and vengeance for past wrongs. He now heads a government of national reconstruction which seeks to provide an African and human answer to the challenges bequeathed to India by Mahatma Gandhi's In Nelson Mandela, India finds an inspiration which is Mahatma Gandhi's legacy to the whole world which, Indians have believed and practised for hundred of years, makes up the single family of humankind. Reaffirming faith in oneself and in Gandhi's legacy, President Mandela described the essence of Gandhiji as "the moral force he extols, the goodness he invokes, the justice and balance with which he seeks to promote human society".

The stamps are in the denominations of Re 1/- & Rs. 2/-. The cancellation is a line drawing of the pietermaritzberg Railway Station at which Mahatma Gandhi's historic journey to satyagraha began.

First Day Cover and Information Sheet will be available at Philatelic Bureaux/Counters and selected Post Offices.

DIA SOUTH AFRICA USA

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Release a set of jointly prepared stamps by India and SouthAfrica on126th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1995 on releasing in a set of jointly prepared commemorative stamps by India and South Africa on the occasion of 126th birthday of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi:

On the occasion of 126th birthday of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma

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Gandhi, India and South Africa will be simultaneously releasing a set of jointly prepared commemorative stamps in Pretoria and New Delhi on 2 October 1995.

The ceremony in Delhi will take place at Rashtrapati Bhawan where Rashtrapatiiji will be releasing the set of stamps in the presence of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman khurshid, Minister of State for Communication, Shri Sukh Ram and the South African High Commissioner in India, H.E. Mr. Jerry M. Matsila, besides other Heads of Missions from Africa and distinguished guests.

A similar ceremony is being organised in Pretoria where the veteran ANC leader, Mr. Walter Sisulu will be releasing the stamps together with Foreign Minister of South Africa, Mr. Alfred Nzo and the Indian High Commissioner Shri M. K. Mangalmurti.

The release of the set of commemorative stamps is one of several joint Programmes between India and South Africa to promote the teachings of Gandhiji who belongs as much to South Africa as to India. Indeed, 21 valuable years of Gandhi's early adulthood from 1893 to 1914 were spent in South Africa where he developed the twin weapons of Satyagrah' and 'Non-violent civil disobedience. A film "The Making of the Mahatma' by film director. Syam Banegal, is being jointly funded by both the governments, and is currently being filmed in South Africa.

Also, close cooperation between the two countries is expected in the development of two notable immovable legacies of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa -The Phoenix settlement Trust land near Durban and the Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg. Both have tremendous sentimental dimensions for the two countries and their people. The blue print is understood to be under preparation in South Africa for developing both these properties into fitting leading memorials to the ideals and preachings of the Mahatma.

DIA SOUTH AFRICA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 06, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Japan:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is on a four-day visit to Japan. His engagements during the day included: Keynote Address at the CII-Kaidanren Seminar; meeting with the India Japan Business Cooperation Council and call on MITI Minister Mr. R. Hashimoto, External Affairs Minister attended a reception hosted by Foreign Minister Kono in honour of Special Envoy attending the funeral ceremony of former Prime Minister Mr. T. Fukuda.

Addressing the seminar jointly organised by CII and Kaidanren (Federation of Economic Organisations of Japan), External Affairs Minister said that the policy of economic reform and liberation introduced in the management of the Indian economy were irreversible. He referred to the achievements as a result of these changes so far. Expressing satisfaction at the quantum of investment from countries

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worldwide. External Affairs Minister pointed out that India was looking forward to Japan's interest being translated into investments in the coming months. In response to a query, External Affairs Minister clarified that the developments surrounding the ENRON project should be viewed in the content of the democratic set up in India. Debate of this nature is part of the learning process. There is due process of law. Major economic decisions enjoy wide support among political parties and the people of India.

Speaking to the Japan Council of the Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Council, External Affairs Minister dwelt on the historical development of economic and commercial relations between India and Japan. He also responded to points regarding the continuity of economic reforms pointing out that these policies now enjoyed wide support. External Affairs Minister emphasised that support for economic reforms cuts across party lines and is supported by all State Governments. He expressed confidence that the process would be continued in the post-election scenario in India. External Affairs Minister also pointed out that to encourage investment in India would look to new avenues where fruitful cooperation is possible. In this context he referred to infrastructure development.

In his meeting with the Minister of International Trade Mr. R. Hashimoto, External Affairs Minister said that the institutionalisation of the MITI-MEA dialogue was a positive development in furthering understanding and deepening cooperation. India looked forward to the forthcoming visit of the MITI study group to India in November 1995. He said that India

was keen to see some concrete achievements emerge out of this visit. He identified the small and medium enterprise sector as an area where cooperation would be fruitful. MITI Minister Hashimoto said that Japan is looking forward to receiving trainees from India, under the Green Aid Plan, in the water Pollution treatment sector.

PAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Sep 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Japan:

During his stay in Tokyo, External Affairs Minister had meetings with Foreign Minister Mr. Yohei Kono and the Prime Minister Mr. Tomiichi Murayama. He also met former Prime Minister Mr. T. Kaifu, who is honorary Chairman of the India-Japan Study Committee.

Today's meeting between the two Foreign Ministers was the first since January 1992 -- a gap of more than 3 1/2 years. The discussions took place in a cordial atmosphere. Both the Ministers recognised the need for more frequent interaction not only at their level but also at the level of Ministers like Commerce, Industry, etc. The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of issues both regional and multilateral. Global disarmament, issues, restructuring of the UN system and other matters of mutual interest were discussed. While covering bilateral relations, both Ministers agreed that frequent exchanges of visits would deepen mutual understanding and strengthen cooperation between the two countries. It was also suggested that the India-Japan Joint Committee on Science and Technology should hold its next meeting as early as possible. The stability and continuity of India's economic reform process was also discussed in detail and hope was expressed that more investment from Japan would be forthcoming in the coming months.

In the meeting with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Murayama about the successes achiev-

ed in India following the economic reform and liberalisation programme initiated in 1991. The impetus received by the decisions taken at the SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in May 1995 for regional cooperation was also mentioned to the Prime Minister. External Affairs Minister reaffirmed India's interest in participating in the APEC forum and also reiterated the invitation of Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao to Prime Minister of Japan to visit India.

PAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of External Affairs Minister, accompanied by Mrs. Mukherjee, Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Haider, Ambassador Kuldip Sahdev and other members of the delegation to Tokyo

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister, accompanied by Mrs. Mukherjee, Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Haider, Ambassador Kuldip Sahdev and other members of delegation to the Renkoji temple in Tokyo:

External Affairs Minister, accompanied by Mrs. Mukherjee, Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Haider, Ambassador Kuldip Sahdev and other members of the delegation visited the Renkoji temple in Tokyo on Friday morning where the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose are kept. He was greeted on arrival at the temple by Mr. Okuda and other former associates of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Thereafter, External Affairs Minister took part in a special prayer ceremony at the temple. Speaking on the occasion, External Affairs Minister thanked the Chief Priest of the temple Rev. mochizuki, Mr. Okuda and his associates for their dedication and devotion in looking after the ashes of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. In response, Mr. Okuda and his associates expressed their deep appreciation for one of India's heroes of the independence movement. Overcome by the intense atmosphere surrounding the occasion, one of the former associates of Netaji broke into the favourite song of the time: "Kadam kadam badhaye jaa".

Later in the morning, External Affairs Minister accompanied by Mrs. Mukherjee was received in audience by Their Majesties the

Emperor and the Empress of Japan. The Minister conveyed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the warmth of their reception in Japan. The Minister recalled the visit of Their Majesties to India in 1961 when His Majesty was the Crown Prince and conveyed the hope of the Government and people of India that they would have the privilege of welcoming Their Majesties in India in the near future.

After a luncheon meeting with prominent Japanese Indologists, External Affairs Minister rounded off the day's engagements with a successful press conference at the Japan National Press Club, which was well-attended by Journalists representing the cross section of Japanese media.

PAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date : Sep 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of the External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. PranabMukherjee to Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1995 on visit of the External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee to Japan:

The External Affairs Minister of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee paid an official visit to Japan at the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Yohei Kono, from 6-10 September 1995. He was accompanied by Smt. Suvra Mukherjee. The official delegation consisted of Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Haider and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs.
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His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan and Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of Japan graciously received the Minister and Mrs. Mukherjee on 8 September 1995. The Minister conveyed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the warmth of their reception in Japan. The Minister recalled the visit of Their Majesties to India in 1961 when His Majesty was the Crown Prince and conveyed the hope of the Government and people of India that they would have the privilege of welcoming Their Majesties in India in the near future.

The Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency Mr. T. Murayama

received the External Affairs Minister on 7 September. The Minister briefed the Prime Minister about the successes achieved in India following the economic reform and liberalisation programme initiated in 1991. Regional cooperation had got a boost by the decision of the SAARC Summit held in New Delhi in May 1995 to operationalise South Asia Preferential Tariff Agreements (SAPTA) by the end of this year. The Minister reaffirmed India's interest in participating in the APEC forum. The Minister reiterated the invitation of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to the Prime Minister of Japan to visit India.

The Minister had a detailed and substantive exchange of view with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono on 7 September. The exchanges were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of issues including developments in their respective regions; important recent international developments, global disarmament issues; restructuring of the UN system with particular reference to the expansion of the UN Security Council; and other matters of mutual interest.

In the review of bilateral relations, the two sides agreed that exchanges at high political level would deepen mutual understanding and strengthen the cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed that closer cooperation between India and Japan is a factor for peace and stability in the region and globally. The two sides agreed that, in their regular consultations, an additional element of reviewing the situation in Asia, should be undertaken.

The Minister expressed appreciation of the Government of India for the cooperation of the Government of Japan in India's economic development through investments, trade and Official Development Assistance. Japan was the largest donor and this was acknowledged with thanks. The Minister pointed out that India was a steady and stable economic partner and the economic reform and liberalisation programme enjoyed wide support amongst political parties and the people of India. The benefits of this programme are also being gradually felt amongst the unemployed and the poor. The reform process had now become irreversible.

On the nuclear issue, the Minister explained India's consistent stand on the NPT and reiterated India's commitment to a complete elimination of all nuclear weapons as proposed in the Action Plan by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988. The Minister also pointed out that the Treaty was discriminatory and had proved ineffective in dealing with the refusal of some of the nuclear weapons powers to honour their obligations under the Treaty.

On restructuring of the UN Security Council, it was agreed that a consensus had to be evolved on the expansion of permanent and non-permanent membership. In this context, the Minister stressed the need for acceptable principles and criteria to reflect the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries.

The External Affairs Minister called on the Minister for International Trade and Industry, H.E. Mr. R. Hashimoto on 6 September. The Minister informed Mr. Hashimoto that following his visit to India in January 1995, several business delegations had visited India. Mr. Hashimoto said this was symbolic of the growing interest of the Japanese manufacturing, financial and other sectors, in India. The

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forthcoming visit of the MITI study team in November 1995 could be used to evolve concrete ideas for future cooperation. External Affairs Minister expressed interest in learning from Japan their experience in respect of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Mr. Hashimoto agreed that this would be a useful area of cooperation.

External Affairs Minister also met leading members of the industry and business community at the CII-Keidanren Seminar, at the India Japan Business Cooperation Committee (IJBCC) and at a dinner hosted by the IJBCC and Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In those meetings, Japanese participants informed the Minister that there was growing interest in and awareness of the opportunities in India. The Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to continuing the economic reform and liberalisation programme and invited the industrial and business community to expand their involvement with India.

At a meeting with the Indo-Japan Parliamentarians Friendship League, the Minister welcomed greater exchanges between Parliamentarians through visits of parliamentary delegations, political leaders and personalities. The IJPFL endorsed this view.

The visit of the External Affairs Minister has been fruitful and served the useful purpose of renewing dialogue at a high political level after a gap of three years.

On 9 September, External Affairs Minister will pay a visit to Hiroshima to pay respects of Government and people of India to the memory of the victims of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years ago. He will also pay a brief visit to the historic city of Kyoto prior to his return to India on 10 September.

PAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA

Date : Sep 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Mrs. Mukherjee, Ambassador Kuldeep Sahdev and the Official delegation to Hiroshima

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister, Mrs. Mukherjee, Ambassador Kuldeep Sahdev and the Official delegation to Hiroshima:

On the morning of September 09, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Mrs. Mukherjee, Ambassador Kuldeep Sahdev and the official delegation arrived in Hiroshima. Exactly a month to the date on which the Indian Parliament passed a unanimous resolution condemning the '45 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, India's External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee laid a wreath at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. External Affairs Minister also visited the Atomic Museum, where he was received by the Director of the Museum and shown around. It was a moving experience for the visitors. While writing his observations in the visitors book at the Museum, External Affairs Minister referred to Hiroshima not only as a geographical expression on the map of the world, but a powerful expression of humanity's feeling against war. External Affairs Minister wrote, "our objective should be no more Hiroshimas, no more nuclear weapons".

Later in the afternoon, Governor Fujita of Hiroshima Prefecture hosted a lunch in honour of External Affairs Minister. During the luncheon, views were exchanged on the need for an early visit by a Parliamentary delegation from Japan, on the character of the impressive economic development of East Asian countries

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and on the pressing need to preserve the natural resources of the world. In the evening, External Affairs Minister and delegation travelled to Osaka.

He would leave Osaka for Delhi on Sunday evening, after a brief visit to Kyoto -- the cultural capital of Japan.

PAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Sep 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

LITHUANIAN

Visit of Lithuanian Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Adolfas Slezevicius to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1995 on visit of Lithuanian Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Adolfas Slezevicius to India:

Lithuanian Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Adolfas Slezevicius is passing through Delhi on 28-29 September, 1995. His engagements in Delhi include calls by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid and the Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri M. Rajasekhara Murty on him, among others.

DIA USA

Date : Sep 27, 1995

Volume No

1995

LUXEMBOURG

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1995 on the bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg:

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has an area of 2586 square kilometres and 400,000 inhabitants. However, it is the richest country within the European Union with a per capita income of US \$ 32,070 in 1994 and exports over 90% of its domestic production comprising steel, rubber goods, textiles, glass, metals, chemicals etc. There are nearly 230 Banks with deposits of well over 16,000 billion Luxembourg Francs (approx. US \$ 516 billion). 42 Indian companies have already accessed GDRS through Luxembourg Banks and Luxembourg is now an important financial centre of Europe with ever growing opportunities.

The bilateral trade between India and Luxembourg is also showing encouraging trends.

2. Recognising the scope which Luxembourg offers in the area of technical and financial collaborations in the industrial and banking fields and the emerging opportunities in Industry and Commerce, a concerted effort was mounted by the Embassy of India in Brussels, currently accredited to the Grand Duchy, with a view to develop a framework for effective cooperation on the basis of which economic and commercial relations could be consolidated and develop further. This initiative finally culminated in an economic mission of 18 businessmen and 9 officials of the economic ministries and the Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade, Dr. Wohlfart to India.

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The delegation under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Henri visited Bombay, Bangalore and Madras from May 15 to May 21, 1995. Several seminars and one to one business meetings were arranged for the members of the Luxembourg mission by the Confederation of Indian Industries in each Indian city visited by the Mission. The delegation also met dignitaries and businessmen in India.

3. During the visit as many as 9 Memoranda of Understanding were signed. At a Press Conference in Bombay on the eve of the visit, the Crown Prince expressed their view that it was the best Mission sent by Luxembourg to any country. Since the return of the delegation, notwithstanding the holiday season, the number of Luxembourg business visitors to India has increased. Two new Joint Ventures have just been approved.

4. The Luxembourg Economic Mission was invited for a get together by the Indian Ambassador A. N. Ram on September 14, 1995 at Hotel Royale Luxembourg. The purpose of the Reception was to re-establish contacts with the members of the Luxembourg Economic mission and also explore further possibilities of co-operation on the basis of the excellent initial contacts already established by and between the economic operators of the two countries. The reception was very well attended and the participants included all the members of the mission, officials dealing with India in the Government of Luxembourg, the European Investment Bank and a strong press corps of 9 people from Luxembourg. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Jacques F. Poos, also attended the reception. As a very special gesture towards India H.R.M. Crown Prince Henri attended the reception and spent an hour. He is not known to have attended such functions in the past. Before the reception, Ambassador addressed the press corps of Luxembourg and answered their questions on India and India-Luxembourg economic and commercial relations. The participants also noted the recent appointment of the Hon Consul General (Mr. Jean-Pierre Penning) at Luxembourg.

DIA TOTO USA BELGIUM

Date : Sep 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

MADAGASCAR

A Coup attempt against the Government of President Said Mohamed Djohar in the Indian Ocean island of Comoros

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1995 on reports of a coup attempt against the Government of President Said Mohamed Djohar in the Indian Ocean island of Comoros, by a group of foreign mercenaries:

We have received reports of a coup attempt yesterday against the Government of President Said Mohamed Djohar in the Indian Ocean island of Comoros, by a group of foreign mercenaries. Reports of the incident are still sketchy. Our Ambassador in Madagascar, who is concurrently accredited to the Comoros, is monitoring the situation as best as communications permit.

The Government of India condemns the use of force against the legitimately constituted government and calls upon the perpetrators of the coup to immediately release President Djohar and other members of his government who may have been detained and to desist from their illegitimate action. We are also in touch with other friendly governments.

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NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MADAGASCAR COMOROS INDIA USA

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

UTES Bags First Ever Consultancy Contract in Malaysia

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1995 on first ever consultancy contract in Malaysia by RITES, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has bagged a contract for consultancy in design, installation, maintenance and operation of couplers fitted on Malaysian Railway rolling stock by KTM Berhad, Malaysia. This is the first ever technical consultancy project secured by RITES with Malaysian Railways.

The RITES will assist Malaysian Railways for a period of six months in overcoming the problem of train partings and also train officials of Malaysian Railway and Rail Industries of Malaysia in maintenance and operation.

LAYSIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

MALE

A Tripartite Agreement signed at Male between the Republic of Maldives, Government of India and Education Consultants Ltd., New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1995 on a tripartite agreement signed at Male between the Republic of Maldives, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Educational Consultants India Ltd., New Delhi:

A tripartite agreement between the Republic of Maldives, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Educational Consultants India Limited, New Delhi (EdCIL) was signed on 20.9.95 at Male for the training of Maldivian manpower in India. The Agreement was signed by Hon. Arif Hilmy, Minister of State for Finance and Treasury, on behalf of Government of Maldives and by Dr. Har Swarup Singh, High Commissioner of India, on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs and by Prof. M. S. Sukhija, Director Technical, on behalf of EdCIL.

Under the agreement EdCIL will undertake the placement in Indian Institutions of Maldivian candidates in the identified formal training needs of the key sectors of the Maldivian economy as per Human Resource Training Plan for which Government of India will provide scholarships under ITEC. It is expected that the signing of the agreement will further increase cooperation of the two

countries in manpower development.

The agreement, effective from first September, 1994 is valid for a period of three years.
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LDIVES INDIA UNITED KINGDOM
Date : Sep 21, 1995

Volume No
1995
OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS
A Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1995 on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:

We are dismayed by the recent nuclear tests carried out by some nuclear weapon States. That these steps are being taken by States which are parties to the NPT, soon after its indefinite extension, highlights the inherent defects of the Treaty. These developments represents a serious setback to the ongoing negotiations for a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and undermines its successful conclusion.

India has taken a consistent and principled position on nuclear disarmament. This is why, from 1954, when Prime Minister Nehru called for a ban on nuclear weapon tests, we have urged that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) must be adopted. We view the CTBT as an important step towards nuclear disarmament. India is actively participating in the negotiations at Geneva which should not be impaded by continued tests by nuclear Weapon States. We hope that all countries will negotiate in good faith for a universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and effective CTBT and, meanwhile, refrain from actions contrary to its objectives.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA SWITZERLAND
Date : Sep 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the Prime Minister to Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1995 on visit of the Prime Minister to Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic:

The Prime Minister is visiting Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic from 19-23rd September, 1995. He will be spending two days in each country.

The Presidents of both the countries have been to India in 1992 and regular high-level exchanges have taken place since then. This is our Prime Minister's first visit to these two countries.

Our relations with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan are friendly and are based on mutual goodwill and understanding. Our economic relations are also proceeding satisfactorily and it is hoped that our Prime Minister's visit will provide a new impetus to our economic cooperation. In Turkmenistan, Prime Minister will have meetings with President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov, as well as receive Foreign Minister B. Sheikmuradov. He will also be awarded the title of Honorary Academician of the Turkmen Academy of Sciences. He will also address a meeting of Parliamentarians and Intellectuals.

Agreements on -- i) Consultations between the Foreign Ministries; ii) setting up the Indo-Turkmen Joint Commission; and iii) on extending the cultural exchange programme are expected to be signed.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, Prime Minister will hold talks with the President A. Akaev, as well as delegation level discussions with Prime Minister Jumagulov. He will also address a meeting of the members of Parliament. A street in Bishkek will be named after Mahatma Gandhi. Agreements on Cooperation in Science and Technology,
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Tourism and on extending the Cultural Exchange Programme will be signed. Central Asia is an area of strategic and economic importance for India and the visit aims to strengthen our relations with countries of this region. We hope to work together with them to ensure peace and stability in our neighbourhood.

RK MENISTAN INDIA KYRGYZSTAN USA

Date : Sep 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Indian Minister of State for Defence Shri Mallikarjuno to Thailand

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1995 on visit of Indian Minister of State for Defence, Shri Mallikarjun to Thailand:

Indian Minister of State for Defence Shri Mallikarjun, who is in Thailand, visited the Defence Asia '95 exhibition. He paid a call on Gen. Chevalit Yongchaiyudh, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister. The two leaders expressed happiness at the close relationship between the armed forces of the two countries and looked forward to further cooperation in the defence field.

DIA THAILAND

Date : Sep 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The Section on India and Pakistan in the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly (1995)

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1995 on the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly (1995):

Government of India have taken note of the section on India and Pakistan in the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly (1995). The Secretary General has referred to the commitment of India and Pakistan to resolve the issue peacefully in accordance with the Shimla Agreement of 1972. Government of India remains fully committed to this course and will continue

its efforts to revive bilateral dialogue, for which several proposals have been made to the Government of Pakistan. The Secretary General has also referred to incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. These are entirely due to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, militancy and extremism across the line of control.

