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Date : Jan 01, 1993

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1995

BHUTAN

King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck Holds Talks with Indian leaders

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1993 on King of Bhutan's talks with Indian leaders:

At the invitation of the President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan arrived on a State visit in Delhi at 1155 hrs. on the 4th of

January 1993. He was received at the Airport by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs and other senior officials of the Government of India.

His Majesty was received at the Rashtrapati Bhawan by the President and the Prime Minister. A ceremonial welcome was accorded to the visiting dignitary with a 21-gun salute. His Majesty inspected a Guard of Honour.

The King of Bhutan laid a wreath at Rajghat and watered the saplings planted in the lawns of Rajghat during his previous visit. His Majesty also laid a wreath at Veer Bhoomi, the Samadhi of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

His Majesty called on the President where matters of mutual interest and the close economic co-operation between India and Bhutan were discussed. Later, the Prime Minister had an extended meeting with His Majesty. Their discussions centred around bilateral and international issues and the continued Indian assistance for Bhutan's 7th Five Year Plan (1992-97). The discussions were marked by warmth, cordiality and complete understanding between the two sides.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the Sankosh Multi-purpose Project was signed between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on the 4th of January 1993 at Ashoka Hall in Rashtrapati Bhawan. The MOU was signed in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the King of Bhutan by Dr. C. D. Thatte, Secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India for the Indian side and Dasho Karma Letho, Ambassador of Bhutan in India for the Bhutanese side. The Sankosh Project envisages construction of two power stations with an installed capacity of 1525 MWs. The Detailed Project Report is to be completed in 3 years.

The President will be hosting a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary later this evening.

UTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 04, 1993

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1995

BHUTAN

The following is the text of a Joint Press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 07, 1993 on Indo-Bhutan talks:

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, paid a state visit to India at the invitation of the President of India, His Excellency Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, from January 4 to 7, 1993. During the visit, His Majesty exchanged views with the President of India, the Prime Minister of India, the Vice President of India and with

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other senior Indian Ministers. These discussions covered a wide range of subjects. Both the King of Bhutan and the Prime Minister of India expressed their great happiness and satisfaction at the further strengthening of the traditionally warm, friendly and close relationship between Bhutan and India which has always been based on complete mutual trust and understanding. Their discussions also covered the situation in the region and recent developments in international relations and were characterised by a close identity of views and perceptions.

Both sides expressed their full confidence and determination to deepen the mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the important field of hydro-power development. In this context, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the preparation of a detailed project report for the 1520 MW Sankosh Multipurpose project in the presence of the King of Bhutan and the Prime Minister of India was considered a landmark in the development of closer economic co-operation between the two countries. The two sides also agreed to start work shortly on the Kurichu Hydel Project in eastern Bhutan. They also noted that the preparation of the detailed project reports for three other major hydroelectric projects in Bhutan was proceeding on schedule.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan extended invitations to the President and Prime Minister of India to visit Bhutan at their convenience. The invitations were accepted with pleasure and gratitude.

UTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jan 07, 1993

Volume No

Shrimati Sahi Calls for Indo-Canadian Industrial Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1993 on Indo-Canada co-operation in Industry:

The Minister of State for Industrial Development Smt. Krishna Sahi has called for increased industrial cooperation between India and Canada. Inaugurating a one-day international symposium on Globalisation and Restructuring Canadian and Indian Perspectives, jointly organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Conference Board of Canada, here today, Smt. Sahi emphasised the need for a positive and balanced approach in establishing joint ventures between the two countries. She stressed the importance of creating greater awareness in the Canadian business community about the needs and capabilities of Indian industry.

Speaking on Indo-Canadian economic cooperation the Minister said, the Canadian International Development Agency has provided economic assistance for a wide variety of programmes covering infrastructural development, poverty alleviation and improvement of human resources in India. Some of the recent collaborations approved between India and Canada are in solar systems, transmission systems hydro-electric projects, high purity water and waste treatment systems, data communication terminals, radiators, and mine communication safety equipment systems. India is fully committed to furthering the significant developments which have taken place in the recent past to create the appropriate environment for increased Indo-Canadian Economic Cooperation, she added.

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Regarding the industrial restructuring, she said the process of globalisation will hasten the speed and impact of these changes. Older industries will have to respond faster to global changes in technology, organisation, marketing and factor prices. The former rigidities in the industrial and economic environment in India which made it difficult for firms to adapt quickly to changes in circumstances was an important cause of the sickness in Indian industry. In the new deregulated environment, firms will be free to take decisions based on their commercial judgement. The turn-around strategy adopted by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction is also geared to make the net worth of sick units positive within a given time frame. It now covers both the private and public sector.

Smt. Sahi said, there are immense possibilities for mutual bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. India and Canada have taken a number of initiatives including

annual ministerial and senior official level consultations, a double taxation avoidance treaty and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Industrial collaboration between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Salman Khurshid, Deputy Minister for Commerce called for sustained efforts to strengthen India's new economic policies which changed the Industrial scenario of the country. Others who also spoke included Mr. Peter McCreath, Parliamentary Secretary of Canada and Mr. J. L. Paynter High Commissioner of Canada in India.

NADA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

CANADA

Canadian Parliamentary Delegation Meets the President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 21, 1993 on the meeting of Canadian Parliamentary Delegation with the President:

A 13 member Canadian Parliamentary Delegation led by H. E. Mr. John A Fraser, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, called on the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan last evening.

During the meeting the President emphasised the enhanced scope of economic cooperation between India and Canada. He spoke of economic cooperation between India and Canada. He spoke of the need for high-level interchange of visits between the two countries, particularly at the level of people's representatives. Dr. Sharma also apprised the delegation of the ancient tradition of secular thought in India. In the context of the proposed Punjab visit of the Canadian Delegation, the President said that Punjab is returning to normalcy and has already witnessed successful elections to Parliament, State Assembly and the local bodies, while the polling process for the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State was currently on.

Mr. Fraser apprised Dr. Sharma about the Parliamentary process in his country. He said, Canada and its people were deeply interested in cooperation with India in various fields.

NADA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHILE

India, Chile Sign Cultural Pact

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1993 on India-Chile cultural agreement:

India and Chile signed a cultural agreement here today. It was signed by Smt. Komal Anand, Joint Secretary in the Department of Culture on behalf of the Government of India and Dr. Eduardo Ortiz, Ambassador of Chile in India, on behalf of the Government of Chile. The agreement covers the field of culture, education, mass media and sports. Speaking on the occasion both of them expressed the hope that it would pave the way for closer cooperation between the two countries.

ILE INDIA

Date : Jan 13, 1993

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1995

IRAN

Protection of Iranian and other Foreign Nationals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1993 on protection of Iranian and other foreign nationals:

It has been brought to our notice that in the disturbances in Bombay, some