In spite of numerous provocations from Pakistan, the Indian security forces have exercised enormous restraint. There is no threat to peace and security in the region from the Indian side of the Line of Control nor the international border. Government of India hopes that the Government of Pakistan would demonstrate sincerity to find a peaceful solution by eschewing sponsorship of terrorism across the Line of Control and returning to the negotiating table for a meaningful dialogue as urged by the Secretary General.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Sep 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The Amendment passed in the US Senate on September 21, 1995 permitting the Transfer of Military equipment to Pakistan

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Sep 22, 1995 on the amendment passed in the US Senate on September 21, 1995, permitting the transfer of substantial quantities of military equipment to Pakistan by waiving the provisions of the Pressler Amendment:

The Government of India has noted with regret and grave concern the amend-
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ment passed in the US Senate on September 21, 1995, permitting the transfer of substantial quantities of advanced military equipment to Pakistan by waiving the provisions of the Pressler Amendment.

2. The US Government and Congress have all along been made fully aware of the views of the Government of India on this matter. We firmly believe the proposed US action would not be conducive to

promoting peace, security and stability in South Asia, was likely to trigger an arms race, and would be seen as legitimising Pakistan's clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons even while receiving massive US military and economic aid.

The proposed transfer of US military equipment will also be viewed in the light of Pakistan's widely acknowledged acquisition of ballistic missiles from third countries and its major and direct involvement in international terrorism.

3. The Government of India is committed to taking all necessary measures to counter the adverse effect on our security caused by the proposed transfers. We hope the US authorities will reconsider the issue and reflect on the consequences before taking any further steps. They should also take note of the very strong public reaction in India against this measure.

A PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Sep 22, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. Roumen Gechev, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgariato India

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1995 on visit of Mr. Roumen Gechev, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria to India:

Mr. Roumen Gechev, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria, who is on an official visit to India, met the Prime Minister, the Commerce Minister, the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs. He will be meeting the Minister for Civil Aviation tomorrow.

Mr. Gechev emphasised in his meeting that Bulgaria is India's strategic partner. With Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir was also discussed. Mr. Gechev was fully supportive of the bilateral approach, so far as Jammu and Kashmir was concerned. He was also supportive of India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Generally, Mr. Gechev was very very supportive of India. This is the first delegation of Bulgarian Socialist Party, which has visited India.

One of the concerns expressed was to increase the trade which was

presently lower than in the 1980s. Mr. Gechev addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission Meeting will be held in December, 1995.
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LGARIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

SBI to open a Subsidiary in Moscow soon Chidambaram inaugurates Indo-Russian JBC

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 25, 1995 on opening a subsidiary in Moscow by SBI, inauguration Indo-Russian JBC by Shri Chidambaram:

The State Bank of India (SBI) will shortly open a wholly owned subsidiary in Moscow, along with MMTC Limited and the Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India. Canara Bank will also be opening a branch in Moscow soon. This was announced by Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, during his recent visit to Moscow. He further announced that MMTC had opened a warehouse in Moscow to facilitate sale of Indian goods. The warehouse facility may also be used by private businessmen. State Trading Corporation (STC) would also be opening warehouses in Russia and other CIS countries. Shri Chidambaram was inaugurating the first Session of the India-Russian Federation Joint Business Council (JBC) last Friday, which was organised jointly by FICCI and ASSOCHAM on the Indian side and the Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the Russian side.

Addressing an impressive gathering of senior government officials and businessmen from both sides, the Minister expressed satisfaction at the growth of trade between the two countries which has recorded an increase of 93% in the first four months of the current financial year and is poised to touch US \$ 2 billion this year.

He touched on his discussions with Mr. Y. Yarov, Deputy Prime Minister, last Friday, during which the trade relations between the two countries were reviewed in detail. During the discussions, Mr. Yarov had informed the Indian side that the proposal for developing Novorossik Port by Indian companies will

be finalised very shortly. This will remove a major constraint in movement of Indian goods with Russia. Mr. Chidambaram also addressed a luncheon meeting of the Indian Business Association.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Sep 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Finance Minister to address Europe East Asia Economic Summit

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1995 on Finance Minister to address Europe East Asia Economic Summit in Singapore:

The Union Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will attend the Europe East Asia Economic Summit in Singapore from September 21st to 22nd, 1995. Several Prime Ministers, important Ministers and representatives of Trade and Industry from Europe and Asian countries will participate in the Summit. The Finance Minister has been invited by the World Economic Forum to be the lead

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speaker at the Plenary Session on infrastructure. Some of the other speakers in the session include Mr. Gautam Kaji, Managing Director, World Bank and Mr. Kazusue Konoike, President & Executive Director, OCAJI.

The Finance Minister will also address an Interactive Session on India which will be chaired by Mr. Etienne Davignon, President, Societe Generale de Delgique, Belgium. Apart from the meeting of the World Economic Forum, the Finance Minister will also be addressing a ASEAN-India Round Table Conference in Singapore which is being held in pursuance of wide ranging discussions that have been held in the recent past between India and ASEAN and its member States.

India already has the status of a dialogue partner in ASEAN in several important sectors. The Finance Minister will address a meeting of the Indo-Singapore Chamber of Commerce. He is also scheduled to meet the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and other important members of the Singapore Government.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA BELGIUM

Date : Sep 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Reports to set up a intelligence group to Flush Out Prabhakaran in Jaffna

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 13, 1995 on media reports to set-up a intelligence group to flush out Prabhakaran in Jaffna:

Responding to queries on media reports appearing in Sri Lanka that there was a strong possibility of India and Sri Lanka joining hands to set-up a intelligence group to flush out Prabhakaran from his hide out in Jaffna, the official spokesman stated that no such approach has been made.

I LANKA USA INDIA

Date : Sep 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Joint Press Statement on Indo-US Defence Policy Group

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1995 on a Joint Press Statement of Indo-US Defence Policy Group:

Indian Defence Secretary K. A. Nambiar and US Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs Joseph Nye met this week in Washington for two days of consultations. The meetings continued the dialogue on defence cooperation initiated in January 1996, following the signing of the Agreed Minutes in New Delhi by Minister of State for Defence Mallikarjun and Secretary of Defence William J. Perry. The Agreed Minute had envisaged the

establishment of a Defence Policy Group (DPG) and a Joint
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Technology Group (JTG). The two Groups held their first meeting during the week.

These meetings were the first set of security discussions between the United States and India following the signing of the Agreed Minute, and mark a milestone for future partnership between these two great democracies. A number of security issues were discussed, from the Persian Gulf to the Pacific Rim. Other areas of common interest, including Peacekeeping Operations, and the furthering of defence related cooperation between the two countries were also discussed. The JTG included discussions on issues of shared interest in technology. Both sides noted that the ongoing cooperation on the LCA has been satisfactory and additional such mission areas need to be developed.

Defence Secretary Nambiar also visited Norfolk, Virginia and the headquarters for the U.S. Atlantic Command. He received briefings on the UN Operations in Haiti, training and technology from the Navy, Army and Air Force Headquarters in the Tidewater area. During his visit to Norfolk, Defence Secretary Nambiar went aboard the USS George Washington, an aircraft carrier of the Nimitz class, and the USS Stoa an Aegis Class missile destroyer.

These meetings expanded the discussions that began with Secretary Perry and Under Secretary Slocombe's visits to New Delhi. The US and India view the current opportunity as significant. This is based on our similar interests that will expand and support our enhanced security relationship. New potential areas of cooperation were discussed and a continuing dialogue will be developed through regular meetings of the DPG and JTG. Both sides were very pleased with the progress to date and expect greater cooperation in the future.

A INDIA HAITI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

External Affairs Minister participates in Meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Sep 28, 1995 on participation of External Affairs
Minister in Meeting of G-15 Foreign Ministers on September 27,
1995 in New York:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, participated in meetings of G-15 Foreign Ministers today in New York. Foreign Ministers of G-15 countries -- Argentina, Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Indonesia, Malaysia, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Peru, Venezuela, Nigeria, Egypt, India -- met here to prepare for the Fifth G-15 Summit of Heads of State Governments scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires on 6-7th November, 1995. Argentina is the current host and Chairman of this unique Summit Level Group of Developing Countries for South-South Consultation and Cooperation. The Fourth G-15 Summit was hosted by India in New Delhi in March, 1994.

Shri Mukherjee emphasised to his G-15 colleagues the importance of providing substantive content to economic cooperation and the decision of the Fourth Summit to establish a Committee on investment, trade and technology was a step in that direction. He urged the adoption of the terms of reference of the CITT, so that it could be launched and operationalised at the Fifth Summit. The CITT, by providing mechanisms for trade facilitation, promotion and liberalisation as well as investment and transfer of technology promotion will contribute and work towards trans regional economic cooperation arrangements encompassing key countries from Latin America, Asia and Africa. It is to establish an interactive relationship with the 19 South-South cooperation projects that the G-15 have separately undertaken. Involvement of the business sector both in the context of the Summit as well as in the working of the CITT is expected to provide the necessary dynamism and practical momentum to intra-G-15 economic relations.

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The External Affairs Minister also drew the attention of the Ministers to some issues of common concern to developing countries which could be discussed at the Summit and be reflected in its outcome. One key issue was the question of equitable integration of developing countries in the world economy both in terms of the problems they faced and costs entailed as well as in terms of their requirement of a supportive international economic environment. He stressed that they needed open markets, increased financial resources and technologies critical for development and global competitiveness. They needed a favourable international macro-economic framework so as to be able to effectively compete and attain the required levels of economic growth. He warned against 'new protectionism' in some of our developed country markets directed at exports from developing countries. The G-15 had effectively joined hands at Marrakesh in 1994 (when Shri Mukherjee as Commerce Minister had led the Indian delegation) at the conclusion of the Uruguay round of multi-round trade

negotiations to prevent issues such as the so called 'social clause' being put on the international trade negotiations agenda. However, the restrictive tendencies in our principal markets had not abated and there was need for G-15 to continue to work in concert and act as a force against this new protectionism which has assumed several forms including those using concerns relating to protection of the environment and human rights.

The Foreign Ministers meeting also endorsed an indicative draft agenda for the Fifth Summit. The agenda focusses on the challenges for international development cooperation in the year 2000 and beyond. The opportunities as well as problems that developing countries face in adjusting to the pervasive, systemic as well as trans border globalisation of the world economy is a major theme. The 50th Anniversary commemoration of the UN, the Bretton Woods Institutions -- the IMF and World Bank and the establishment this year of World Trade Organisation would focus the attention of the G-15 Summiteers on the institutional wherewithal required to meet these challenges. Another topical issue that is likely to engage the Summiteers is the relationship between poverty, unemployment and migration on one hand and increased North-South trade and investment ties. There is need to refute and neutralise the growing belief in developed countries that their problems of structural unemployment are attributable in some part to increased imports from the developing countries and growing investment flows from developed to developing countries. Imperical studies done by the developed country think-tank OECD as well as UNCTAD have proved otherwise and have warned developed countries of the high cost of dealing with the problem of unemployment through trade restrains. The G-15 may wish to convey this message forcefully, emphasising the mutual benefit and common interest in maintaining and intensifying trade and investment ties between developed and developing countries.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM ALGERIA ARGENTINA BRAZIL CHILE INDONESIA MALAYSIA
MEXICO SENEGAL ZIMBABWE EGYPT JAMAICA NIGER NIGERIA PERU VENEZUELA URUGUAY

Date : Sep 28, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

External Affairs Minister meets EU Troika and members of American Jewish Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1995 on meeting of External Affairs Minister

with EU Troika and members of American Jewish Committee:

Apart from his address to the UNGA, and various bilateral meetings, the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as the Chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers met with
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members of the EU Troika to discuss prospects of cooperation between the two regional cooperation bodies. External Affairs Minister briefed the Troika about the SAARC initiatives in the areas of technical cooperation among member States as also the SAPTA which is to be operationalized by the end of the year. The meeting was a part of the annual practice of the Chairman of SAARC Council of Ministers meeting the Troika during the GA.

Subsequently Shri Mukherjee met members of the American Jewish Committee. The AJC is considered to be the Dean of American Jewish Organizations and has a membership of approximately 50,000. External Affairs Minister utilized the opportunity to discuss Indo-US relations, Indo-Israeli relations and the threat posed by international terrorism. He sought the support of the organization in strengthening relations between the US and India which were both open societies and pluralist democracies with much in common.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM ISRAEL

Date : Sep 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On the Israel-PLO Interim Autonomy Agreement signed in Washington

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1995 on welcoming by India the Israel-PLO interim autonomy agreement signed in Washington:

India welcomes the Israel-PLO interim autonomy agreement signed in Washington on 28th September, 1995. India has noted the forward movement in the middle East Peace Process and hopes that the momentum created by this agreement will eventually lead to a just and lasting peace in West Asia. The agreement is a tribute to the wisdom of all the parties involved. India which has deep bonds of friendship and historical links with the peoples of the

region will continue to extend its support to efforts towards achieving peace and prosperity in the region.

A ISRAEL INDIA

Date : Sep 30, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

British Minister of State for Trade Shri Anthony Nelson Meets Shri Salve

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1995 on meeting of British Minister of State for Trade Shri Anthony with Shri Salve:

Shri Anthony Nelson, British Minister of State for Trade met Shri N. K. P. Salve, Minister of Power, today here. Shri Nelson was heading a six member delegation. He evinced great interest in the development of power sector in India. Shri Salve explained to the visiting Minister the progress of various power projects being executed with the British assistance. The two Ministers discussed different aspects of power sector which are of mutual interest. Shri P. Abraham, Secretary, Minister of Power was also present.

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DIA USA

Date : Sep 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Visit of Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State in External Affairs to Uzbekistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 18, 1995 on visit of Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State in External Affairs to Uzbekistan:

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State in External Affairs, visited Uzbekistan from 15-16 September, 1995. He was in Tashkent at the invitation of the Uzbek leadership to participate in the 'Meeting-Seminar on Security and Cooperation in Central Asia' which was organised by the Government of Uzbekistan to discuss the proposal for peace and security in Central Asia which was proposed by the President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. I. A. Karimov, at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Shri Salman Khurshid participated in the plenary sessions and made a statement welcoming the Uzbek proposal. In his address, Shri Khurshid offered our assistance in the efforts by the Central Asian States for their regional stability and allround progress.

The presence of Minister of State in External Affairs was also an occasion for meaningful bilateral interaction with the leadership of Uzbekistan and a reaffirmation of our traditionally friendly ties. Shri Khurshid called on President Karimov on 16 September, 1995, which lasted for 45 minutes. This was devoted to a review of bilateral relations and a discussion on ways of expanding our cooperation with Uzbekistan in different sectors to further strengthen these.

He also visited the exhibition of Indian consumer goods presently going on in Tashkent and organised by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of the Republic of India concerning the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of the Republic of India, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties,

DESIRING to create favourable conditions for investments in both States and to intensify the co-operation between enterprises in

both States with a view to stimulating the productive use of resources,

RECOGNIZING that a fair and equitable treatment of investments on a reciprocal basis will serve this aim,

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HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement,

(1) The term "investment" means every kind of asset established or acquired in accordance with the national laws of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment is made and shall include in particular, but not exclusively:

(i) movable and immovable property, as well as any other rights such as leases, mortgages, liens, pledges, privileges, guarantees and any other similar rights,

(ii) shares, stock or other forms of participation in a company or business enterprise and bonds and debt of a company or business enterprise,

(iii) returns reinvested, rights to money and performance pursuant to contract having an economic or financial value,

(iv) industrial and intellectual property rights, such as copyrights, patents, trade names, technical processes, trademarks, goodwill and know-how in accordance with the relevant laws of the respective Contracting Party,

(v) concessions or other rights conferred by law or under contract, including concessions to search for, extract or exploit oil and other minerals.

(2) A change in the form in which assets are invested, does not affect their character as investments.

(3) "Returns" means the amounts yielded by an investment and includes in particular, though not exclusively, profit, interest, capital gains, dividends, royalties or fees.

(4) "Investor" means any national or judicial person of a Contracting Party.

(5) "National" means:

(a) In respect of Denmark: natural persons having the citizenship or nationality of, or who are permanently residing in Denmark in

accordance with its laws.

(b) In respect of India: persons deriving their status as Indian national from the law in force in India.

(6) Juridical person means in respect of each Contracting Party: any entity established in accordance with, and recognized as a legal person by the law of that Contracting Party, such as companies, firms, associations, development finance institutions, foundations or similar entities irrespective of whether their liabilities are limited and whether or not their activities are directed at profit.

(7) "Territory" means in respect of each Contracting Party: its territory, the territorial waters and the airspace above it and other maritime zones including the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf over which the Contracting Party has sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with its laws in force and International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ARTICLE 2

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

(1) Each Contracting Party shall encourage investors of the other Con-
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tracting Party to make investments in its territory and admit such investments, including the establishment of representative offices, in accordance with its laws and regulations.

(2) Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times enjoy full protection and security in the territory of the other Contracting Party and shall not be subject to unreasonable or discriminatory measures.

(3) Returns, including the returns yielded from the reinvestment, shall in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement be given the same protection as the investment.

(4) Each Contracting Party shall observe any obligation it has assumed with regard to investments in its territory by investors of the other Contracting Party, with disputes arising from such obligations being only redressed under the terms of the contracts underlying the obligations.

ARTICLE 3

TREATMENT OF INVESTMENTS

(1) Each Contracting Party shall in its territory accord to

investments made by investors of the other Contracting Party fair and equitable treatment which in no case shall be less favourable than that accorded to the investments of its own investors or to investors of any third state, whichever is the more favourable from the point of view of the investor.

(2) Each Contracting Party shall in its territory accord to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party, as regards their management, maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of their investment, fair and equitable treatment which in no case shall be less favourable than that accorded to investments of its own investors or to investors of any third State, whichever of these standards is the more favourable from the point of view of the investor.

(3) In addition each Contracting Party shall accord to investors of the other Contracting Party treatment which shall not be less favourable than that accorded to investors of any third state.

ARTICLE 4

EXCEPTIONS

The provisions of this Agreement relative to the granting of treatment not less favourable than that accorded to the investors of each Contracting Party or of any third State shall not be construed so as to oblige one Contracting Party to extend to the investors of the other Contracting Party the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege resulting from:

(a) membership of any existing or future Regional Economic Integration Organisation or customs union of which one of the Contracting Parties is or may become a party, or

(b) any matter pertaining wholly or mainly to taxation.

ARTICLE 5

EXPROPRIATION AND COMPENSATION

(1) Investments of investors of each Contracting Party shall not be nationalized, expropriated or subjected to measures having effect equivalent to nationalisation or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") in the territory of the other Contracting Party except for a public purpose authorised by and carried out in accordance with its laws, on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation.

(2) Such compensation shall amount to the fair market value of the invest-

ment expropriated immediately before the expropriation or impending expropriation became known in such a way as to affect the value of the investment. Compensation shall be paid without undue delay and include interest at a commercial rate established on a market basis from the date of expropriation until the date of payment.

(3) The investor affected shall have a right to prompt review under the law of the Contracting Party making the expropriation, by a judicial or other competent and independent authority of that Contracting Party, of its case, of the valuation of its investment, and of the payment of compensation, in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 1 of this Article.

(4) Where a Contracting Party expropriates the assets of a company which is incorporated or constituted under the law in force in any part of its own territory, and in which investors of the other Contracting Party own shares, it shall ensure that the provisions of this Article are applied to the extent necessary to ensure fair and equitable compensation in respect of their investment to such investors of the other Contracting Party who are owners of those shares.

ARTICLE 6

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

(1) Investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, revolution, state of national emergency, revolt, insurrection, or riot in the territory of the latter Contracting Party, shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, an investor of a Contracting Party who, in any of the situations referred to in that paragraph, suffers a loss in the area of the other Contracting Party resulting from:

(a) requisitioning of its investment or part thereof by the latter's forces or authorities, or

(b) destruction of its investment or part thereof by the latter's forces or authorities, which was not required by the necessity of the situation.

shall be accorded restitution or compensation which in either case shall be fair and equitable.

ARTICLE 7

TRANSFER OF CAPITAL AND RETURNS

(1) Each Contracting Party shall with respect to investments in its territory by investors of the other Contracting Party allow the free transfer of:

- (a) the initial capital and any additional capital for the maintenance and development of an investment;
- (b) the invested capital or the proceeds from the sale or liquidation of all or any part of an investment;
- (c) interests, dividends, profits and any other returns realized;
- (d) repayments of any loan, including interests thereon, relating to the investment;
- (e) payments of royalties and services fees relating to the investment;
- (f) unspent earnings and other remunerations of personnel engaged from abroad in connection with an investment;
- (g) compensation, restitution, indemnification or other settlement pursuant to Articles 5 and 6.

(2) Transfers of payments under paragraph 1 of this Article shall be effected without undue delay and in a freely convertible currency.

(3) A payment shall be deemed to have been made without undue delay if effected within such period as is normally required for the completion of transfer formalities. The period shall commence on the day in which the relevant request has been made, with full documentation and information, and may on no account exceed two months.

(4) Transfers shall be made at the market rate of exchange existing on the date of transfer with respect to spot transactions in the currency to be transferred. If a market rate is unavailable, the rate to be used will be the most recent exchange rate applied to inward investments.

ARTICLE 8

SUBROGATION

(1) If one Contracting Party or its designated agency makes a payment to its own investors under a guarantee against non-commercial risks it has accorded in respect of an investment in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the latter

Contracting Party shall recognize:

(a) the assignment, whether under the law or pursuant to a legal transaction, of any right or claim by the investor to the former Contracting Party or to its designated agency; and

(b) that the former Contracting Party or its designated agency is entitled by virtue of subrogation to exercise the rights and enforce the claims of that investor.

(2) The subrogated rights or claims shall not exceed the original rights or claims of the investment.

ARTICLE 9

DISPUTES BETWEEN A CONTRACTING PARTY AND AN INVESTOR

(1) Any dispute which may arise between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party in connection with an investment under this Agreement shall, as far as possible, be settled amicably.

(2) If such dispute between an investor of one Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party continues to exist after a period of six months, the investor shall be entitled to submit the case either to the competent judicial or administrative bodies of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment was made or to international conciliation or arbitration as follows:

(a) to international conciliation under the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. If the conciliation proceedings are terminated other than by signing of a settlement agreement, the dispute may be referred to arbitration, either to

(b) the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes established pursuant to the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States opened for signature at
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Washington D.C. on 18 March 1965 (ICSID Convention), as soon as both Contracting Parties become Parties to this Convention. In the meantime the dispute may be submitted to the Additional Facility for the Administration of Conciliation, Arbitration and Fact-finding Proceedings; or to

(c) an international ad hoc arbitral tribunal established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, subject to the following modifications:

(i) The appointing authority under Article 7 of the rules shall be the President, the Vice-President or the next senior Judge of

the International Court of Justice, who is not a national of either Contracting Party. The third arbitrator shall not be a national of either Contracting Party.

(ii) The parties shall appoint their respective arbitrators within two months.

(iii) The arbitral award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(4) The arbitral award shall be final and binding for the parties involved in the dispute, and shall be implemented according to national law.

ARTICLE 10

DISPUTES BETWEEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

(1) If any disputes arises between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation and application of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall, as far as possible, try to settle any such dispute through negotiations.

(2) If such a dispute cannot be settled within six months from the beginning of the dispute, it shall, upon the request of either Contracting Party, be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.

(3) Such an arbitral tribunal shall be constituted or each individual case in following way:

(a) Within two month of the receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one member of the tribunal. Those two members shall then select a national of a third State, who on approval by the Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two months from the date of appointment of the other two members.

(b) If within any of the periods specified the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make any necessary appointments. If the President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President shall be invited to make the necessary appointments. If the Vice-President is a national of either Contracting Party or if he, too, is prevented from discharging the said function, the Member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a national of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make the necessary appointments.

(c) The arbitral tribunal shall apply the provisions of this

Agreement, other Agreements concluded between the Contracting Parties, and applicable principles of international law. It shall reach its
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decision by a majority of votes. The arbitral tribunal shall determine its own procedures.

(1) Each decision of the tribunal shall be final and binding upon the Contracting Parties to the disputes.

(e) Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings. The cost of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne in equal parts by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 11

CONSULTATIONS

The Contracting Parties shall consult at the request of either of them on matters concerning this Agreement. These consultations shall be held on the proposal of one of the Contracting Parties at a place and at a time agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 12

APPLICABLE LAWS

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, all investments shall be governed by the laws in force in the territory of the Contracting Party in which such investments are made.

(2) Nothing in this Agreement precludes the host Contracting Party from taking necessary measures in accordance with its laws normally and reasonably applied on a non-discriminatory basis, in circumstances of extreme emergency for the prevention of diseases or pests.

ARTICLE 13

APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES

If the provisions of law of either Contracting Party or obligations under International Law existing at present or established hereafter between the Contracting Parties in addition to the present Agreement contain rules, whether general or specific, entitling investments by investors of the other Contracting Party to a treatment more favourable than is provided for by the present Agreement, such rules shall to the extent that they are more favourable prevail over the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 14

APPLICABILITY OF THIS AGREEMENT

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all investments made by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party prior to or after the entry into force of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 15

AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended by agreement in writing between the Contracting Parties. Such amendments shall enter in force when the Contracting Parties have notified each other that the constitutional requirement for the entry into force have been fulfilled.

ARTICLE 16

TERRITORIAL EXTENSION

This Agreement shall not apply to the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

The provisions of this Agreement may be extended to the Faroe Islands and Greenland as may be agreed between the Contracting Parties in an Exchange of Notes.

ARTICLE 17

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Contracting Parties shall notify each other when the constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled. The Agreement shall enter into force thirty
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days after the date of receipt of the last notification.

ARTICLE 18

DURATION AND TERMINATION

(1) This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years. It shall remain in force thereafter until either Contracting Party notifies in writing the other Contracting Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement. The notice of termination shall become effective one year after the date of notification.

(2) In respect of investments made prior to the date when the notice of termination of this Agreement becomes effective, the

provisions of Articles 1 to 14 shall remain in force for a further period of fifteen years from that date.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement. Done in duplicate at on 19 ... in the Danish, Hindi and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In the case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark

For the Government of the Republic of India

NMARK INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Prime Minister's address to Kyrgyzstan Parliamentarians

I appreciate your warm words of welcome and the kind sentiments expressed about my country and myself. It is a privilege for me to address today the elected representatives of the Kyrgyz people who symbolize the essence of Kyrgyz democracy. I bring from the people of India fraternal greetings to you and through you to the friendly people of Kyrgyzstan.

I would like to begin by congratulating you on the recent successful celebrations for the 1000th anniversary of your national edic "Manas". In India, ancient epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata capture the spirit and ethos of the land and provide its populace with unifying impulses. India is therefore especially aware of the importance that a great epic like "Manas" can play in national life and wishes the people of Kyrgyzstan all success in reviving their glorious traditions of old.

I should like to inform you on this occasion that we have decided to commission a translation in India's national language, Hindi, of this great epic. We feel it would be useful if we could associate Indian and Kyrgyz Scholars for this task. I shall follow this up on my return to India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your country is rightly known for its commitment to democracy. Soon after your emergence as
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an independent sovereign State, you distinguished yourself by establishing and sustaining democratic institutions. No doubt there have been challenges and obstacles, as one can expect in the initial stages of democratic governance. You have consistently upheld the principles of democracy in the administration of your great country. True democratic institutions facilitate, and in turn are reinforced by, the emergence of traditions and conventions which seek to balance individual rights and civic obligations, freedom and self-restraint and individual choices and social responsibilities.

Democratic institutions cannot prosper or even survive for long without social and economic stability. You have undertaken economic reforms that encourage and sustain private entrepreneurship, deregulate economic activities and link the national economy to the global one. Though not an easy task, it is an essential one. The success of these reforms will, I am confident, lead to economic growth which, in turn, will promote social stability. The international community has appreciated the determined efforts of your country in this direction. We in India look upon these efforts with respect, understanding and cooperative spirit that is the hallmark of our bilateral relationship.

In India, we have, on our part, sustained and nurtured successful democratic institutions for more than half a century. The working of democratic institutions has strengthened the pluralistic character of our society. It has enabled diverse sections of our society to contribute to its material and moral enrichment. Our democratic institutions have become deeply rooted and we are gratified to be able to bring together nine hundred and forty million people in democratic governance.

Ladies and gentlemen, as two ancient and pluralistic societies, we share common concerns and face common challenges. Principles of secularism, tolerance and non discrimination under-ly our political and social institutions. Peace and harmony have been vital for the survival of our diverse ethnic populations following different religions. By their diversity they have contributed richly to our societies. Both our societies regard sectarian violence, religious intolerance and extremism, terrorism and organised crime as enemies to be faced with determination. Belonging to the same region and acknowledging peace and prosperity of our respective countries as essential factors of regional stability, we have to work together to realise these ideals.

About four years ago, India launched itself on the path of economic reforms aimed at deregulating the economy, thus enabling

our entrepreneurs to be competitive among themselves and globally. The reforms were meant to promote an environment suitable for attracting investment in areas where growth was needed such as the infrastructure. We have implemented these reforms in a manner that vulnerable sections of our society do not suffer or carry a disproportionate share of the burdens involved. An attempt has been made to ensure an adequate social safety net. Today, India is regarded as one of the world's promising emerging markets which speaks of the success of these reforms, and, in this context, the ground for enhanced India-Kyrgyzstan interaction in the economic and commercial fields is both fertile and extensive.

Indian Parliamentarians maintain wide contacts with Parliamentarians from other countries. Such interaction not only enriches their own experience but also contributes to strengthening friendly relations between India and the country concerned. I would like to suggest that such contacts between Members of your Parliament and the Indian Parliament, including exchange of Parliamentary delegations, be initiated. As representative of the people, Parliamentarians of our two countries will carry with them the goodwill and feelings of friendship that our respective peoples have for each other and this will further reinforce the constructive ties between our two countries.

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I would at this point like to share with you some thoughts on the global scene. Following the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of ideological confrontation, the international community has been grouping to define a healthier and more positive framework of international relations that embodies humankind's aspirations for peace, security and development. The recurrence of regional conflicts, and of the mistrust and violence engendered by extremist philosophies in the ethnic, religious and other fields, makes this task more difficult.

Countries like India and Kyrgyzstan can derive confidence from the fact that their relationship, based as it is on trust and cooperation, provides a model framework in which nations of the world can come together to overcome such problems in their pursuit of shared goals.

In the economic field as well, the international community should rework its older design. The unchanged continuation of the multilateral economic framework set up soon after the Second World War often does not address the newer requirements that have emerged in the last five decades. Also, regional economic groupings have an inevitable impact on the multilateral economic and commercial system. Multilateralism must not be abandoned for unilateral objectives. Reform in this area is overdue, and countries like ours, working for improving the lives of our peoples, have a contribution to make in this effort in terms of

identifying the need for change and ways of addressing this need.

Since the end of the Second World War, humankind's hopes for peace and development have rested upon the United Nations. India is committed to the principles and objectives of the world body, but at the same time believes that the UN, 50 years after its founding, needs to reassess its location in the scheme of things. Our view is that, in order to reflect contemporary realities and become truly representative of humanity, the United Nations should democratise its decisionmaking processes, and undertake meaningful reforms that will enable it to better address the needs of countries around the world, particularly developing countries.

We are convinced, for example, that the UN Security Council should be enlarged with a greater number of permanent members who would reflect the changed situation in the world today. We also believe that the UN's extremely important developmental role should not be diluted for the simple reason that its record in this field in the past has been both outstanding and a boon to a large number of countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, as my visit to your country comes to a close, I can think of no better message to convey to the Kyrgyz people than to quote lines from your great epic "Manas". They reflect the warmth and cordiality that bind our two countries.

We shall serve you well, at all ends, Lie in accord, as brothers and friends, Take us beneath your sheltering cloak! Count us, now on, as your own folk".
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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Speech of Prime Minister to Turkmen Parliamentarians

Mr. President, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. It is a pleasure for me to be here in Turkmenistan and to enjoy the hospitality of its friendly people. It is a special pleasure for me to address this distinguished gathering, which

can be said to represent the essence of democracy in the new Turkmenistan. We welcome the emergence of a new Turkmenistan and its democratic and secular aspirations, for these mirror our own aspirations and our guiding principles.

3. Turkmenistan is a young State with an old culture and civilisation. It is a civilisation that has witnessed the flourishing of the human genius in diverse fields. It is equally a civilisation that we have encountered through the ages and have mutually enriched each other. President Niyazov has noted the similarity between the people of Turkmenistan and the people of India, in that they are both tolerant and secularminded. This is indeed as it should be, for tolerance and secularism are no more than a reflection of a rational approach to the world outside. When a people have a history of several thousands years, they acquire the characteristics of moderation and tolerance. My own visit here has been a welcome opportunity of acquainting myself with the new Turkmenistan and its wise leadership, which has convinced me that we are embarking on a long-term relationship of friendship and mutual understanding. It has also convinced me that Turkmenistan is modernising rapidly and Ashgabat is today one of the most dynamic cities that I have seen.

4. We are living through a time of rapid change. While the passing of the Cold War is the most visible symbol of the changes taking place around us, there are underlying shifts also taking place, which must not be lost sight of. Beyond any doubt, the most important of these is the revolution in technology which is bringing about a completely new age in human existence. The new breakthroughs in electronics and information technology are changing the way we live as also the way the nations interact with one another. The spirit of the times demands more open systems and greater freedom for the individual. It also demands a greater sense of equality and a commitment to mutual accommodation in inter-State relations. It would, therefore, be a pity if the winds of change did not bring about a greater degree of democracy in global affairs, even as democracy is becoming a beacon to people all over the world.

5. This is particularly applicable to the United Nations Organisation, whose 50th Anniversary we will be observing shortly. India was one of the founder-members of this Organisation and can claim to have more than a passing acquaintance with it. The UN is one of the few truly universal organisations and has served to keep the world a safer place than it might otherwise have been. It is only proper, therefore, that its 50th Anniversary is being celebrated with enthusiasm across the world. However, the UN must also change with the times. Its different organs must reflect the new democratic spirit which is abroad and it should cease to be the handmaiden of a select few. There is talk of modifying the structure of the UN Security Council. There seems to be general agreement that an expansion is due since the last such expansion was in 1965. The membership of

the UN has roughly doubled since then, while the membership of the Security Council remains unchanged. The
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need for democratisation is specially relevant in the case of the permanent members who remain the same few that enjoyed this privilege at the end of the Second World War. Even more incomprehensible is the move to add new permanent members without spelling out the rationale and criteria of such expansion. Among the criteria, it would only be fair to require adequate geographic spread so as to cover not merely European, North American and other admittedly affluent countries, but to ensure representation from developing countries located in other parts of the world also. Criteria such as size, contribution to UN activities and role in promoting peace and disarmament in the world are all relevant to this decision. It would be an error to overlook these aspects and to pick countries in an ad hoc manner for induction as new permanent members in the Security Council.

6. The world needs also to address certain other issues that confront us all today. Recent history demonstrates that it was overly optimistic to presume that, with the end of the Cold War, we had reached the millennium of peace and plenty. On the contrary, a number of vicious wars have broken out in different parts of the world and these are causing unnecessary death and destruction. This is a result, in many cases, of the assault on existing national boundaries, in the name of some distorted theories of ethnic purity, or religious ties or a totally wrong sense of selfdetermination. We, in our region, must be on our guard against such extreme actions and must work together to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereign equality of all States in our region. Otherwise, there will only be destruction and chaos.

7. A common challenge that we all face is terrorism. We are firmly of the view that violence solves no problem and no political or social goal can justify the use of violence, particularly against innocent people. This is the essence of what Mahatma Gandhi taught us in India. No ideology or religion can tolerate such outrages. Nor can any State remain passive in the face of terrorist acts. It is therefore extremely disturbing to note the growth of terrorism in various parts of Asia, in the name of some extremist ideology or the other. Democratic societies have to fight this challenge together. Indeed democracy itself has to fight this challenge, by demonstrating that it can peacefully solve any problem, which those who take to violence may be intending to solve, but eventually fail to solve. It is all the more reprehensible when one country finances and encourages terrorist acts against another, and deserves the condemnation of all civilised countries.

8. Whereas democracy and the freer interaction among nations is one element in the new global scheme of things, regional

cooperation is another. It is striking how the number of regional organisation has proliferated in recent years. In Asia alone there are organisations such as ASEAN, SAARC, ECO as well as Caspian Sea based groupings in addition to a host of UN-sponsored organisations. We attach great importance to cooperation in South Asia within the framework of SAARC. The South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement has now been ratified by five countries and is a promising start which should lead to more active interaction between the members of SAARC. Eight summits have taken place since the inception of SAARC in 1985 and these are becoming a regular feature of its functioning. While regional cooperation is an imperative of the times, it is equally true that focussing on minor problems which vitiate bilateral relations is a mistake which will be condemned by history. We must not fail the generations that will come after us and must therefore display the required statesmanship and move forward in a spirit of genuine cooperation.

9. The growth of regional cooperation in the Central Asian region also takes many forms. Ultimately, it is the people and economic rationality that will determine the success of any regional grouping. It is tempting to imagine that ethnic or religious affinities can provide a basis for a stable regional grouping and some indeed

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are drawn to this. However, these are short term calculations and the logic of history as well as rationality does not favour such narrow calculations and motivations. History shows that regional groupings benefit from openness to new ideas and new relationships, which provide a healthy stimulus for further growth.

10. In this context, I cannot but add a word of commendation for the wise and moderate foreign policy being pursued by Turkmenistan. Its open approach to the outside world and its willingness to cooperate with all countries in the region and beyond without any desire for unilateral advantage is a good augury for the entire region. Such a policy bodes well for the region itself and for its healthy cooperation with other regions such as South or South-east Asia. The policy of positive neutrality is also a reflection of the secular and modern temper of the Turkmen people and secures for Turkmenistan the independence of judgement in its foreign policy. The Turkmen people and their leader President Niyazov are exercising their judgement with balance and discretion. The proposal rightly enjoys the respect of all the countries in the region and we are happy to be among those who endorse this idea.

11. We in India greatly appreciate the goodwill and cooperation that exist between our two countries. The commitment to principle and the openness of approach that I have mentioned earlier is amply reflected in the close understanding that exists between

India and Turkmenistan. This has been reconfirmed in my talks with President Niyazov and we are glad to note that we not only share the same ideals, but are also committed to protecting each other's vital security concerns. This is a good foundation for a long term relationship and the people of India are committed to this. For us, Turkmenistan and Central Asia are an area of high priority where we aim to stay engaged far into the future. We are here as an independent partner, with no selfish motive. We only desire honest and open friendships whose aim is to promote stability and cooperation, without causing harm to any third country.

12. India is a land and culture wellknown to the Turkmen people and it is gratifying to note that your national poet Makdumkuli expresses a desire to visit Hindustan in his poetry. Modern India is changing rapidly, in keeping with the changes taking place all around us. We have embarked upon a new economic strategy, whose objective is to integrate ourselves with the global economy and to keep up with the latest achievements in science and technology. The results of four years of this policy have been encouraging and we are now reckoned to be among the six largest economies in the world. What is more, our economy is growing at a rapid pace since we have decided to liberalise our internal functioning so as to free the creative energies of our people. India is thus an important long-term economic partner to all our neighbours and we look forward to close cooperation with all of them. Our foreign policy is similarly aimed at promoting harmonious relations in our neighbourhood and beyond. We have a history of successful cooperation with the UN in its principal task of ensuring peace and stability. Nearer home, the message of Mahatma Gandhi and our founding fathers was that of non-violence and goodwill for all. This we have implemented in thought and deed in the years since our independence. We are glad that our foreign policy and our values are appreciated around the world and we are committed to building more harmonious relations in our neighbourhood and beyond. In this task, Turkmenistan is an important partner and I am sure that our people will work with each other to attain the lofty goals we have set for ourselves.

13. Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. I thank you again for this opportunity of sharing my thoughts with you, and for your gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Thank you.

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RKMENISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Statement by External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee at UN General Assembly

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your election on the President of this fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, during which you will guide our discussions on what the future of the UN should be. May I also convey my thanks to your predecessor H.E. Mr. Amara Essy, who as it were, tilled the ground which you will sow.

A fiftieth anniversary is a climacteric, usually joyous but not necessarily so. In ancient India, this is around the time in a man's life that he would be expected to withdraw into a forest, to spend the rest of his days in contemplation of past and future, it being the assessment of our ancestors that anything a man could usefully do, he would have done by then. No such drastic measures are needed for the UN, not least because it has spent much of its first fifty years meditating in a concrete jungle, and the shadow of the woods of Bretton always loom over it. I do think, however, that as we celebrate, which we should, the UN's survival, we should judge what it has done, and what it now needs to do. The UN system has had remarkable successes, in helping to defeat colonialism and apartheid, on social issues like universal health care and women's rights, and in banning, through global, non-discriminatory treaties, two out of the three weapons of mass destruction. These are considerable achievements, but a clear pattern emerges from them; whenever the UN has acted on principle, responding to the felt needs and priorities of the majority of its membership, it has done well. When it has pursued narrow agendas or succumbed to special pleading, it has not.

If we were setting out tasks for the UN today, what would be the major trends and challenges we would expect it to address? Firstly, the international economy transformed by global movements of trade, capital and labour, driven by forces which can break developing economies; these are regulated, if they can at all be, in forums outside the UN, which is therefore marginalised in this most momentous of contemporary developments. Secondly, an opening up of political systems, and democracy the norm of national governance; the UN welcomes this, urges the recalcitrant to change, but is itself sapped by undemocratic systems and institutions. Thirdly, the scourge of war increasingly replaced by the scourge of terrorism, which for the

countries who sponsor it, is war by other means; the UN, set up to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, ignores it as the League of Nations, to its fatal peril, ignored the threat of xenophobia.

These are complex and titanic forces. We, therefore, cannot accept, either as a statement of fact or as a basis of policy, the view that all this meant was that the days of absolute sovereignty were over. Sovereignty has never been absolute. Most members of the UN joined immediately after emerging from colonial rule, with their economies destroyed, and dependent on foreign languages for communication, on imperial capitals for support, on donors for subsistence; this is hardly the stuff on which absolute sovereignty is built. It was, in fact, one of the great virtues of the UN that it gave fledgling nations space to exercise the sovereignty so cruelly circumscribed elsewhere. Therefore, the UN should not claim a unilateral right to intervene in the affairs of its members; sovereignty can be diluted only with the voluntary consent of nation States, accepting obligations that are nondiscriminatory, or in exceptional circumstances, where State authority has collapsed.

Far from enfeebling sovereignty, it is the UN's task to nurture it in a world that has made the powerful even more dominant, and the weak increasingly powerless. We must never forget that this Assembly is one of our nations united. The United Nations rests on the commitment to it of sovereign nations.

There is clearly enormous need for global action to deal with complex issues which have no territorial limits or borders; this is the task of the UN. Developing countries, who represent the majority of the United Nations, obviously want it to focus on the issues of most pressing concern to them. That is not only fair, that would be the democratic thing to do. For us, the single most important task is development, and we expect this to be highest priority on the international agenda, as it is on our domestic agendas. Sadly, it is not. The Agenda for Development looks lamely like an appendix. Can we, at this session, pledge ourselves to honour the commitments, freely negotiated but never implemented, which will make development possible in the South, and make the world, for all of us, a better and more peaceful place?

It is just as important for the UN to have a say in the decisions that guide the international economy; Chapter IX of the UN Charter gave it the task to higher standards of living, solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Like the UN, the World Trade Organisation given equal weight in the votes of all its members, but it would be a pity if the WTO cut even the tenuous links between GATT and the UN, and instead,

decided that global economic policies will be coordinated in the future between it, the World Bank and the IMF, where the system of weighted voting makes the voice of the developing countries irrelevant. At the same time, several studies commissioned to coincide with this anniversary claim UNCTAD no longer has a useful purpose. This can either mean that the problems UNCTAD addresses -- development strategies, poverty alleviation, resource transfers and debt, and the transfer of technology -- have been settled, or are now irrelevant. Neither is true. These continue to be burning issues for developing countries, and if the UN chooses to ignore them, it will not serve the needs of its membership.

The UN must assume its Charter responsibility to supervise and coordinate global economic policies. In the WTO, efforts have been made to link trade to environment and labour standards. The World Bank, in its World Development Report 1993, warns about the "proliferation of protectionist demands, many of them under the guise of demands for fair trade and a level playing field". If, indeed there is a genuine interest in protecting the environment and the interests of labour in developing countries, why are UNEP and the ILO being sidelined in this exercise? The answer must be that there is no provision in these bodies for the coercive, retaliatory action which would be available under the sanctions regime of the WTO.

However, the industrialised countries say that environmental and labour standards must be harmonised upwards because otherwise, forces of xenophobia rise again. Sovereignty has never been threatened by fresh blood freely welcomed; it has by the forces of racist intolerance.

This brings us naturally to the other force that now threatens the sovereignty of so many nations. Terrorism is the black plague of our times, and it has been made more dangerous by the mystique with which the media has endowed it. It is argued sometimes that one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist; this is specious logic. In 1922, Mahatma Gandhi was suspended for several years from the freedom struggle in India because, in an incident in the village of Chauri Chaura, a mob burnt some policemen to death; in Gandhi's view, the view of the ultimate freedom-fighter, the means must sanctify the ends.

What ends could possibly justify the barbarism of taking an innocent foreigner in India hostage, and beheading him in

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cold blood? Foreign mercenaries did this to the Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro last month. An empire of terror is being built up with arms and money sent across borders; its foot soldiers are drawn from the bigoted, its leadership from ruthless, unprincipled men, and regrettably, some women.

At every summit in recent years, whether of the Non-aligned, the G-7, the OSCE or the Commonwealth, Heads of State and Government have reaffirmed their resolve to defeat all forms of terrorism. However in the UN, where we are all represented, we have been unable to speak in such forthright terms. We must do so at this fiftieth anniversary. To appease terrorism now will be as dangerous as appeasing xenophobia was in the 1930s (or as it would be now), and ultimately as destructive of both peace and democracy, because terrorism, as I said earlier, is war by other means. Whether it tries to violate the territorial integrity of a country, as in India in our State of Jammu & Kashmir or to unseat duly constituted governments, as in Afghanistan, the acts of States sponsoring terrorism are, in fact, acts of war.

Democracies, as open societies, are particularly vulnerable to terrorism. The UN welcomes the global trend that has made democracy the norm of governance but has done nothing to defend democracies from extremist and other threats. Instead, it comforts itself with the mantras that democracy is development, and democracies do not wage war. These neatly package all the world's problems and absolve the UN of any further responsibility. Establish democracy everywhere, and automatically, development and peace will follow.

Both propositions are historically untrue. Democracies that developed in the 19th and 20th centuries either suppressed democratic rights until they became rich, or grew rich on the ruthless exploitation of colonies; when they shed their empires after the Second World War, democracy became development in Europe only in the uniquely generous embrace of the Marshall Plan. The myth that democracies do not wage war is destroyed by the history of colonial rule and its wars, leading up to the conflagration of the First World War. The UN should, therefore, take these propositions as objectives, not as givens. Democracy should lead to developments, democracies should be peaceful.

Mr. President,

I want to touch briefly upon two other global issues which affect our lives: disarmament and human rights. After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mahatma Gandhi said that the use of the atom bomb for the wholesale destruction of men, women and children was the most diabolical use of science. We were, therefore, appalled that, instead of stepping back from the road to nuclear ruin, the nuclear weapon states sped faster and faster down it. As they accelerated, India tried unsuccessfully to put on the brakes. In 1954, we called for an end to nuclear testing. In 1965, we proposed principles for an NPT. In 1982, we called for a Convention to ban the use of nuclear weapons, and for an end to the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. In 1988, we proposed to the UN a comprehensive Action Plan for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Our goal, shared, I believe by most of us here, is a world from which nuclear weapons have been eliminated. The nuclear weapon States claim to share this goal but their present objective is to retain nuclear weapons while making sure others do not get them. The logic of this is hard to understand. It cannot be argued that the security of a few countries depends on their having nuclear weapons, and that of the rests depends on their not. What makes the NPT such a pernicious document is that it legitimises this illogic, and now it has been made permanent, it has made the possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear weapon States immutable, and has made the goal of global nuclear disarmament that much more difficult.

It is useful to recall that, when India and other developing countries proposed

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the NPT a global balance of responsibilities was envisaged. Those who did not have nuclear weapons would not seek to acquire them; those who had them would not try to either refine or develop them, or to increase their arsenals. This balance was never honoured, with the result that 25 years after the signature of the NPT, the world is a much more dangerous place, made so by the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the nuclear weapon States.

I recall this background because, two years ago, the international community at last agreed to negotiate a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We are glad that negotiations are in progress, but we also note that nuclear weapon States have agreed to a CTBT only after acquiring the know-how to develop and refine their arsenals without the need for tests. In our view, the CTBT must be an integral step in the process of nuclear disarmament. Developing new warheads or refining existing ones after a CTBT is in place, using innovative technologies, would be as contrary to the spirit of the CTBT as the NPT is to the spirit of non-proliferation. The CTBT must contain a binding commitment on the international community, especially the nuclear weapon States, to take further measures within an agreed time-frame towards the creation of a nuclear weapon free world.

The existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to peace and security. Only global nuclear disarmament can guarantee that there will never be a nuclear war. Therefore, despite the unfortunate legitimisation of nuclear weapons through the indefinite extension of the NPT, India will continue to work with like-minded countries for the early elimination of all nuclear weapons. We hope this session will finalise dates for the 4th United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1997.

Mr. President,

Human rights have always been a preoccupation of the United

Nations, but their protection and promotion in each country is the primary responsibility of the government. The universality and interdependence of all human rights are also beyond question. That is precisely why the United Nations system cannot promote and protect human rights by a unilateral prioritisation of individual freedoms or a proliferation of intrusive mechanisms, or by diverting funds from development activities to human rights activities. The priorities of nations will differ. The United Nations must balance the promotion of all human rights -- civil, cultural, economic, political and social -- preserve and propagate the values of every society, and promote tolerance for diversity and cross-cultural interaction. Politicising the human rights agenda and using it to target countries is undesirable.

The UN will become responsive to these global issues, and effective and efficient only if it too becomes more democratic in its functioning. Developing countries find it hard to identify with the agendas and priorities of the UN; they feel that it now represents the privileges of a few rather than the interests of the many. If the majority of its members become disenchanted with it, what role can the UN effectively play? For the UN to be more effective, the General Assembly must be given new life, and breathe that life into the other bodies of the system. The legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council must be enhanced. An expansion of both permanent and non-permanent members is a must if the Council is to become a truly representative body, acting on behalf of the members of the United Nations, for the maintenance of peace and security.

The Non-aligned have put forward a comprehensive proposal for the reform and restructuring of the Security Council. India believes that, to truly reflect the expanded membership of the UN, developing countries must be included as permanent members. New permanent members should be chosen not arbitrarily, but on objective criteria. In the League

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of Nations too, it was argued that one country had a special right of entry into the Supreme Council. When this was forced through one or two of the other aspirants left the League, starting its decline. We should not repeat that tragedy. On objective criteria, some countries will clearly qualify for permanent membership. We believe India will be among them.

Mr. President,

The UN in recent years has devoted itself almost exclusively to peace-keeping, which is important, but not the central issue of our times. It is judged, naturally, by its record in these operations. There have been successes and failures, and both provide the reason and the need for introspection. India believes that UN peacekeeping operations must be based on the principles evolved over the last fifty years. Operations guided by these

principles have usually done well; where these have been abandoned, failure has been common. Over the last year, this truth has gained broad acceptance, and the Special Committee on PKOs is now trying to collate these principles; it would be desirable for this 50th Session to agree upon them. India will contribute to this work.

India has consistently supported peacekeeping activities of the United Nations. Indian troops have participated in all major peace-keeping operations ranging from Congo to Cambodia, Somalia and Mozambique. We are currently participating in UN peace-keeping operations in Rwanda, Angola, Haiti, Liberia and Kuwait. We have also offered a brigade of troops to the United Nations Standby Arrangement. India will continue to contribute to United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security.

If the UN is to become a leading player on the world scene, it must be given the means needed to do the job we entrust to it. Clearly, setting out on a second fifty years with a crippling financial crisis is not the best way to do this. In India we make considerable efforts to pay our contributions promptly and in full. We believe that all members must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Further, those in arrears must announce a schedule for settlement. There can be no progress in the on-going efforts for financial reform, unless this is done.

Mr. President,

This 50th General Assembly is a historic one. It is our responsibility to rejuvenate the United Nations give it the tasks we want it to do, and the means to do them with. We set up the United Nations because we felt that all of us stood to gain from it; in the dark days of the Cold War, and in the friction between North and South, we seem to have lost this vision.

Since the inception of the United Nations, India has been committed to the principles and objectives of the charter. In the last five decades, we have played an important role in shaping the UN's agenda, taking the lead on the issues of decolonization, disarmament, human rights and environment and other crucial issues. On this historic occasion, we pledge our continuing commitment to the United Nations' efforts to chart a new course for the collective benefit of all humanity. As we attempt to do so I am reminded of Jawaharlal Nehru's speech to this very Assembly in November, 1948 in Paris. He said and I quote: "The objectives are clear and our aim is clear; and yet in looking at that aim we lose ourselves often, if I may venture to say so, in smaller matters and forget the main objective that we are looking at. Sometimes it seems that the objective itself gets a little clouded".

We must ensure, Mr. President, that we set aside smaller matters, that we do not allow the objective to get clouded and that we

move forward together in harmony and for the benefit of all peoples of the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.
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UNITED KINGDOM USA PERU INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AFGHANISTAN JAPAN IRAN
CAMBODIA CONGO MALI SOMALIA MOZAMBIQUE ANGOLA HAITI KUWAIT LIBERIA RWANDA
LATVIA FRANCE

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Right of Reply Exercised by the Indian Delegation in Response to Pakistan Foreign Minister's Statement in the UN General Assembly

Mr. President,

An extraordinary statement was made against my country earlier today, couched in abusive language, and consisting entirely of falsehoods. Normally we would not have considered it necessary to dignify it with a response. However, the statement was made by the distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and therefore it is necessary for us to set the record straight.

2. In his long tirade against India, the distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan inadvertently had one sentence that was absolutely true; it was indeed India that brought Kashmir to the Security Council. We asked the Council to take a stand against aggression on Indian territory. The Council's resolutions made it absolutely clear that before any further steps could be taken, Pakistani forces had to withdraw from the territory they had forcibly occupied in Jammu and Kashmir. Till today, that has not happened. The occupying forces in Jammu and Kashmir, in the terms of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, are those of Pakistan.

3. In Jammu and Kashmir, the people have exercised their right of self-determination in 1947, and, as in any democracy, they have chosen their own governments in successive elections, together with the rest of the Indian electorate. As in any democracy, those who represent the people are the only ones who can negotiate on their behalf. Therefore, it is our view that the first step in Jammu and Kashmir is to hold fresh elections, in which anyone who is eligible under the terms of the Indian

Constitution, can participate. Those elections will establish
juse who truly represents the Kashmiri people and their wishes.
At the moment, those who claim to speak for the people of Jammu
and Kashmir, are self-appointed, and their authority flows, not
from the freely expressed wishes of all the people, but from the
barrels of guns supplied to them by the Government of Pakistan.
Quite understandably, therefore, Pakistan is not prepared to have
the bluff of its proteges called, and has therefore done
everything possible to thwart the democratic processes in Jammu
and Kashmir.

4. Instead, Pakistani-sponsored terrorism which it unleashed in
Jammu and Kashmir six years ago has been taken to new extremes.
The shrine at Charar-e-Sharif was burnt down by the mercenary
Mast Gul who claimed credit for this outrage, returned to
Pakistan and was feted in the Pakistan media and by Pakistani
Government television for his crimes.

5. The distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan disingenuously
claims today that the concentration of the forces at the border
makes it impossible for the militants to slip in from Pakistan.
Mast Gul's return to Pakistan, after burning the Charar-e-Sharif
shrine, shows how easily Pakistan has managed to slip in arms and
terrorists to continue to violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

6. The Government of Pakistan claims it only offers moral support
to the Kashmiris. Pakistan's moral support has already killed
20,000 Kashmiris. The armaments our security forces have
recovered from Jammu and Kashmir, is only a small percentage of
what has been sent by Pakistan, but could equip four infantry
divisions. If this is moral support, we
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shudder to think what Pakistan's immoral support would have done.

7. Despite these provocations, India certainly does not have the
slightest interest in hostilities with Pakistan. The
distinguished Pakistan Foreign Minister talks of threats of war
emanating from New Delhi. This is a figment of his imagination.
The Government of India have repeatedly, at the highest level,
and in bilateral discussions, emphasised that India desires
nothing but peaceful relations with Pakistan. The Government of
Pakistan has refused to respond. Nevertheless, though we are
disappointed that Pakistan does not wish to normalise relations
or have bilateral talks, we have noted their military leaders,
who continue to be the most influential section of their
leadership, have repeatedly said they anticipate no conflict.

8. There is no threat of war in our region, certainly not from
India. Our troops are in peace-time locations. They are deployed
in Jammu and Kashmir, to defend the innocent civilian population
of the State against the depredations of the terrorists.

9. The distinguished Pakistani Foreign Minister made an astonishing claim linking India to the Al-Faran group which has taken several Western tourists hostage and brutally killed one of them. It is recognised by all governments which have been drawn into this latest unsavoury episode, that Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar, a terrorist organization based in Pakistan, financed by it, and operating on its behalf. Al-Faran's direct link to Pakistan is established by the fact that they are asking for the release of three Pakistani terrorists in Indian custody.

10. Pakistan weeps about an arms race. This is ironic coming from a country that in the eighties diverted arms given to the Afghan Mujahideen and in the nineties when that source ran dry, begged all over the world for more arms. Through a recent amendment by the U.S. Congress, Pakistan will have several hundred million dollars worth of weaponry added to its inventory. It has acquired missiles several years ago which it claims it has kept nailed down in its boxes, like its own people.

11. India's concentration is on the economic and social development of its people. We recognise that must be our highest priority. We believe that if the Government of Pakistan also believes in this objective, it should be possible for us jointly to work for peace in the region. If we agree on these objectives, there is no need for any third party to persuade us to be good neighbours.

12. The distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan talks about Security Council resolutions on Kashmir as sacrosanct. In the same statement, speaking on Bosnia & Herzegovina, he describes the arms embargo on Bosnia, imposed in accordance with the resolution of the Security Council, as illegal. The Security Council cannot be deemed sacrosanct only when it suits Pakistan.

13. The difficulties we have had with Pakistan are not unique. The Government of Afghanistan has formally complained to the Secretary General in a letter dated 14th September about armed Pakistani interventions in their country, in collusion with mercenary groups, which Pakistan has organised, financed and trained, but which the Government of Pakistan, with its usual attachment to falsehood, claims to disown. Taliban in Afghanistan and Al-Faran in Jammu and Kashmir are both creatures of the Government of Pakistan.

14. Having perfected the art of statesponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and in Afghanistan, Pakistan has now unleashed terror on its own people. Karachi is in flames because the Government of Pakistan is practising a brutality on its own people with which the victims of Pakistani terror in Kashmir are all too familiar. This of course, is in a way a long-standing Pakistani tradition. In 1971, state terror un-

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leashed by Pakistani forces in what was then part of their country, led to three million deaths, a scale of extermination and genocide that compares easily with anything unleashed under fascism.

15. I want to make one point absolutely clear. Nothing Pakistan can say or do, no violence, no outrage, no falsehood repeated a thousand times over, will change the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is and will continue to be an inalienable part of India. The Government of India will do everything necessary to defend the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to live in peace and security which other Indian citizens enjoy.

16. The Government of India hopes that the Government of Pakistan would demonstrate sincerity to find a peaceful solution by eschewing sponsorship of terrorism across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and returning to the negotiating table for a meaningful dialogue as urged by the U.N. Secretary General in his report on the work of the United Nations.

17. Mr. President, as I began by saying, this Right to Reply has been forced upon us. It is a foregone conclusion that Pakistan's flow of invective and falsehood being inexhaustible, a further outpouring will follow. We do not intend to waste the time of this august Assembly by responding to any further provocations.

Thank you.

DIA PAKISTAN USA MALI AFGHANISTAN

Date : Sep 18, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VI

Protocol on Consultation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark;

Desirous of promoting and enlarging the political, economic, development, commercial, scientific, technical, cultural and consular cooperation between the two sides and on this basis further developing and strengthening of the friendly relations between the Indian and Danish peoples;

Considering as useful consultations as well as exchange of opinions at different levels on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest; and

Wishing to facilitate operational decisions on questions of mutually beneficial cooperation, hereby agree on the following:

1. The Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark shall hold regular consultations to review all aspects of their bilateral relations and undertake exchanges of views on international issues, on interaction at multilateral fora, and on issues of mutual interest.

2. In reviewing all aspects of the bilateral relationship between India and Denmark the consultations shall focus especially on the areas of political, economic, development, commercial, scientific, technical, cultural and consular cooperation.

The annual negotiations on the bilateral development cooperation will be maintained.
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3. The meetings will be held, in principle, on an annual basis, alternately in New Delhi and in Copenhagen. These meetings should in principle be conducted at the Secretary level according to mutual convenience and agreement.

For the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark.

V. K. GROVER Sd-Secretary to the Government of India.

Sd-BJARNE A. SORENSEN Ambassador of Denmark to India.
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Date : Oct 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

CAIRO, CARTAGENA AND NEW YORK

Visit of Prime Minister to Cairo, Cartagena and New York

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Oct 10, 1995 on the visit of Prime Minister, Shri P. V.
Narasimha Rao to Cairo, Cartagena and New York:

Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao will visit Cairo,
Cartagena and New York from 15 to 25 October, 1995. The visit to
Egypt is at the invitation of His Excellency President Hosni
Mubarak and is expected to cover matters of bilateral, regional
and international interest. The Prime Minister will attend the
Non-aligned Summit in Cartagena from 17-19 October, 1995 and the
Summit of Heads of State Government on the occasion of the 50th
Anniversary of the Founding of the United Nations from 21-24
October, 1995. A high level delegation comprising of Shri Pranab
Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi,
Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Shri R. L. Bhatia,
Minister of State for External Affairs, and other senior
officials will be accompanying the Prime Minister.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COLOMBIA EGYPT USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Oct 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

CARTAGENA

The Role of Non-alignment meeting by the Ministerial Level

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1995 on the role of Non-alignment at the ministerial level meeting of the ongoing XI Non-aligned Summit:

Speaking on the role of Non-alignment at the Ministerial level meeting of the ongoing XI Non-aligned Summit External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee highlighted the continued relevance of the Movement in the post cold war era in defending the national interests of member countries, promoting the economic prosperity of developing countries and fighting economic domination. He emphasised that at the cross-roads at which the Movement finds itself today, the Summit provided a fresh opportunity to renew and reinforce the commitment of the NAM to a common vision of the future. For this, the Movement had to focus on global issues that united it, in particular the unfinished agenda of economic and social development. The Movement should not get bagged down on divisive issues or bilateral problems.

External Affairs Minister underlined the common threats to world peace and security posed by the phenomenon of terrorism, particularly terrorism sponsored by States or their agencies, xenophobia and new forms of racial discrimination, and narco-trafficking which have corroded societies and which threaten

the stability and territorial integrity of countries who are members of the Movement. The Non-aligned Movement could play an important role in meeting these new threats to security which have reared their heads.

On the reform of the United Nations, External Affairs Minister stated that the Security Council, the major decision making body of the UN, must be expanded and made more representative to reflect new ground realities in terms of the expansion of its membership. The Non-aligned Movement should support the greater representation of the developing countries in the expanded Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories. The NAM should provide coherent and unified direction to the United Nations in the reform process. He also said that NAM should work towards the re-structuring of the international financing system including the Bretton Woods institutions.

On nuclear disarmament, External Affairs Minister argued that it was necessary for NAM to insist loudly and clearly on a time-bound programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons, beginning if possible, in the form of a resolution on this subject during the ongoing General Assembly session.

While in Cartagena, External Affairs Minister also met the Foreign Ministers of Nepal, Mr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, of Surinama, Mr. Subhash Mungra, and of Iran, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, as also the First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Mr. Oleg Soskovets with whom he discussed issues facing the Non-aligned Movement and the current Summit, as also bilateral relations.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COLOMBIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA NEPAL IRAN RUSSIA

Date : Oct 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India seeks Chinese Technology for Underground Coal Mines

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1995 on India's seeking Chinese technology for underground Coal Mines:

The Third meeting of Indo-China Working Group on Coal began in Beijing today. In his inaugural address, the Coal Secretary Shri M.P. Modi said that joint working group is meeting in the background of sound progress in the area of cooperation in the coal sector between the two countries. He said that India is looking forward to concreate arrangements for transfer of relevant Chinese underground technologies suitable for geo-mining conditions in Indian coalfields.

About the future plans, the Coal Secretary stated that India has to step up its coal production from present level of 275 million tonnes to over 400 million tonnes per annum in the first three years of the next century. A substantial part of this increase is envisagd from underground mines. This quantum jump in coal production in such a time frame can be possible only by careful selection and efficient application of proven technologies. In this, the Chinese industry can have important role, Shri Modi added.

Referring to the progress made in bilateral cooperation since last working
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group meeting, Shri Modi said that as a part of contract between CME, China and SCCL, India, two sets of Longwall equipment have already been received. One has become operational and installation of second is expected to be completed by the end of November. For procurement and supply of four more sets of Longwall equipment contracts have been concluded between SECL, India and CME, China.

Dwelling on the outcome of the meeting of the Task Force on coal between the two countries held last month in Beijing, the Coal Secretary said that the Chinese side had shown keen interest in Blasting Gallery Technology offered by SCCL and informed that three opencast coal projects in China have been identified for development with Indian expertise and technology. In order to ensure fast absorption of Chinese underground mining technology and progressive development of mining equipment, spares and services in India, he said Task Force has also agreed that Chinese equipment supplier would enter into a co-manufacturing agreement with manufacturers in India. In this regard, an agreement has been signed by CME China with Jessop & Company Limited for manufacturing of Longwall Mining Equipment.

INA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN UNION

Indo-EU Trade -- Opportunities and Challenges

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 09, 1995 on Indo-EU Trade opportunities and challenges:

The European Union comprising of 15 countries with a population of 369.6 million and with a GDP of US \$ 7.721 trillion constitutes the largest market in the world. The total annual trade of EU countries in 1993 is ECU 2275 billion approximately of which more than 57% is undertaken between the constituent countries of the union and 42.7% comprises of extra-EU trade.

Indo-EU Trade

GENERAL TRENDS

In recent years, India's exports to the Community have increased substantially from US \$ 3413 million in 1988-89 to US \$ 7297.24 million in 1994-95 thereby registering an increase of 113.8%. On the other hand, imports grew by 23.6% from US \$ 6012 million in 1988-89 to US \$ 7432.86 million in 1994-95.

The European Union is India's largest trading partner and provides for a quarter of its exports and a third of its imports. Its two-way trade with India has expanded over the past three years now making India the 17th ranking trading partner of the EU compared to the 25th position in 1992. In 1994-95, Indian exports to EU grew by 21.25% in dollar terms with EU accounting for 27.8% of India's exports and 26.3% of its imports from EU in 1994-95.

India's share in imports of EU from extra-EU sources has improved from 1.25% to 1.35%.

COMMODITY COMPOSITION

India's exports to the EU comprise of textiles and garments (34%), leather and

leather products (14%), gems and jewellery (10%), engineering goods (9%), agricultural products (9%), chemicals (6%), carpets (4%), marine products (3%), electronics (2%), granite and stones (2%) and others (6%). Imports from the EU mainly comprise machinery and advanced engineering and transport equipment.

COMMODITY TRENDS

The bulk of the increase in our exports to EU in 1994 was concentrated in a few sectors, particularly textiles and garments, gems and jewellery, leather and leather products, and engineering goods. As per statistics received from EOI, Brussels, textiles and garments showed an increase of 21%. The sector that recorded the highest growth was electronics, with an increase of 59%. In terms of composition of India's exports in 1994, textiles and clothings contributed 34%, followed by leather and leather products (14%), gems and jewellery (10%), and the agricultural sectors (9%).

Garments and textiles exports from India to EU have continued to increase impressively, notwithstanding the intense competition and introduction of quotas for new products, as also non-tariff measures such as anti-dumping proceedings specifically targetting four different categories of Indian textiles exports. In quantitative terms, taking the 1994 trade figures into account, India has become the number one textiles exporter to EU, overtaking USA, Switzerland and China. In the garment sector, it

has improved its position to number four. Half a decade earlier, India was only the number four textiles exporter to EU and the number seven garment exporter. Export performance has improved both for quota and non-quota categories.

Quite clearly, India's exports to the EU are dominated by traditional items such as textiles, gems and jewellery and leather goods which together constitutes 47.71% of the total exports to EU in 1993-94. There are obvious limitations in striving towards sizeable increases of India's market share in these areas, specially in the textile sector where most fast moving items are still restrained by quotas. The encouraging aspect has been the export growth in several non-traditional sectors such as automotive components, software, dyes and chemicals, engineering and electronic goods, agriculture, plantation and marine products. While the traditional sectors remain important as they still constitute the bulk of the export basket, the overall strategy must be to move into new areas in which India possesses competitive advantage while protecting our traditional strengths.

Opportunities

Developments in the emerging Single European Market and the World Trading scenario have both combined to provide a back drop with strong elements favouring increases in two-way trade between India and the European Union. Some of the positive features in this scenario are:

(a) STANDARDS

A part of the movement towards the Single European market includes the harmonisation of standards for safety, health and environmental protection. While Indian exporters had earlier to cater for the requirements of the individual European countries, this process is now greatly simplified when all European standards have been drawn-up.

(b) ADVANTAGES OF A SINGLE MARKET

The abolition of physical barriers of trade within the European Union now provides advantages for easier accessing to a greater market once there is an established distributing chain in any one of the EU countries. Similarly, the presence of an Indian commercial or business entity in a European country would give automatic access to the entire market. Indian industry has been conscious of

these advantages and in the run-up to the Single European market, as many Indian companies have taken steps to establish joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in Europe which will tap the enhanced opportunities and synergies of the common market.

(c) QUOTAS

In the textile sector, the Single European market has resulted in the merger of country quotas which are now maintained and monitored at EU level. This allows greater flexibility in the utilisation of quotas where the shortfalls in one country can be made good by greater exports to another. In addition, there is the gradual phase-out of MFA itself which would increase market access to Indian textile exports. It is encouraging to note that there has been bilateral give and take in the area of textiles with India also opening up its market to high value European products. The agreement on textiles which came into effect from 31.12.1994 provides for removal by India of all quantitative restrictions on imports of yarn and fibres of interest to EC with effect from 1.1.1995 and removal by EC of all restraints of India's export of handloom and cottage industry products.

(d) GATT AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

The final agreement of the Uruguay Round of negotiations in the agriculture sector requires developed countries including those of the EU to reduce tariffs on agricultural goods by 36% over a six year period with a minimum 15% reduction in any one tariff line. Similarly, these countries are also to reduce expenditure of subsidies by 24% over 10 years. Given that the EU countries had been providing substantial protection in this area in addition to heavy subsidies, the overall effect of implementing the GATT Agreement would be to increase access and push up prices of most agricultural goods across the board. This obviously provides a window of opportunity to developing countries specially in tropical agricultural products.

The implementation of this agreement has already begun with the EU announcing a revised tariff on its rice imports. As per the new dispensation, Indian exports of brown basmati rice will now invite a duty of \$ 184.44 per tonne which is less by 70.2% as compared to the previous duty rate (\$ 620.40) and in addition places India at a distinct advantage in relation to its competitors. At the same time, there is some worry about the white rice sector where all exporters to the EU are at par but the quantum of duty levied seems to be excessive and might push up prices to unacceptable levels. This aspect has, of course, been taken up with the EU.

Challenges

While tremendous opportunities offer themselves in enhancing exports to the EU, some of the challenges that would at the same time need to be addressed, include phyto-sanitary conditions, quality standards, the new GSP scheme, antidumping and the emerging new environmental standards.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BELGIUM CHINA SWITZERLAND URUGUAY

Date : Oct 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN UNION

Foreign Service Institute

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1995 on the Sixth Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI):

25 Diplomats from 25 countries will be taking part in the Sixth Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) being organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). Starting from October 16, 1995 the programme will continue upto 15 December, 1995. This course is preceded by a one week (9-14 October, 1995) orientation programme in the English language which is designed to sharpen the language skills of those participants whose command over the language is not adequate. The programme will include participants from our neighbouring countries such as Srilanka, Myanmar and Bhutan; from several countries in Africa and West Asia including Syria, Lebanon, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Djibouti and Sudan; countries in Central Asia like Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; and several other from East Europe, South America and South-East Asia. Several new republics like Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Moldova will also be sending participants for this programme.

This 10-week long programme will be conducted by the faculty of the FSI with active help and cooperation of eminent academicians, government officials, journalists, research scholars and other distinguished persons in different walks of life. Reputed institutions like Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis and Indian Institute of Management will also collaborate with the FSI in conducting this programme.

The main objective of the programme will be to familiarise participants with the traditional needs, functions and role of a diplomatic service while equipping them for these tasks in a rapidly changing international environment. The intensive curriculum will include detailed and in depth analysis of the historical foundations and evolution of modern Diplomacy,

International Relations, International Law, Multilateral Diplomacy and Negotiations. The programme will include comprehensive treatment of vital issues like international Economic Relations and Commercial Diplomacy, new challenges facing the UN System, Defence and Security Issues, Non-Military Treaties to the Modern World and developments in the various Regions of the World. Separate Modules on Management Techniques, Social and Representational Skills, Effective Communications and Building Leadership qualities will be organised as a part of the programme. There will also be training in computers which would seek to provide a conceptual and practical foundation for the participants to become knowledgeable users of computer technology.

This would be the 6th Programme being organised in the series for foreign diplomats. Due to the keen interest and strong response received from a large number of countries who have benefited from such a programme, it has been decided to organise two more professional courses for foreign diplomats at the beginning of 1996.

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DIA BHUTAN GHANA LEBANON MALAWI NAMIBIA NIGER SYRIA DJIBOUTI SUDAN TANZANIA
UGANDA ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE KAZAKHSTAN UZBEKISTAN LATVIA USA

Date : Oct 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Permanent Secretariat for NAM S & T Centre

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1995 on Permanent Secretariat for NAM S & T Centre:

The Minister of State for Science & Technology, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi opened here today the new premises of the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and other developing countries. Prof. M. Y. Saada of Egypt the President of the Governing Council of the Centre, Ambassadors High Commissioners of Colombia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Viet Nam, Cuba, Malaysia, Nepal & Sri Lanka and representatives of other member countries attended the function. The premises funded by the Government of India will be the permanent Secretariat of the NAM Science & Technology Centre.

Shri Chaturvedi appreciated the efforts of the Centre in promoting scientific cooperation among member countries. He stressed the continuing relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement and its contribution on global issues like disarmament, achievement of equitable economic order and promotion of commercial & Scientific Cooperation among developing countries.

Shri Chaturvedi said that Non-Aligned Movement today comprises 112 sovereign independent States. Since its inception, the Movement has had a global vision and has dedicated itself to issues of global concern such as disarmament, decolonisation, elimination of apartheid and racism and creation of a just and equitable economic order. India has always played a leading role in fostering the aims and ideals of the Nonaligned Movement. The need of the hour is to intensify a focussed approach and priorities actions to the challenges arising from the emerging scenario of international situation, to strive towards the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

The Science and Technology Secretary Dr. V. S. Ramamurthy and senior officials of the Science and Technology Ministry attended the function. The President of the Centre Prof. Saada of Egypt stressed the importance of closer cooperation among Non-Aligned Countries in areas like Biotechnology, microelectronics & telecommunications. The Director Shri K. N. Johry presented the report on activities of the Centre.

The Centre was set-up in Delhi in pursuance of the decision of NAM Summits to pursue programmes for promoting scientific cooperation among its 35 member countries. The Programmes cover areas like remote sensing, tissue culture of economic plants & animal by-products utilization, medicinal plants, ozone depletion, low cost housing, metrology etc. The Centre has organised a number of workshops, training programmes & courses and brought out a number of publications in these areas & brings out a quarterly Science Newsletter.

DIA EGYPT COLOMBIA CUBA MALAYSIA NEPAL ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA USA

Date : Oct 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Exim Policy Book Aligned on ITC Classifications Released

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 16, 1995 on Exim Policy Book Aligned on ITC classifications released:

The Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, has today released a book entitled "Export & Import Policy Aligned on ITC (HS) Classification incorporating amendments upto 4th October, 1995)" to the public a press conference here today.

This book contains 99 chapters, each chapter having column and headings cover-
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ing the Exim Code, item description, Policy and nature of restriction, presenting itemwise import policy provisions for every product. This book provides the information in a user-friendly format for more than 11,000 entries. The text of important Public Notices indicating the Policy with regard to specific items is given below each chapter. Important licensing notes are given at the end of Harmonised System (HS) Section Notes and Chapter.

The first schedule contains the import policy on the eight digit extended HS, known as the Indian Trade Classification (ITC), system. The Export Policy is in the second schedule and is confined to two digit level only since the number of entries in the Negative List of exports is small. The format is compatible with the Deputy Drawback Scheme for exports administered by the Department of Revenue. Appendix-I at the end of the book explains important terms and phrases used in the document. Appendix-II details restrictions on account of hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste rules. For easy referencing, there is an index covering 7,500 entries in the last part of the book.

The Harmonised System of Commodity Classification developed by the CCC (Customs Cooperation Council), Brussels is in use the world over since the eighties. The adoption of the above system has been aimed to impart greater transparency to the Import Licensing Policy, compatibility with the system of classification followed by customs, central excise and the DGCI & S. In addition, it aims to reduce the number of discretionary controls specially in areas of ambiguity which lead to disputes in import policy matters. The document will also pave the way for computerisation and adoption of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in future for EXIM Policy.

The task of preparing this book was given to the Academy of Business Studies. It is hoped that this publication will help in better understanding of the current import policy, specially with regard to the generic entries like consumer goods. It is not an attempt to change the existing itemwise policy but is only an elucidation of the current policy. In case of any doubts disputes as regards the nature of restriction applicable to individual

items of imports or exports, the EXIM Policy provisions should invariably be referred to and shall prevail upon in the matter of interpretation.

DIA USA BELGIUM

Date : Oct 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Industry Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Region to Review Industrial Development

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1995 on the meeting of the Industry Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Region to Review Industrial Development:

The President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma will inaugurate the Regional Meeting of the Industry Ministers of the countries of Asia and Pacific Region here on October 19, 1995.

The two days meeting on "Accelerated Industrial Development and Competitiveness in the Asia and Pacific Region" will be attended by about 44 Industry Ministers of the countries in the region. It is being organised by UNIDO in cooperation with ESCAP and the Government of India. The meeting is taking place against a background of unprecedented overall economic growth and also imbalances in development between and within the countries of the region. The Asia and Pacific region has the largest number of least developed countries. Only Africa region has more such countries.

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The meeting will provide an opportunity to the Industry Ministers to review the region's economic and industrial trends, particularly the challenges thrown up by the new trading regimes. It will discuss how these challenges can be met by increasing the competitiveness of the industries especially small and medium industries exposed to increasing national and international competition. The meeting will also discuss the measures to narrow the technological gap between developing and developed countries. Attention will also be given to industrial development as a positive instrument for poverty alleviation, raising incomes and creating employment opportunities.

On each of the issues to be discussed by the Industry Members,

the conclusions and recommendations of the "Global Forum on Industry: Perspective for 2000 and Beyond" will also be examined. The Global Forum on Industry has also been organised by UNIDO in cooperation with the Government of India in New Delhi from October 16-18, 1995. The meeting is expected to provide valuable inputs to Sixth General Conference of UNIDO to be held in Vienna from December 4, 1995.

The results of the two days deliberations by the Industry Ministers are expected to be issued as New Delhi Declaration on Accelerated Industrial Development and Competitiveness in the Asia and the Pacific Region" on October 20, 1995.

DIA USA AUSTRIA

Date : Oct 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Israeli Import Licences no longer required for Indian ProductsIndo-Israeli Agreement on Trade & Economic Cooperation comes intoForce

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1995 of Indo-Israeli Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation:

India and Israel signed a bilateral Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, at New Delhi on 21st December, 1994 during the visit of Mr. Michael Harish, Israel's Minister of Industry and Trade. The Agreement incorporated a provision for both countries extending to each other the Most Favoured Nation treatment.

The two governments have now completed the formalities for the ratification of the Agreement as provided therein, thus allowing it to come into force from 28th August, 1995.

An immediate effect of the coming into force of the Agreement is that now Israeli import licences are not required for Indian products, unless such a licence is specified under Israel's EXIM Policy for a particular item irrespective of its country of origin. Under Israeli law, general import restrictions are not levied on products from any country with whom Israel has a bilateral trade agreement, and India is also now included in that category.

The entry into force of the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation also paves the way for early convening of the first meeting of the India-Israel Joint Trade and Economic Committee, consti-
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tuted in pursuance of the Agreement's provisions. The meeting, to be held at Ministerial level, in Tel Aviv, would be expected to impart further momentum to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, already expanding fast since the establishment of their diplomatic ties in 1992.

RAEL INDIA USA MALI

Date : Oct 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japan Pledges increased investments in India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1995 of Indo-Japanese economic ties:

A high power business delegation from Japan will soon visit India to explore the possibilities of further strengthening Indo-Japanese economic ties. The report submitted by them would charter the course of future Japanese investment in India. It was decided during the discussions held by the Union Industry Minister, Shri K. Karunakaran with prominent business leaders of Japan at Tokyo. Shri Karunakaran is presently in Japan at the first leg of his two-nation tour to Japan and Singapore.

Allaying any apprehension in the minds of Japanese investors, Shri Karunakaran said that the Government is committed to pursue the economic reforms process initiated four years ago to its logical conclusion. He also said that all political parties are committed to the economic progress of the country.

The leaders of Japanese industry also pledged the support for enhancing ties in the various research and development fields in India. Mr. Kinichi Kodono, Senior Advisor of Toshiba Corporation announced the plans to enhance cooperation through transfer of technology while Mr. Jiro Aiko, Senior Managing Director, Sony Corporation, said that he would send a high level electronic

mission to explore the investment opportunity in India.

The discussions were held under the auspices of Japan chapter of Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, the apex organisation of Japanese business and industrial houses influencing investment abroad. Mr. Eme Yamashita, former Vice President of MITI and Chairman of the committee led the Japanese side. Several Chief Executive Officers and business leaders from a cross section of Japanese business circle participated in these talks. Toshiba Corporation, Okura & Co., Sakura Card Co., Sony Corporation, Nomura Securities, Mitsubishi Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation, Marubeni Corporation Hitachi Corporation, Fujitsu Limited, Daiwa Research Institute etc., were some of the companies whose representatives exchanged the views with the Minister.

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PAN INDIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

KYRGHYZSTAN

Protocol of Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission signed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1995:

India and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to constitute three working groups on trade & economic cooperation including joint ventures, tourism and science & technology. A Protocol of the First meeting of the Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission on trade, economic, scientific & technological cooperation was signed here today by the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram and the Kyrgyz Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. A. Iordan.

The Kyrgyz side has agreed to consider meeting the annual requirement of MMTC Ltd. of 1000 flasks of mercury and 300 metric tonnes of antimony. The MMTC Ltd. would be leading a composite delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic shortly to finalise the arrangements. MMTC has offered to pay for the items in hard currency to supply in return, as part of countertrade arrangements, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other consumer items. The two sides have agreed to promote other counter-trade deals on similar lines.

It has also been agreed to by the two countries for greater Indian participation and investment in the development of agrofood processing industry in Kyrgyz Republic. An Indian delegation comprising of Indian businessmen, experts and officials will visit the Kyrgyz Republic to identify the areas and projects in which the investments could be made. It was also agreed to cooperate in geology, including mining, physics and mathematics and chemistry and chemical technology including pharmaceuticals on the basis of exchange of scientists on a regular basis.

The other areas for cooperation will be in drugs & pharmaceuticals, tourism, sports, civil aviation and electronics. The two sides also agreed to promote joint ventures in minerals and metals based industries, processing industries, particular in food products, leather, textiles, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, production of consumer goods, development of small scale industries and establishment of department stores.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in 1996 on a date to be mutually agreed upon.

DIA USA KYRGYZSTAN

Date : Oct 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICA

Steps to Boost India's trade with Latin American countries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1995 on India's trade with Latin American countries and inaugural address by Chidambaram at the Seminar on Emerging Business Opportunities with Latin America:

A number of suggestions were under the consideration of the government to
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boost India's trade with Latin American countries. These included holding of fairs and exhibitions in Latin American countries and regular exchange of information with these countries. This was stated by the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram, while delivering the inaugural address at the Seminar on "Emerging Business opportunities with Latin America"

organised jointly by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) here today. Shri Chidambaram disclosed that India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was going to hold a major Indian exhibition in Brazil in November 1996. He wanted Indian traders to have market access to all the Latin American countries. At present, 60% of India's exports and 85% of India's imports were from only three countries namely Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, Shri Chidambaram said.

In his welcome address, the President of FICCI, Shri A. K. Rungta said that India can focus on high value items gem & jewellery, high fashion garments etc., which can go by air. Shri P. K. Shah, President, FIEO said that high level interaction between India and Latin American countries should be further strengthened to bridge the information and communication gap in the shortest possible time. India's exports to Latin American countries went up from US \$ 241.10 million in 1993-94 to US \$ 362.92 million in 1994-95. Imports from Latin American countries amounted to US \$ 771.95 million in 1994-95 compared to US \$ 318.79 million in 1993-94.

DIA USA BRAZIL ARGENTINA MEXICO

Date : Oct 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius and Lady Sarojini DeviJugnauth to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 25, 1995 on the visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius and Lady Sarojini Devi Jugnauth to India:

Sir Anerood Jugnauth, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, and Lady Sarojini Devi Jugnauth will be paying an official visit to India from 27th October until 1st November, 1995. He will be calling on the President and Vice President and will have official talks with the Prime Minister. The President and the Prime Minister will be hosting lunch and banquet dinner, respectively, in his honour.

The Prime Minister and Lady Jugnauth will also visit Udaipur, Jaisalmer and Bombay during their 5-day visit to India.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will be hosting a reception in honour of the visiting Prime Minister. Simultaneously with the Prime Ministerial visit, a delegation of leading businessmen of Mauritius has also arrived in Delhi this morning. This is a continuation of the "Made in India" exclusive Indian Trade Exhibition CCI had organised in collaboration with the High Commission of India. in Mauritius, at Port Louis last June. The Joint Task Force, set up during that time, will be presenting its first report to the two Prime Ministers jointly.

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Relations between India and Mauritius are extremely cordial and highest level political visits take place regularly. Mauritius has publicly stated its support for India's Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council in their 50th Anniversary statements at the UN General Assembly in New York.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Oct 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of US Senator and Senator to India

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1995 on meeting of US Senator, Arlen Specter and Senator Hank Brown with the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi:

Government of India has seen reports datelined Washington in which US Senator, Arlen Specter, is attributed to have repeated his earlier remarks following his and Senator Hank Brown's meeting with the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi to the effect, inter-alia, that India and Pakistan were agreeable to taking part in a Five-nation Conference to discuss matters relating to nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia.

There is absolutely no truth to these reports. Discussions with the Prime Minister covered only the 1988 Action Plan on Nuclear Disarmament, and Senator Specter's attributed statement is based on some misunderstanding. India has maintained and continues to maintain its position which calls for the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a stipulated time as the only means for achieving genuine non-proliferation. Any agreement on this issue

has to be comprehensive, universally applicable and non-discriminatory in character.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 07, 1995

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of External Affairs Minister with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1995 on External Affairs Minister's meeting with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka in New York:

Responding to queries based on a news item which had appeared in the Press regarding External Affairs Minister's meeting with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka in New York recently in which Shri Pranab Mukherjee is reported to have indicated to his counterpart that there was no need to expedite the process of extraditing V. Prabhakaran in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the Spokesman said that the news item was totally inaccurate and that in fact the Minister had reiterated to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister that they should proceed with the extradition request.

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I LANKA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Oct 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Rejection by Indian Government the misleading statement on Jammu & Kashmir issued by OIC Foreign Ministers

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1995 on rejection by Indian government the misleading Statement on Jammu & Kashmir issued by the OIC Foreign Ministers at their meeting in New York:

The Government of India regrets and rejects the false and misleading statement on Jammu & Kashmir issued by the OIC Foreign Ministers at their annual coordination meeting in New York on October 2, 1995. It is particularly inappropriate to refer to one group as true representatives of the Kashmiri people when that group is not backed by any popular mandate. We also note that the section of the communique on Jammu & Kashmir does not enjoy consensus among OIC countries. The resolution is clearly at the behest of one country.

The situation in Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral part of India is a direct consequence of the unabated terrorism being sponsored by Pakistan. The OIC would do well to address Pakistan, a member state of the OIC, to abjure from the sponsorship of terrorism and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Government of India is committed to the normalisation of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. To that end Government is committed to the resumption of the normal political process and to the holding of elections in the state.

The Government of India would emphasise that there is no threat to peace and security in South Asia from India. India has time and again reiterated its willingness to hold talks with Pakistan. Our offer for talks without pre-conditions and on all aspects of Indo-Pak bilateral relations stands reconfirmed.

DIA USA PAKISTAN MALI

Date : Oct 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Violence in Afghanistan

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1995 regarding the outbreak and intensification of fighting in

Afghanistan:

We have been watching with growing concern the outbreak and intensification of fighting in Afghanistan in recent months. This resort to violence is threatening to further exacerbate an already complicated situation in a country with whom we have had traditionally good relations. The assault on Kabul marks a dangerous escalation in Pakistan's direct and continued interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The forces which are attacking Kabul have been raised, trained, armed and led by Pakistani intelligence agencies. The Government of Afghanistan has also complained about the presence of Pakistani militia in Afghanistan. Together-with likeminded countries in the region, India is willing to contribute in the search for peace and calls upon all the countries in the region to use their influence to promote stability and conciliation in Afghanistan.

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GHANISTAN INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Oct 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Canadian Prime Minister's visit to India in January 1996

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1995 on denial by the Indian government to have the Canadian Prime Minister as Chief Guest on Republic Day next year:

The attention of the Government has been drawn to a media report claiming that the Government of India has conveyed its unwillingness to have the Canadian Prime Minister as the Chief Guest on Republic Day next year to signal displeasure over a demarche on the NPT made by Ottawa.

The report is irresponsible and has absolutely no factual basis. The dates of the forthcoming visit of the Canadian Prime Minister during the first half of January, 1996 are based on the specific request of the Canadian Government as the Canadian Prime Minister is also visiting other countries in Asia, along with India.

We look forward to the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister which will provide a strong impetus to the present expansion of Indo-

Canadian relations, particularly in trade and investment. The Canadian Prime Minister will find a warm welcome in India.

DIA CANADA USA

Date : Oct 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by External Affairs Minister on Proposed US Supply of Arms to Pakistan

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 25, 1995 by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, on proposed US supply of arms to Pakistan:

We are disappointed that our serious concerns and the strong reaction of Indian political and public opinion have not been taken into account during the endorsement by the House-Senate Conference of the US Congress on October 24, 1995 of the proposal to transfer a package of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan through the waiver of provisions of the Pressler Amendment. The Government's position was clearly stated in the official statement of September 22, 1995 and the US Government and Congress have all along been made fully aware of our views on this matter.

2. We would like to reiterate that the proposed transfer of advanced military equipment to a country which has always used such weaponry against India in the past, and which is in the forefront in training and directing international terrorism and financing such activities through narcotrafficking, will not promote peace, security and stability in South Asia. Pakistan's clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons technology and materials as well as ballistic missiles from third countries, while receiving massive US military and economic aid, should also be noted in the context of the proposed transfer.

3. The Government of India will have to take all necessary measures to counter the adverse effect on our security of the proposed transfer of arms to Pakistan. The diversion of additional resources for defence, which may now become inevitable, is an unfortunate consequence which could and should have been avoided.

4. We continue to attach importance to improving Indo-US bilateral relations. The
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approach of both Governments has been to strengthen cooperation to the fullest extent possible, and not to permit differences where they exist to prevent cooperation in areas of mutual benefit. These are elements that we feel both sides would wish to preserve and build upon in the future.

A PAKISTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Oct 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The Sale of Mirage 2000 Aircraft to Pakistan by the Government of France

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1995 regarding the sale of Mirage 2000 aircraft to Pakistan by the Government of France:

We have noted with concern, reports that the Government of France is to authorise sale of Mirage 2000 aircraft to Pakistan.

Since the Government of Pakistan has repeatedly made it clear that it is building up its armed forces only for use against India and every major induction of advanced weaponry to Pakistan in the past has been followed by efforts by the Government of Pakistan to use them against India, the Government of India is naturally extremely concerned over this development and will have to take whatever measures are necessary to safeguard national security.

We deeply regret that this is being forced upon us by decisions of Western Governments which also repeatedly urged India and other developing countries, to spend less on defence. The Government of India would very much wish to allocate greater sums of money to national development and therefore, deplores that the irresponsible arming of Pakistan is forcing it to divert money to defending itself.

In view of the cordial relations between France and India, we hope that the Government of France will realise the implications

of this decision, the depth of feeling on this matter in India and act on lines which would not place any strain on the ties between our two countries.

KISTAN FRANCE INDIA USA

Date : Oct 31, 1995

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

A Debate on Indo-Pakistan Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1995 of a debate on Indo-Pakistan relations:

Government have seen Press Reports in which the Pakistani Foreign Minister has stated he would be having a televised debate on the Kashmir issue between himself and the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. An invitation has been received by the External Affairs Minister, from CNN, for a debate on Indo-Pakistan relations.

India has always expressed its readiness to hold bilateral discussions with Pakistan on Indo-Pak relations and to that effect has reiterated its offer for the same, any time, and at any level. The Pakistani Foreign Minister's desire for a debate on CNN is motivated more for propaganda
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and does not in any way, seek to address the serious concerns of the people of J&K who continue to be innocent victims of a proxy war sponsored from across our border. We repeat our desire for a peaceful solution to the problem through a bilateral dialogue on all Indo-Pak issues and invite Pakistan again to accept our offer. A televised debate is no substitute for a sincere and meaningful bilateral dialogue.

KISTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Oct 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

PARIS

Scindia to lead Indian Delegation at UNESCO

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1995 on Indian delegation led by Shri Madhavrao Scindia at UNESCO:

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia is leaving for Paris tomorrow to lead the Indian delegation at the 28th General Conference of UNESCO. The meeting will have special significance as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the constitution of UNESCO.

The Indian delegation will include the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Krupa Sindhu Bhoi, Officer on Special Duty in Education, Shri P. R. Dasgupta, Additional Secretary (Culture), Shri B. P. Singh and Joint Secretary in Education, Dr. R. V. Ayyar.

Besides speaking on policy debate in the plenary session, Shri Scindia will also preside over the G-77 Ministerial meeting in Paris which will articulate the points of common interest of the developing countries. He will present to the UNESCO General Conference the declaration adopted at the meeting outlining the perceptions of the developing countries on the role of UNESCO.

From Paris Shri Scindia will visit the UK for holding discussions on the Indo-British cultural relations.

ANCE INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Oct 30, 1995

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Visit of the Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri F. Yarov, to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1995 on the visit of the Russian Deputy Prime

Minister, Yuri F. Yarov:

The Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Yuri F. Yarov, will be visiting India from 8-12 October, 1995 for the second meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation. Mr. Yarov and the External Affairs Minister are the Russian and the Indian Co-Chairmen, respectively, of the Indo-

Russian Joint Commission. The first meeting of the Joint Commission was held in Moscow in September, 1994. The two Co-Chairmen subsequently met in Delhi in July, 1995.

During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Yarov is expected to call on Prime Minister.

The Indo-Russian Joint Commission is the principal instrument for monitoring Indo-Russian cooperation and the implementation of decisions across the broad spectrum of the multi-faceted relationship. The second meeting of the Joint Commission will give a further impetus and direction to this cooperation.

Mr. Yarov will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation, which includes the Ministers of Construction and Culture, The First Deputy Ministers of Foreign Economic Relations, Economy, Fuel & Energy and the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Health & Pharmaceutical Industry.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Workshop for Children on Astronomy

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1995 on a workshop for children from SAARC for children on astronomy:

A workshop for children from SAARC countries on telescope and astronomy has begun at the Bal Bhavan here. During the three week long workshop, one and a half metre long telescopes will be made and the children will be taught astronomy. The objective of the

workshop is also to enable the children to see the solar eclipse from Fatehpur Sikri through the telescopes made by them.

The Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Km. Vimla Verma met the children participating in the workshop. She assured the Bal Bhavan of all assistance for its activities.

DIA

Date : Oct 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia Looking Forward to more Indian Doctors

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1995 on Saudi Arabia looking forward to more Indian Doctors:

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri A. R. Antulay, who is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia, yesterday called for Dr. Osama Shubokshi, Saudi Arabian Minister for Health, at Riyadh.

During the meeting the two ministers exchanged views on the current level of
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bilateral relations in the area of public health as well as on the prospects for their further improvement and expansion. Dr. Shubokshi paid warm compliments to the community of Indian medical personnel who are contributing to the development of the Kingdom. He said he looked forward to receiving more Indian doctors and nurses into the Kingdom.

On behalf of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Antulay extended an invitation to Dr. Shubokshi to visit India. The invitation was accepted.

Shri Antulay also called on the Saudi Minister of Haj, Dr. Mahmoud bin Mohd. Safar. The two leaders had a detailed exchange of views on improving the facilities for Indian pilgrims during Haj 1996. Dr. Safar apprised Shri Antulay of the elaborate arrangements made by the Saudi authorities to facilitate the visit of over one million pilgrims from overseas representing 57

cultures and nearly one million pilgrims from within the Kingdom for the annual Haj. He also sought the cooperation of the Indian Mission in supervising the Haj arrangements.

UDI ARABIA INDIA

Date : Oct 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia assures better facilities to Haj Pilgrims from India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1995 on better facilities by Saudi Arabia to Haj pilgrims from India:

Haj pilgrims from India would be provided better facilities during the forthcoming Haj pilgrimage.

This assurance was given by the Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj, Dr. Mahmoud bin Mohd. Safar during his meeting with the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri A. R. Antulay at Riyadh on October 24, 1995.

Shri A. R. Antulay, who is currently on visit to Saudi Arabia, held wide ranging discussions with the Minister of Haj Affairs Dr. Mahmoud Safar and also the Minister of Health, Mr. Osama Shubokshi. The Minister of Haj Affairs assured the Indian Health Minister that the pilgrims from India would be provided better facilities during the forthcoming pilgrimage.

During his talks with Mr. Shubokshi, Shri Antulay reviewed the health care facilities in the Haj area and held extensive discussions on subjects of mutual interest.

Shri Antulay had arrived in Riyadh on 24th and left for Madinah on October 25.

In the meantime Saudi Missions all over the world have been asked to translate "Pilgrimage Organising Instructions" into local languages of the countries in order to minimise chances of major mishaps and creating awareness among the pilgrims.

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Date : Oct 27, 1995

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1995

ZAMBIA

Widespread looting and violence against Asian origin community

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1995 on reports about incidents of looting and violence against members of Asian origin community in Zambia:

We have received reports from our High Commissioner in Zambia about incidents of widespread looting and violence last week against members of Asian origin community in the southern city of Livingstone of Zambia.

In this connection, Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs called the Zambian High Commissioner in New Delhi to the Foreign Office this afternoon and conveyed Government of India's serious concern at the unwarranted violence against the community. This was specially incomprehensible in view of the close and cordial relations existing between the two countries and governments. Secretary (West) requested the High Commissioner for urgent necessary steps to contain the situation and reinforce confidence, sense of security and harmony among the members of the community.

The High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. S. K. Mubukwanu informed Secretary (West) of reports he had received from his government; that President Chiluba, the Police Commissioner and several other Ministers from the government had visited livingstone and reassured the community of safety and harmony. The High Commissioner said that members of Asian Community in Zambia have integrated into the Zambian society and that there was no room for singling them out for looting and violence.

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Date : Nov 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Visit of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs to Brisbane

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry
of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 15, 1995 on a visit
of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs to
Brisbane:

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs arrived at
Brisbane in the morning of 14th November, 1995 on his return
journey from Wellington, New Zealand where he led India's
delegation to CHOGHM. This was the first visit of the Minister to
Brisbane.

Shri Mukherjee met a large gathering of representatives of the
Indian community in Brisbane which included people from business
community, academic world and several professionals. He also met
separately representatives of Banking Institutions. The Indian
community also requested the Minister to consider opening an
Honorary Consulate in Brisbane as have been opened in Perth and
Melbourne as well in view of the growing number of visa cases as
also of increasing trade and investment between India and

Queensland as it would go a long way in helping local Indian community there. The Hon'ble Minister agreed to consider the proposal positively. The High Commission of India, Canberra and CGI, Sydney will be processing the case shortly.

As the Premier of Queensland was away he sent the Director of Coordinator General's Office of the Premier's Department of Queensland to convey his personal regards to the Hon'ble Minister. They discussed various initiatives being taken by the Queensland Government for expanding bilateral trade ties.

Shri Mukherjee spoke to the gatherings about the current status of the economic reforms in India, new opportunities and potential for enhancing trade between India and Australia as also of the several new benefits for Non-Resident Indians made available in recent policy decisions of the Government of India. He invited the Indian community to contribute their skills, technical expertise and resources while deriving the several benefits now offered by Government of India to Non-Resident Indians.

The Indian community in turn promised to have a fresh look at the various possibilities and to take advantage of the huge potential that the Indian economy offers at the moment.

STRALIA USA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA NEW ZEALAND

Date : Nov 15, 1995

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1995

CHINA

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China accompanied by his wife and delegation to India

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1995 on visit of His Excellency Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China along with his wife and a high level delegation to India:

His Excellency Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, accompanied by his wife and a high level delegation, will visit India from November 15-20, 1995, on an official goodwill

visit at the invitation of Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India and Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Mr. Qiao Shi's visit to India is part of the process of high level dialogue between India and China initiated by the visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to China in December, 1988. It follows the visits to China of President Shri R. Venkatraman in May 1992, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj Patil, in January, 1993, Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao in September 1993 and Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan in October, 1994, and the visits to India of Premier Li Peng in December 1991 and Chairman, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr. Li Ruihuan, in November\December 1993.

During his stay in Delhi, Mr. Qiao Shi will call on the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Speaker and meet Minister for External Affairs and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. He will lay a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

Mr. Qiao Shi will also visit Agra, Bangalore and Bombay. He will meet the Governors, Speakers of Legislative Assembly and Chairman of Legislative Council of Karnataka and Maharashtra. He will visit industrial establishments in Bangalore, have a meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industry in Bombay and visit places of historical interests.

Mr. Qiao Shi will arrive in New Delhi on 15 November, evening. He will leave for Agra on 17 November, afternoon. He will visit Bangalore on 17-18 November and Bombay on 18-20 November.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 14, 1995

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman, Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress China to India

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 16, 1995 on visit of Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress, China to India:

Mr. Qiao Shi, Chairman, Standing Committee of the National

Peoples Congress, China, commenced his official activities in India paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi by laying a wreath at Rajghat.

2. During the day, he met the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Speaker (Lok Sabha), External Affairs Minister and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. The Speaker (Lok Sabha) will host a banquet in his honour this evening.

3. Welcoming Mr. Qiao Shi, Prime Minister referred to the steady development in India-China relations and noted that Parliamentary exchanges of this kind provided a very valuable contribution. As two countries with ancient civilizations and the largest populations of the world, India and China could cooperate to strengthen global peace and development. Mr. Qiao Shi expressed his agreement with Prime Minister's views. The two dignitaries also exchanged views on Indo-Chinese economic and commercial relations. They noted that given the complementarities between the two countries, there was excellent scope for further developing these relations. Mr. Qiao Shi referred to Prime Minister's special contribution to the strengthening of India-China bilateral relations and invited Prime Minister to visit China again. Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for this invitation.

4. During his call on the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Qiao Shi said that "no force can separate India and China". The
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two leaders expressed the firm conviction that exchanges between the Parliaments of the two countries have contributed to enhancing understanding and deepening of the friendship between the two countries and the two peoples. They expressed the hope also that, with joint efforts, economic, trade and commercial ties between the two countries can be further developed to mutual benefit. Mr. Qiao Shi pointed out that he is the first Chairman of the National Peoples Congress since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, to visit India. He extended an invitation to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha to pay a visit to China. The invitation was accepted by the Hon'ble Speaker.

5. During his meeting with Mr. Qiao Shi, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, pointed out that visits of Prime Ministers Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to China and the visit of Prime Minister Li Peng to India have contributed to further expansion of bilateral relations. The implementation of the Agreement on Border peace and Tranquility signed in 1993 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao has helped ensure an atmosphere of peace and tranquility on the India-China border. He expressed the hope that the two sides would proceed to ultimately resolve problems arising out of border dispute, which is complex and requires time and patience, to mutual satisfaction. External Affairs Minister expressed the hope also that

cooperation in economic areas would expand further. Mr. Qiao Shi said that China favoured the further development of relations with India in the spirit of good neighbourliness, friendship and peaceful co-existence. Problems left over from history can be resolved, given goodwill and determination on both sides. He felicitated the two Foreign Ministers and their Ministries for the constructive role they have played in promoting bilateral relations. Mr. Qiao Shi pointed out that India and China had large markets and we must make efforts to take full advantages of the economic opportunities thus offered.

6. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that the momentum of high level dialogue should be maintained. Even as we improve economic and commercial ties, we must strive to obtain better understanding in the political field also. Understanding between Parliamentarians contributes to this process since they are opinion-makers in respective countries. He expressed the hope that India could benefit from the advances made by China in sports through joint cooperation Mr. Qiao Shi said that friendship and cooperation between India and China would contribute to peace in Asia and the world. We must look forward to the end of the century and beyond and create a favourable atmosphere for economic development of our respective countries. The present generation has an obligation towards future generation to do so. We might encounter difficulties but with determination these can be overcome. What we have achieved together, particularly in the economic and commercial fields, is satisfactory but there is much potential for expanding our relationship in this area. We must exchange what we have for what we need. The prospects for such cooperation are very encouraging.

7. Mr. Qiao Shi will leave for Agra on 17 November.
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INA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Nov 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Statement by External Affairs Minister at the Ministerial Meeting on Small States, CHOGM

The following is the text of a press release issued from, the Ministry of External Affairs, New, Delhi on Nov 09, 1995 on text of the statement by External Affairs Minister at the

Ministerial Meeting on small states, CHOGM:

"As the largest member of the Commonwealth, we welcome the attention now being paid to the problems of the small states which constitute the majority of our membership.

We are familiar in India with the problems of extreme size. Listening to the statement of my colleagues from small states today, it is clear that many of our problems are similar, since common to both of us is the urgent need to promote sustained economic growth, which also will address the needs of economic security of the developing world. We also share a common threat to our security, our lives and our environment from Nuclear Weapons this has been reflected in statements made here today.

The problems of small states are also diverse. Small states of the Commonwealth include middle-income developing countries and least-developed countries island developing countries and land-locked countries. While there are common problems, there is also a great diversity which should be recognised in targeting programmes for them.

India has a programme of technical cooperation which focuses on small states. We will continue to strengthen our cooperation with small states, bilaterally and in the context of the Commonwealth and other multilateral bodies. Our experience in structural adjustment would be relevant for other developing countries. We would welcome suggestions from the secretariat, based on analytical studies, on how we could do more. We are committed to help."

DIA USA

Date : Nov 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 10, 1995 on Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding presented by the President of India to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:

The Award Ceremony to confer the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for

International Understanding, 1993 to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be held on Tuesday, 14th November 1995 at 12 noon at Ashoka Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma will present the Nehru Award to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi which will be received on her behalf by Daw Than E, who is a close family friend of Aung San Suu Kyi.

As a tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and to his lifelong dedication to the cause of world peace and international understanding, the Government of India instituted the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to be given annually for outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding, goodwill and friendship among the peoples of the world. The Award is administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

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The Award carries a citation, Trophy and Rs. 15 lakhs in cash (convertable into foreign currency).

The Award is made by a Jury appointed by the Government of India for this purpose. The Jury consists of seven eminent Indians including the Vice-President of India and the Chief Justice of India who are ex-officio members. The Vice-President of India is the Chairman of the Jury.

After careful consideration of the numerous nominations received from all over the world, the Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding had decided that the Award for the year 1993 be given to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 10, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

An Increase in India's Contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation at the Final Session of CHOGM

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 13, 1995 on the announcement by External Affairs Minister at the CHOGM on an increase in India's contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation:

At the final session of CHOGM today, External Affairs Minister announced an increase in India's contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) from Pounds 425,000\ to Pounds 600,000\-. The pledge by External Affairs Minister to increase India's contribution is on account of a stagnation decline in contributions in real terms. The contributions are essentially meant for economic and technical cooperation and External Affairs Minister said that he hoped that the substantial expertise that India's has in this area would be made use of. The announcement by External Affairs Minister was warmly received in at the CHOGM.

DIA USA

Date : Nov 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Message from the Prime Minister to H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the Terrorist attack against the Embassy of Egypt in Islamabad

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1995 on the terrorist attack against the Embassy of Egypt in Islamabad:

Excellency,

The government and the people of India join me in conveying to you our shock and deep distress over the terrorist attack of 19th November against the Embassy of Egypt in Islamabad. We strongly condemn this outrage, and are greatly saddened by the loss of innocent lives. Please convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families. Our good wishes are with the injured for their speedy recovery.

India and Egypt have a common commitment to combat the scourge of coldblooded violence and terrorism that is directed against the constitutional order and the spirit of tolerance in our societies. As Your Excellency is aware, some countries provide haven and support, for their own reasons, to forces that utilize terror as modus operandi: the tragic incident involving the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan

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only underscores the danger in, and inadvisability of, following such a policy. In the spirit of our shared concern over the menace of terrorism, I would like to reiterate India's resolve to cooperate with Egypt and other like-minded countries in actively opposing such forces.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

DIA EGYPT PAKISTAN USA

Date : Nov 21, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press note issued from New Delhi on Nov 03, 1995 on SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation which was held in New Delhi:

The 6th meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which is a permanent body at the level of Commerce Secretaries of SAARC member-countries, is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 16-17th November, 1995. Shri Tejendra Khanna, Commerce Secretary, held a preparatory meeting here today with representatives of concerned Ministries and other organisations including apex chambers to consider various substantive issues on the agenda of forthcoming meeting as well as the preparatory and organisational work required to be done in this regard.

Underlining the importance being attached by the Government of India to SAARC as a forum for accelerating trade and investment cooperation in the region, Shri Khanna noted that progress in terms of follow up on the 5th meeting of SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation which had been held in Dhaka in April, 1995 had been significant and encouraging vis-a-vis activities of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry; regional approach to standardisation and the proposal to initiate SAARC trade fairs. An exclusive SAARC Trade Fair is being organised in New Delhi from January 9-14, 1996 to coincide with the SAARC Commerce Ministers' meeting scheduled to be held here on 8-9th January 1996. In accordance with the offer made by Commerce Secretary at the last meeting of the CEC, concessional facilities in terms of

discount on rentals would be offered to participants from SAARC countries. The possibility of allowing duty free sale of exhibits, specially handicraft items, at the SAARC Trade Fair is also being looked into.

The meeting noted that the agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) has been ratified by six of the seven SAARC member countries and Bangladesh is in the process of doing so. This is in pursuance of the deliberations of the SAARC Summit of May 1995 which had directed that all necessary steps be taken to ensure ratification by members and to operationalise SAPTA by the end of 1995.

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DIA USA BANGLADESH

Date : Nov 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 05, 1995 is the text of a statement by the Prime Minister on the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin:

"I am shocked by the news about Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. Prime Minister Rabin will always be remembered for his courageous espousal of the cause of peace and his commitment to a humane and just resolution of the complex problem in the Middle East.

I convey condolences to the people of Israel."

RAEL INDIA USA

Date : Nov 05, 1995

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Bilateral Discussion by the External Affairs Minister with the Italian Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 24, 1995 on bilateral discussion by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee with the Italian Foreign Minister, Ms. Susanna Agnelli:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee held bilateral discussions with the Italian Foreign Minister Ms. Susanna Agnelli who hosted a lunch for him. He also called on the Italian President, Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister, Mr. Lamberto Dini.

External Affairs Minister discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including pressing issues of concern like international terrorism, on which both the President and Prime Minister agreed with External Affairs Minister that concerted international action was necessary to tackle terrorism, particularly state-sponsored terrorism.

There was a detailed exchange of views on the reform of the Security Council. There was agreement that any reform must be comprehensive.

Regional issues were discussed, including Sri Lanka and Bosnia, where both Italy and India hoped that the conflicts will be resolved peacefully.

Satisfaction was expressed over the very swift growth of economic relations, which has made Italy India's third largest partner in Europe.

External Affairs Minister briefed his Italian hosts on the latest situation in Jammu and Kashmir, conveying Government's determination to hold elections at the earliest opportunity. His views were received with interest and sympathy.

The Italian side conveyed that as President of the EU from January 1996 Italy would work to strengthen Indo-EU relations giving India the importance it deserves. In this context, the Italian Foreign Minister suggested the next meet-

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ing of the Indo-EU Troika talks be held in Delhi early next year.

In response to a query on the possibility of other high level visits being discussed, the Spokesman replied that the Italian President said that he was looking forward to the visit of our

President to Italy which could be around the middle of next year.

ALY USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SRI LANKA

Date : Nov 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Donation given to Namibia during the State Visit of the Indian President to Namibia

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1995 on the donation by India to Namibia during the State visit of the Indian President to Namibia:

In response to Namibian Prime Minister's appeal to the international community for emergency drought relief assistance for Namibia caused by successive droughts, India has donated 1000 MT of wheat to Namibia, worth approx. N\$ one million. The donation also fulfills the commitment made by India during the State Visit of the Indian President to Namibia in June this year.

A consignment of 887.225 MT of wheat has already arrived at the port of Walvis Bay and the balance quantity, already shipped from India, is expected in shortly.

In a formal ceremony in Walvis Bay today, High Commissioner Jasrotia handed over the first consignment of 887.225 MT of wheat to the Minister of Agriculture, Water & Rural Development. In his acceptance speech, the Minister stated that it is "with sincere gratitude and a sense of greater understanding and strengthening of friendship that we receive today's donation of 1,000 MT of wheat for the drought affected people of Namibia". The Minister added that the present aid of wheat will be used in the drought affected areas in a manner that will save the lives of the affected population and at the same time assist people to cope with recurring problems and to make the people selfsufficient during the better years.

MIBIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Visit of H.E. Mr. Hage G. Geingob the Prime Minister of Namibia and Mrs. Geingob with a high level delegation to India

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 24, 1995 on the visit of H.E. Mr. Hage G. Geingob the Prime Minister of Namibia and Mrs. Geingob accompanied by a high level delegation to India:

H.E. Mr. Hage G. Geingob the Prime Minister of Namibia and Mrs. Geingob accompanied by a high level delegation will be visiting India from November 25 to December 1, 1995 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. This is the first visit to India by
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Prime Minister Geingob. President Shankar Dayal Sharma had visited Namibia in June, 1995 at the invitation of President Sam Nujoma.

During his stay the visiting Prime Minister will be calling on our President. He will have delegation level talks with our Prime Minister. Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid will be calling on him. The Delhi University will be awarding an Hon. Doctorate degree to the visiting Prime Minister at a special convocation. Prime Minister Geingob will also be visiting the Indian Agriculture Research Institute and the India International Trade Fair in progress in Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. During his stay in India, the Prime Minister will also visit various private and public sector undertakings in Pune and Bangalore and visit Agra and Udaipur.

Ways and means to enhance trade between the two countries will be further discussed during these visits. Of special interest is the Portable Water Project in northern Namibia and the setting up of a Technology Demonstration and Training Centre with assistance from India. Some other bilateral technological cooperation programmes would also come up for discussion. A trade agreement is also under discussion.

India and Namibia enjoy very warm and cordial relations. India has been in the forefront of Namibia's liberation struggle and was indeed the first country to raise the question in the UN. The SWAPO was allowed to open an office in India in 1981 and the office was accorded diplomatic recognition in 1985. India

contributes to several international funds to help the people of Namibia. Since Namibian independence relations with the new Government have been very active. India's continued commitment to the task of Namibian reconstruction has been very much appreciated in Namibia.

During our President's visit, a gift of 1000 metric tonnes of wheat was announced which has already been delivered and a TATA Bus was donated to the National Aids Control Programme under the Ministry of Health of Namibia. The President also gifted a 15 lakh rupees worth of computers and scientific equipment package to the University of Namibia.

MIBIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 24, 1995

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

President Receives Namibian Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1995 on Namibian Prime Minister visit to India:

The President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma received the Prime Minister of Namibia, Mr. Hage Geingob at Rashtrapati Bhavan, today.

Mr. Geingob conveyed to the President the personal good wishes of President Nujoma of Namibia. He emphasised Namibia's desire to expand cooperation with India. In this context, he noted that the Trade Agreement to be signed during the visit was of importance.

The visiting Prime Minister also expressed appreciation for India's decision to send a high level delegation led by a Minister to the Round Table Conference on Namibia at Geneva. He said that gift of Indian wheat, announced by Dr. Sharma during his visit to Namibia, had been warmly received in his country.

The discussions covered various issues connected with economic development, including cooperation in science and technology, agriculture and small scale industry.

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The Prime Minister also conveyed Namibia's support for the democratisation of the UN Security Council to reflect and India's permanent membership of that body.

The call, which lasted half-an-hour was followed by a lunch hosted by the President in honour of the visiting Prime Minister.

MIBIA INDIA SWITZERLAND USA

Date : Nov 25, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEWZEALAND

External Affairs Minister's Meetings at Auckland

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 09, 1995 on the meetings of External Affairs Ministers at Auckland:

External Affairs Minister met Academics and Intellectuals of Indian origin for an hour-long discussion. External Affairs Minister mentioned the important role that the Indian community and especially those in the Academic world, can play in projecting a holistic image of India as a secular and dynamic democracy. External Affairs Minister shared with the Academics the steps that India has taken for the liberalisation of the economy and welcomed the support and participation of the NRIs in the opening up of the Indian market. He answered a number of questions raised by the Academics, including those pertaining to dual citizenship, Special facilities available to NRIs and specific means by which bilateral interaction between India and New Zealand in the technical educational and cultural fields could be promoted.

Mr. Morshed Khan, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on External Affairs Minister. The two sides were in agreement on the need to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on economic and commercial cooperation. External Affairs Minister will also have meetings today with his counterparts from Lesotho, Swaziland and Cameroon for exchange of views on issues of mutual interest.

DIA USA NEW ZEALAND BANGLADESH CAMEROON LESOTHO SWAZILAND

Date : Nov 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEWZEALAND

External Affairs Minister's Meeting at Auckland

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 09, 1995 on the meetings of External Affairs at Auckland, Lesotho and Swaziland, discussing on various subjects of mutual interest:

External Affairs Minister also met the Foreign Ministers of Lesotho (1800 hrs) and of Swaziland (1900 hrs). Discussing in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and Bonhomie, various subjects of mutual interest came up during the discussions, including permanent and Non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council External Affairs Minister apprised the Hon'ble Foreign Ministers of India's consistent support to the United Nations and participation in all major peace-keeping operations, ranging from Congo, Cambodia, Sinai and Somalia, and currently in Rwanda. The Foreign Ministers of Lesotho and Swaziland stressed that they were grateful for the role that India played and

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continued to play in strengthening the UN system. They enquired on the perception that India has on the reforms of the UN system. External Affairs Minister emphasised that the UN has played a dynamic and decisive role over the years; however, there is need for restructuring with the UN Security Council becoming more representative on geographical lines. All this, External Affairs Minister said, would enable the UN system to become more democratic.

DIA LESOTHO SWAZILAND USA CAMBODIA CONGO MALI RWANDA SOMALIA

Date : Nov 09, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Establishment of Joint Venture Banks as a Means of Underpinning Indo-CIS Trade and Economic Relations

The following is the text of a Official Spokesman's statement issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 03, 1995 on the establishment of Joint venture banks as a means of underpinning Indo-CIS trade and economic relations:

Our attention has been drawn to an item in 'The Economic Times' to the effect that the Ministry of External Affairs has advised the Finance Ministry and public sector banks not to enter into any joint venture banks with banks in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In this connection, it is clarified that Ministry of External Affairs has not given any such advice. In fact, Ministry of External Affairs has been supporting the establishment of joint venture banks as a means of underpinning Indo-CIS trade and economic relations.

DIA

Date : Nov 03, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Damascus

The following is the text of a Official Spokesman's statement issued from Ministry of External Affairs on Nov 23, 1995 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Damascus:

External Affairs Minister will be visiting Damascus from 24-26th November, 1995.

India and Syria have traditionally enjoyed good relations. We have had high- level exchanges at political level. In June, 1994, Indo-Syrian Joint Committee Meeting was held in Damascus. The then Commerce Minister was the Chairman of the Joint Commission from the Indian side. The present visit is a response to an earlier visit to India by Sh. Farouk Al-Shara. The Syrian President Assad had visited India in 1978 and again in 1983, to attend Non-Aligned Meeting. Sh. Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister visited Syria in 1988. Shri Narasimha Rao, visited Syria in 1983, as Foreign Minister.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, during his stay, is expected to call on President Assad, Vice President Khaddam and Prime Minister Al Zoubi, apart from having discussions with his counterpart, Mr. Farouk Al Shara. The two sides are expected to discuss matters relating to bilateral trade and enhanced economic cooperation, regional, multilateral issues, including Middle East Peace Process, terrorism and restructuring of the UN.

RIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Nov 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel to India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued from Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 13, 1995 on the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel to India:

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel, visited India from November 4-14, 1995. Her visit was undertaken primarily for internal consultations with the US Missions in India. However, she also took the opportunity to visit Bombay, Cochin, Madras and Patna, apart from Delhi.

During her visits to the State capitals, she called on the respective Chief Ministers and had extensive meeting with business leaders on the further promotion of Indo-US trade and investment.

At Delhi, she had a meeting with Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) in the Ministry. Robin Raphel was accompanied by the US Ambassador and other senior officials of the US Mission. Mr. Grover also hosted a working lunch for Ms. Raphel.

The official discussions with Secretary (West) and other officials of the Ministry covered the situation, in Afghanistan, which was recently visited by the Assistant Secretary as well as bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Secretary (West) reiterated the clear and firm position of the Government of India against the proposal to supply sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan through the mechanism of the Brown amendment, and apprised her of the strong adverse reaction that this has caused in Indian political circles and the public.

Regarding Afghanistan, both sides expressed support for the efforts of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. His efforts should be to address the concerns of all the parties in Afghanistan in an evenhanded manner. Secretary (West) emphasised the Government's deep concern at Pakistan's attempt to remove the present Government in Afghanistan through its proxy, the Taliban. The Taliban have been raised, trained and armed by Pakistan and follow an intolerant and violent fundamentalist ideology. Their military activities are destabilising Afghanistan and have the potential to act as a destabilising factor in the region as well.

Discussions on Indo-US bilateral relations were businesslike. Both sides agreed that current differences, particularly on account of the recent US decision to release a package of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan, should not be allowed to interrupt the momentum of the steady expansion of Indo-US cooperation in the areas of mutual benefit. Issues relating to further promotion of Indo-US trade and investment and exchange of high-level visit in early 1996 were discussed. Ongoing negotiations on bilateral agreements on extradition, civil aviation and science and technology cooperation were also reviewed.

Assistant Secretary Raphel urged that India and Pakistan should engage in a dialogue to discuss outstanding bilateral issues. Secretary (West) informed Ms. Raphel that India was willing to hold direct bilateral talks on all Indo-Pak issues, without any preconditions. We have not seen any evidence of Pakistani willingness to engage in such talks. Instead, it was engaged

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in sponsoring terrorism in India and in internationalising the J & K issue.

Finally, the Assistant Secretary was also briefed on the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and on Government's efforts and programmes to firmly combat Pakistan-instigated terrorism, restore normalcy and development activities, promote further strengthening of political processes leading to elections.

A INDIA AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Message from the External Affairs Minister to HRS Prince Saud Al Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regarding Bomb Blast in Riyadh

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1995 is the message from the External Affairs Minister to HRS Prince Saud Al Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on bomb blast in Riyadh:

"Your Highness,

I am shocked and deeply concerned at the bomb blast in Riyadh on 13th November which has led to loss of life and grievous injury to many innocent persons. Such terrorist violence deserves universal condemnation. Please accept my profound sympathy.

With assurances of my highest consideration".

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1995

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Visit of the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara to India

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 26, 1995 on visit of the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara to India:

1. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister on 25th November 95 called on the Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara. They had a one to one talk for about half an hour followed by delegation level talks. From the Indian side, Secretary (West), Ambassador Shri Abhyankar, JS(WANA) were present. From Syrian side Vice-Minister Alaush and Director Qasawat (incharge

of the region) participated. Foreign Minister Shara while welcoming EAM, said that because of historical and cultural ties and India's principles position on various issues, including its stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Syria attaches great importance to India. The Syrian people look upon India with admiration. In fact one of the major streets in Damascus is named after late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. He stated that Syria is aware of India's concern and sensitivities. As in the past Syria would con-
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tinue to work together with India. On the bilateral front he expressed Syrian interest in developing relations with India further and to make it more substantive.

2. External Affairs Minister said that India gratefully recognises and appreciates the Syrian support for our joint struggle against religious, fanaticism and extremism. Syrian commitment to secularism has not only been appreciated by India but also by the whole world and there is a commonality of approach between the two countries. The two leaders also discussed various regional international issues like Middle East Peace Process, the NAM, the forthcoming Euro-Med, Conference in Barcelona, India's relations with her neighbouring countries. External Affairs Minister briefed the Syrian Foreign Minister on India's commitment to restore normalcy in J & K through holding elections and her desire to grant autonomy to the state within the framework of Indian Constitution. External Affairs Minister emphasised on the role of across the border terrorism in aggravating the situation.

3. Syrian Foreign Minister expressed Syrian understanding and continued support to India's position on J & K.

4. External Affairs Minister reiterated India's undiluted support to the Arab cause and support to the Syrian demand for full and comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied territories which will help in realise the objectives of the MEPP to establish durable, just and comprehensive peace in the region.

5. External Affairs Minister also expressed India's firm desire to strengthen expand and deepen bilateral relations especially growing economic and commercial ties.

RIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA ISRAEL

Date : Nov 26, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

External Affairs Minister's visit to London

The following is the text of a press release issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1995 on External Affairs Minister's visit to London:

External Affairs Minister's programme on 20/11/95 had included a meeting with Mr. Paddy Ashdown, MP and Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, a round table discussion with academics and other intellectuals, attending the inaugural of a major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and a dinner hosted in his honour by the Indo British Partnership Initiative.

In External Affairs Minister's meeting with Mr. Paddy Ashdown the two leaders had shared their views, perceptions and assessments on a wide range of international and bilateral issues including UN reform and the expansion of the UN Security Council the situation in former Yugoslavia etc. They noted the excellent state of Indo UK bilateral relations and in particular the great progress made on the economic side and their need to further build on it. External Affairs Minister informed Mr. Ashdown of the situation in J&K.

Later, at a meeting in the Nehru Centre, addressing a gathering of Academics and India specialists External Affairs Minister drew attention to the fact that in the federal democratic polity of India there had been introduced a unique third tier in
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the shape of local bodies. He explained the arrangements for vesting these local bodies with constitutional authority and assured supply of resources.

Answering questions External Affairs Minister said India's single largest overseas partner in industry, technology and investment collaboration was the USA. He said that an improvement in Sino US relations would not therefore pose a threat to the future of Indo US ties. External Affairs Minister added that steady progress even though not dramatic had taken place since 1993 in Sino Indian relations. The resumption of border trade was an example of this.

External Affairs Minister unveiled a photograph of the late Krishna Menon. He also received on behalf of the GOI original papers and documents pertaining to Shri Menon's stay in the U.K. from Ms. Pamela Cullen a close associate of the former diplomat

and statesman. External Affairs Minister said that these papers would be lodged with other Krishna Menon papers at the Teen Murti Library.

External Affairs Minister represented the President of India at the inauguration of an exhibition of Jain art at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The exhibition entitled "The Peaceful Liberators" which was inaugurated by the Duke of Edinburgh. The President of India and the Queen of the United Kingdom are joint patrons of this exhibition which is the first in a series of V&A exhibitions on Indian Art.

The Indo British Partnership Initiative hosted a dinner in honour of External Affairs Minister. Senior Journalists, Board Members of important British companies, politicians and senior civil servants had attended the same.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA MALAYSIA SEYCHELLES YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Nov 22, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Compensation in respect of death or injured Indian as a result of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 08, 1995 regarding compensation in respect of death or injured Indian as a result of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva:

The United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, has released US \$642,500.00 in respect of 167 claims from India in Category 'B' (compensation in respect of death or injuries sustained as a direct result of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990-91). This is the first payment by the United Nations in respect of any Indian claim in any category. With this payment, all Category 'B' claims have been settled.

2. All claimants in Category 'B' are being informed individually by their respective banks of the money being credited to their Special Accounts. Unsuccessful applicants for compensation have already been informed by the Special Kuwait Cell of the Ministry of External Affairs.

3. The process of scrutinising claims in Categories 'A' and 'C' is underway. Claims in Category 'D' and 'E' will be taken up subsequently.
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A INDIA IRAQ KUWAIT SWITZERLAND

Date : Nov 08, 1995

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Visit of Mr. George Bush, Former President of the United States of America to India

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 29, 1995 on visit of Mr. George Bush, former President of the United States of America to India for discussion the economic reforms in India and the fall out of the Brown Amendment:

Mr. George Bush, former President of the United States of America, called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Minister for External Affairs today.

Among the issues that came up for discussion were the economic reforms in India and the fall out of the Brown Amendment. The External Affairs Minister explained the Government position on these issues. In particular, he emphasised that the economic reforms were irreversible. On the Brown Amendment, the Minister explained the adverse impact of any transfer of arms to Pakistan by the United States of America.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 29, 1995

Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

Commonwealth Decision to Suspend Nigeria from its Membership

The following is the text of a press release issued from the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Nov 12, 1995 on a statement made by External Affairs Minister on Commonwealth decision to suspend Nigeria from its membership:

The Commonwealth has taken a major step forward in Queenstown by showing its determination to give effect to the Harare principles. We believe the Commonwealth itself will be greatly strengthened by this important decision of its leaders and that the promotion of democracy throughout the world will be reinforced.

India fully subscribes to the Queenstown Declaration. While doing so we recall our long and close ties with Nigeria which we greatly value. It is our sincere hope that the Nigerian authorities will move rapidly in response to the Commonwealth call so that they are able to rejoin their place within this body as early as possible".

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MBABWE NIGER NIGERIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 12, 1995

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THAILAND

Date : Dec 01, 1995

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Prime Minister Addresses Indo-German Joint Commission in Bonn

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1995 on Finance Minister calling for establishing non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and addressing IndoGerman Joint Commission in Bonn:

The Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh has stressed upon the need to establish non-discriminatory multilateral trading systems to help developing countries like India to be integrated into the world economy. Speaking at the Plenary Session of the Indo-German Joint Commission in Bonn yesterday, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that India would continue in its efforts to implement the legitimate concerns for maintaining environment, health and social standards. However, India had its problems of chronic poverty and the small and medium enterprises in India needed time to adjust to the standards prescribed by the developed countries. The meeting of the IndoGerman Joint Commission was co-chaired by Dr. Manmohan Singh and Dr. Rexrodt, the German Federal Minister for Economics.

In his opening remarks, the Finance Minister expressed the Indian Government's firm resolve to further strengthen the multifaceted relationship between India and Germany. He said that India seeks to deepen and widen the interaction of business communities of the two countries through a larger presence of German businessmen in India, particularly the small and medium German business community. On its part, the Indian Government would help to create an environment conducive for both domestic and foreign enterprises. He said that the reforms initiated in the last four years had converted a collapsing economy to one with an annual growth rate of 6%. Industrial production was growing at an annual

rate of about 10% and inflation had been drastically reduced and was presently at 8%. Financial sector reforms had been undertaken to allow foreign banks to operate in India and substantial capital market reforms were also underway. The Indian economy now offered new, exciting opportunities for foreign investors. He said that India and Germany had signed two agreements for the promotion and protection of bilateral investment and for the avoidance of double taxation. He urged the German Government to ratify these agreements as soon as possible.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the process of economic reforms had abroad political support. The legal system in India provided security and protection to legal contracts. The Government was in the process of establishing a new streamlined system of arbitration with the objective of quick redressal of grievances. He reiterated the Government's resolve to ensure that further agreements would be as transparent as possible and based on a process of competitive bidding. The Minister urged his German counterpart to facilitate greater flow of information about the German business sector, including information about production standards for textile and leather exports.

Dr. Manmohan Singh called up-on the German Government to help create greater awareness and understanding of India's concerns and interests in the European Union.

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Earlier in a meeting to discuss bilateral issues Dr. Rexrodt expressed his keen appreciation of the reforms undertaken in India. Dr. Rexrodt assured Dr. Manmohan Singh of Germany's full support in India's liberalization process. He said that the policy initiatives undertaken by the Government had put India firmly on the economic map of the world. He said that India was closer culturally to Germany than the other Far Eastern countries and German businessmen were keen to develop closer ties with their counterparts in India. He said that Germany recognizes India as a big business opportunity. However, there was need for better infrastructure facilities. Dr. Rexrodt said that the German Government was keen to establish a German Centre in Bombay that would provide information, office and exhibition space for the small and medium German enterprises. The German Government was extending financial support to set up the German House.

Referring to the environment and social clauses, the German Minister said that it was essential that solutions to these problems were evolved in the context of the cultures and traditions of the countries concerned. He said there was need for a greater understanding of India's problems of chronic poverty. He hoped that both countries would evolve a mutually acceptable single certification system for exports that involved child labour.

The two Ministers expressed satisfaction at the discussions of

the Working Group of the Joint Commission on Infrastructure. They hoped that the business communities of the two countries would work together in developing infrastructure in India. The two Ministers signed a joint Statement of Agreement at the conclusion of the talks.

RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Dec 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

First World Mining Environment Congress inaugurated

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1995 on the inaugural of First World Mining Environment Congress:

The Union Mines Minister, Dr. Giridhar Gomang has said that the future of mining industry in India as well as in the developing countries depends upon environmental protection. Both development and environment protection should go hand in hand. This will help in the sustainable development of natural resources. Dr. Gomang was addressing the inaugural session of the first World Mining Environment Congress here today. The Congress is organised by the Central Mining Re-search Institute, Dhanbad and more than 200 delegates from 22 countries including India are participating in four day Congress.

The Minister said that India is one of the few country in the world which had realised environmental degradation due to mine sector and adopted many abatement measures to mitigate the impact through environmental related legislations. Consistent with the global trend in the last two decades Dr. Gomang said India has also witnessed the enactment and framing of environmental legislation like The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974, the Water (Prevention and Control

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of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977. Forest (Conservation Act, 1980: The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981: and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Dewelling on the legislations relating to the mining sector Dr. Gomang said that special significance to environment protection

has been accorded in Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957. The Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. He said the National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals announced in 1993 also discourages mining operations in identified ecologically fragile and biologically rich areas.

In the speech of Union Coal Minister, Shri Jagdish Tytler, read in absentia, he called upon the need of identifying cost effective suitable techniques for mining industries. Shri Tytler said that since coal consumption will continue to increase, it has become necessary to switch over to the more efficient and environment friendly coal combustion technologies. Some of the technologies already established in advanced countries are Pressurised Fluidised Bed Combustion (PFBC), Slurry Combustion and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC).

The Union Environment & Forests Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot also spoke on the occasion.

DIA OMAN USA

Date : Dec 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Twenty-First Session of the Standing Committee of the SouthAsian Association for Regional Cooperation at the Level ofForeign Secretaries held in New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 15, 1995 on the Twenty-First Session of the Standing Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at the level of Foreign Secretaries which held in New Delhi:

The Twenty-First Session of the Standing Committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at the level of Foreign Secretaries commenced its deliberations on December 15 in New Delhi. Foreign Secretaries of all the seven SAARC member-countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are leading their delegations. The Secretary-General of SAARC, Mr. Y. K. Silwal who completes his term at the end of this year, is also attending.

The Meeting, chaired by India's Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haider, has a full agenda before it for consideration. This

includes reports by Technical Committees on cooperation in areas such as Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development, Tourism, Transport and Drug Abuse; review of progress in the implementation of SAARC Convention on Terrorism and Narcotics; and Economic and Trade cooperation including the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement and further measures.

The Standing Committee will submit its report to the SAARC Council of Ministers which will meet in Delhi on December 18. The Ministerial Meeting will commence with the Commemorative Session of the Tenth Anniversary of SAARC which will be addressed by Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. India's TenProgramme for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of SAARC includes the holding of a SAARC Trade Fair in January 96, Tree Planting by SAARC Foreign Ministers, Special publications on SAARC, Special SAARC stalls at forthcoming Handicrafts and Books Exhibitions in India and Painting and Essay-Writing Competitions.

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DIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA

Date : Dec 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India and Scandinavian Countries sign Air Services Agreement

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 19, 1995 on air Services Agreement signed between India, Denmark, Norway and Sweden to boost Aviation links:

An Air Services Agreement has been signed between India and the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden to boost Aviation links. These agreements were signed here today by Shri Brijesh Kumar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism on behalf of India and respective Ambassadors of the Scandinavian Countries on behalf of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

This Agreement will pave the way for introduction of direct service by Air India to Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm. The Scandinavian Airways system will be able to fly to Bombay and Delhi from points in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Pending the coming into force of the Agreements, the SAS have started twice weekly operations on Copenhagen-Delhi route with effect from 5.9.1995 under a commercial agreement with Air India, on the

basis of a provisional authorization.

DIA DENMARK NORWAY SWEDEN

Date : Dec 19, 1995

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Mr. P. C. Lohani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal along with Foreign Secretary of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 20, 1995 on the visit of Mr. P. C. Lohani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal along with Mr. K. B. Shreshtha, the Foreign Secretary of Nepal to India:

Mr. P. C. Lohani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, accompanied by Mr. K. B. Shreshtha, the Foreign Secretary of Nepal, called on the External Affairs

Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee today. This is the first official ministerial visit from Nepal to India since the new Government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba assumed charge in Nepal. The discussions, which were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, were centered on means of expanding cooperation in areas ranging from water resources, power, trade and transit, promotion of investment and joint ventures, etc.
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PAL INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Dec 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

NIGERIA

Special Envoy from Nigeria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi

on Dec 13, 1995 on a visit of the Minister for National Planning of Nigeria, Chief Ayo Ogunlade to India as Special Envoy from Nigeria:

The Minister for National Planning of Nigeria, Chief Ayo Ogunlade visited Delhi as Special Envoy of his President to deliver the message from his President to our Prime Minister.

The visiting Minister was received by the Minister for External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, this afternoon. Chief Ogunlade briefed Shri Mukherjee on the current developments in Nigeria and reiterated the close multi-faceted relationship that exists between the two countries. He also handed over his President's message for our Prime Minister.

GER NIGERIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Dec 13, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Tajikistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 06, 1995 on visit of the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov to India:

The President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, will pay a state visit to India from 11-15th December, 1995. This is the first visit of a Tajik Head of State to India. The President will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including several ministers.

President Rakhmonov will hold discussions with our President and Prime Minister. He will also visit Agra, Bangalore and Bombay. A number of agreements covering a wide range of areas of cooperation will also be signed during the visit.

TIJKISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : Dec 06, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Armenia

The following is the text of a state ment issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1995 on the visit of the President Ter-Petrossian of Armenia, accompanied by his wife to India:

President Ter-Petrossian of Armenia, accompanied by his wife, will pay a state visit to India from 14-16th December, 1995.

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President Ter-Petrossian is expected to be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vahan Papazian, and the Minister for Industry, Mr. Ashot Safarian. He will hold discussions with the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister, and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The Minister of External Affairs will call on President Ter-Petrossian, and will have talks with the Armenian Foreign Minister. A Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, and a Cultural Cooperation Agreement are likely to be signed during the visit. President Ter-Petrossian will also visit Agra and Calcutta. His visit will consolidate and strengthen traditional friendly relations between India and Armenia.

MENIA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 11, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Delegations of India and Armenia for Official Discussions

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Mintstry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1995 on meeting of delegations of India and Armenia for official discussions:

Delegations of India and Armenia met today for official discussions. The Armenian side was led by President Ter-Petrossian. The Indian side was led by Prime Minister Sh. P. V. Narasimha Rao. During the discussions both sides agreed to have tripartite trade and transit agreement to be worked out between India, Iran and Armenia. Both sides agreed that Joint Commissions between India and Armenia will be set-up. The following three agreements were signed:

a) Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation - The Treaty, a basic political document, sets out the principles of respect for each others' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs and provides for regular consultations on all important issues. It reiterates the desire and intention of both countries to develop their cooperation in a wide-ranging and multi-faceted manner, including in the areas of economy, commerce, industry, science and technology, education, culture, sports, mass-media, environment, and in combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other crimes. Article 17 of the Treaty obliges both countries to take measures to protect and develop the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of the citizens of the other country permanently resident on its territory. The Treaty provides for cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the UN and other international and regional organizations.

b) Cultural Cooperation Agreement -The Cultural Cooperation Agreement is a framework agreement providing for bilateral cooperation in the spheres of culture, arts, education, tourism, sports and mass media. Within the ambit of this Agreement, a Cultural Exchange Programme is to be formulated to concretise bilateral cooperation.

c) Agreement on Technical and Economic Assistance (ITEC) - It provides for training of Armenian nationals in Indian institutions, with the number of seats to be offered to the Armenian side being left to be agreed upon on an annual basis. The terms and conditions of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) will be applicable to such training facilities. Provision is made for deputation of Indian experts to Armenia in mutually agreed fields and for placement of Indian students in Armenian institutions for courses in science, technology and public health. The terms and conditions of services of experts and trainees, as well as placement of Indian students are to be decided by mutual agreement in each case.

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Both sides have also agreed that shortly, they will have discussions on an Air Services Agreement as well as on Bilateral Banking Facilities.

The following Agreements have been concluded during the visit of

the Armenian President to India: Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation; Cultural Cooperation Agreement; and Agreement on Technical and Economic Assistance (ITEC).

The Treaty, a basic political document sets out the principles of respect for each others' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in internal affairs, and provides for regular consultations on all important issues. It reiterates the desire and intention of both countries to develop their cooperation in a wide-ranging and multi-faceted manner, including in the areas of economy, commerce, industry, science and technology, education, culture, sports, mass-media, environment and in combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other crimes. Article 17 of the Treaty obliges both countries to take measures to protect and develop the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of the citizens of the other country permanently resident on its territory. The Treaty provides for cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the UN and other international and regional organizations.

The Cultural Cooperation Agreement is a framework agreement providing for bilateral cooperation in the spheres of culture, arts, education, tourism, sports and mass media. Within the ambit of this Agreement, a Cultural Exchange Programme is to be formulated to concretise bilateral cooperation.

The Armenian side has been keen to develop cooperation with India in the cultural sphere. The Armenian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries incorporates the Armenia-India Society. The Armenia-India Society has registered membership of over 1200 people and has opened a club of Armenian-Indian Friendship. It is known to celebrate India's Independence Day and Republic Day. This Society organised several events devoted to the 200th anniversary of the publication of the Armenian journal 'Aztarar'. An India-Armenia Society has also been set up in New Delhi under the stewardship of the Armenian Honorary Consul in India.

The Agreement on Technical and Economic Assistance (ITEC) provides for training of Armenian nationals in Indian institutions, with the number of seats to be offered to the Armenian side being left to be agreed upon on an annual basis. The terms and conditions of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) will be applicable to such training facilities. Provision is made for deputation of Indian experts to Armenia in mutually agreed fields and for placement of Indian students in Armenian institutions for courses in science, technology and public health. The terms and conditions of services of experts and trainees, as well as placement of Indian students, are to be decided by mutual agreement in each case.

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Categorically Rejection by Government of India the Motivated and Biased Resolution of Jammu and Kashmir by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Conakry

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 15, 1995 on categorically rejection by Government of India the motivated and biased resolution on Jammu & Kashmir by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister (ICFM) in Conakry:

Government of India categorically rejects the motivated and biased resolution on Jammu and Kashmir by the Islamic
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Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) that met in Conakry from 9-12th December, 1995. While we are aware that the Resolution does not reflect the views of many members of the OIC and is a creation of Pakistan through manipulation of OIC procedures, we are compelled to point out that the Resolution is inconsistent with OIC's own professed objectives and is Patently aimed at prolonging terrorism, militancy, and the killing of innocent people under external inspiration. In passing the Resolution, ICFM exposes its vulnerability for being easily misled by falsehood and suppression of truth.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral Part of India. ICFM's reference to J & K as "under foreign occupation", and describing the political process in J & K. "as fraudulent", is objectionable. It is all the more reprehensible that OIC continues to refer to self-serving and marginal groups as "True Representatives" of the Kashmiri people. The ICFM's blatantly partisan Resolution will only fuel terrorism further.

It is incredible with such a prejudiced framework, OIC still seeks to send a "Fact Finding Mission to J & K which in any case is not, acceptable.

While other inter-governmental organisations including NAM, Commonwealth, UN Fora etc. have thought it fit not to pass judgement on what is purely a bilateral issue, ICFM chose to pass a tendentious Resolution. We hope that in future, in keeping with

its own dignity and in accordance with international norms, OIC will refrain from such unwarranted and unacceptable references to a country which is proud of its Muslim population of over 130 million, and its rich heritage of Islamic culture, which is an integral part of India's secular society.

DIA GUINEA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Dec 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is the text of a Official Spokesman's statement issued from Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 15, 1995 on report saying that American intelligence expert suspecting that India is preparing for its first nuclear test:

Responding to a query pertaining to a New York Times report saying that American intelligence experts suspect that India is preparing for its first nuclear test since 1974, the Spokesman said that the report was highly speculative. He clarified that the area which is mentioned in the report is an area where routine military exercises are carried out. He further said that it is a routine military activity in a border area. Such exercises, he said, were common to all countries which have defence forces. When asked to confirm or deny the report, the Spokesman said there was nothing to confirm or deny as the report was speculative. For example, the Spokesman pointed out that in Para 3 of the news item, intelligence experts of USA are quoted as not being able to tell whether the activity involved preparation for exploding a nuclear bomb.

In reply to a question regarding the NPT, the Spokesman said that India's position was well known. He said that India was for the elimination of all nuclear weapons in a specified time-frame, as contained in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan.

In response to a question regarding India's nuclear capability, the Spokesman said that India has the capability, but believes in its use for peaceful purposes only.

In response to yet another question as to why India carried out a nuclear explosion in 1974, the Spokesman said that this

particular explosion was for peaceful purposes and increased our knowledge about peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In response to another question regarding Pakistan's nuclear capability, the Spokesman said that the former Prime Minister of Paldstan, Mr. Nawaz Sharief and their former Chief of Staff had already
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said in public that Pakistan possessed the bomb. If leaders of that stature had already declared that Pakistan has the bomb what further proof was necessary, said the Spokesman.

Asked to comment on India's stand on CTBT, the Spokesman said that we are looking at it and watching how the negotiations are developing. The discussions were not complete as yet.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : Dec 15, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Canada

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 22, 1995 on the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chretien to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Rao:

Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chretien will be visiting India at the invitation of Prime Minister Rao from January 9 to 14, 1996. He will be accompanied by a 150 member "Team Canada" which will include 8 to 10 Provincial Premiers and a 200 member Business delegation.

The visit of a Canadian Prime Minister to India comes after 25 years and is expected to provide a significant impetus to the growth of future Indo-Canadian relations.

Apart from Delhi, the Canadian Prime Minister will also visit Bombay and Agra during his stay in India. In Bombay, Canada will be the partner country at the CII Centenary Partnership Summit.

NADA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 22, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Foreign Office Statement on a Nuclear Test

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1995 on Pakistan's statement alleging that India was preparing for a nuclear test:

The recent Pakistan Foreign Office statement is a familiar example of anti India propaganda, seeking to exploit reports that have come out in same quarters alleging that India was preparing for a nuclear test. We have authoritatively responded to these reports.

Pakistan's statement tries to divert attention from Pakistan's on nuclear weapons programme. Pakistani spokesmen have themselves claimed that their country has made nuclear weapons and the nature and orientation of Pakistan's programme is by now well documented. It is this programme which poses a real danger to regional and global peace and stability and is a source of constant and grave concern to the international community.

India has also been compelled to draw attention to Pakistan's reckless pursuit of acquiring conventional arms, including force multipliers, from diverse sources far beyond its legitimate defence requirements. These acquisitions have a destabilising influence in the region. They compel us to bear the burden of additional expenditure on our defence needs. The world community must bring to bear the weight of its influence on Pakistan to return to the path of negotiation and responsibility.

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KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Dec 23, 1995

Volume No

1995

TAJKISTAN

Meeting between President Rakhmonov and Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1995 on meeting between President Rakhmonov and Prime Minister of India:

The meeting took place from 1130 to 1330 hrs. on 12 December 1995 and the two leaders continued their discussions over lunch, hosted immediately after the talks by Prime Minister.

2. The two leaders agreed that it was important to build closer bilateral ties and to strengthen relations in all fields. The visit of the Tajik President represents the opening of new chapter in Indo-Tajik ties.

3. Seven documents were signed during the Visit:

(1) Declaration on Further Development of Friendly ties between India and Tajikistan which provides for comprehensive strengthening of our cooperation, including in international forums;

(2) Agreement on setting up the IndoTajik Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation;

(3) Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement;

(4) Cultural Exchange Programme;

(5) MOU on Cooperation in the Area of Environmental Protection;

(6) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology;

(7) Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Health Care.

These Agreements provide the detailed framework for further bilateral cooperation between the two countries and reflect the keenness of both sides to intensify their interaction. The Joint Commission, which is to be headed by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, is called upon to play a pivotal role identifying new areas and forms of cooperation.

4. The two leaders also discussed regional and international issues. They agreed that it is necessary for both countries to cooperate closely to combat the growth of terrorism in the region

and called upon all States in the region to build their relations on the basis of respect for existing bilateral agreements and on the recognised principles of peaceful co-existence.

5. President Rakhmonov invited Prime Minister to pay a visit to Tajikistan, which was accepted; dates for the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

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DIA USA TAJIKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 12, 1995

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Festival of India in Thailand

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1995 regarding the Festival of India in Thailand:

The Festival of India in Thailand will open in Bangkok tomorrow. It will be inaugurated at the Thailand Cultural Centre, Bangkok by the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and the Minister of Education of Thailand. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand will be present on the occasion. Performing art, exhibitions, fashion shows, seminars, food festival and film shows will be organised during the Festival. Appropriately, the show will draw to a close with the exhibition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha from India at the National Museum Bangkok in November-December, 1996.

This is for the first time that such an exposition of the broad spectrum of Indian art and culture will be on show in Thailand. The Festival is being held in response to a commitment made by the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, to the King of Thailand during his visit to Bangkok in 1993. It would also be part of the celebrations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of accession to the throne of the King of Thailand.

The highlight of the Festival will be a special concert on Sitar by Pt. Ravi Shankar. Besides, there will be a performance of Bharatanatyam by Dr. Padma Subramanyam, an exhibition of the paintings on the Ramayana theme by M.F. Hussain, fashion shows by the National Institute of Fashion Technology and Goan food festival. The performing art will feature Kathak, Shehnai and

folk dances. There will be exhibitions of Hindu iconography, Indian textiles and handicrafts and seminars on literature, classical music and dance. Seven feature films and seven documentaries will also be screened. Besides Bangkok, shows will also be held in Chiang Mai, Songkia and Khonkaen.

AILAND INDIA USA

Date : Dec 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE

Declaration on Further Development of Friendly Relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Tajikistan

On the invitation of leadership of India the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmonov paid an official visit to the Republic of India from Dec 11, 1995 to 16 December 1995.

The leaders of India and the President of Tajikistan held cordial discussions in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

During the visit the President of the Republic of Tajikistan had meetings with the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and the Prime Minister of India Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and visited Agra, Bangalore and Bombay.

During the meetings and discussions between the leaders of the two friendly
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countries they exchanged opinions on ways of strengthening bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues of interest to the two countries.

The two sides agreed upon the following:

1. Both sides agree that long term and stable relations of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries meet the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples and will work for the preservation and strengthening of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. They are convinced that it is necessary for multi-ethnic, pluralist states to cooperate actively to preserve their state structures from the threats of terrorism and religious or ethnic

extremism and separatism.

2. The Republic of India fully supports the democratic transformations in the Republic of Tajikistan and the efforts of the leadership of Tajikistan for achieving a durable peace, security and national reconciliation in the Republic of Tajikistan.

3. Both sides are convinced that there are broad perspectives and extensive potential for further strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in political, economic, humanitarian and other areas.

4. In the area of political cooperation the sides will continue strengthening mutual understanding and confidence, supporting intensive dialogue and coordinate their positions on international issues.

5. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and drew attention to the necessity of reform of the world body based on democratisation of its structure and functioning, including revitalisation of the General Assembly and restructuring the Security Council to ensure its representative character and efficacy in a comprehensive manner and based on agreed criteria. They emphasised that a rational representation of the developing countries in the UN Security Council in both the permanent and non-permanent categories is an essential element in the restructuring of the UN. In this context, the Republic of Tajikistan supports the candidature of India to permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

6. In the trade-economic sector the sides intend to use advantages of geographic closeness to the maximum, upholding the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

7. Both sides will gradually carry out transition to economic relations as per international standards devoting special attention to cooperation in the areas of energy, health care, culture, education, mining tourism, light and heavy industry.

8. The sides will make every efforts to improve and strengthen the contractual legal basis of their economic cooperation in order to improve investment conditions in both countries and increase involvement of businessmen from both countries.

9. Both sides will step up efforts to encourage and support enterprises and companies, especially large and credit capable, in order to expand and develop trade and economic cooperation in different forms on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

10. Both sides attach significance to the role of the Indo-Tajik inter-government Commission on trade, economic, scientific,

technological, industrial, cultural cooperation, as well as in the area of health care, stimulating its operations in every way.

11. Both sides will encourage development of bilateral tourist exchange in order to introduce their people to the ancient history, culture and traditions of the two countries.

12. The sides agree that the environment should be protected and kept clean in the interests of public health and the
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healthy existence of present and future generations and, in this context, noted the importance of environmentally clean development policies.

13. In the area of international affairs the sides will exchange views concerning actual international and regional problems, strengthen cooperation and coordinate their position on these issues.

14. Both sides will make every effort to establish a new and fair international. political and economic regime, based on principles of mutual respect for sovereignty territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

15. In this context, the Republic of Tajikistan welcomed India's efforts to promote stability, understanding and cooperation in South Asia and calls upon all states in the region to honour their commitments under existing bilateral agreements and not to resort to cross-border terrorism and hostile propaganda.

16. The Republic of India and the Republic of Tajikistan have positively appraised results of the visit and expressed their assurances that the results fulfilled the basic interests of the peoples from both countries and would serve to further development of their friendship, expansion and strengthening of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Done in New Delhi on this the 12th day of December One thousand Nine hundred and Ninety five in Hindi, English, Tajik and Russian. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of the Republic of India

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
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TIKISTAN INDIA MALI USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Dec 11, 1995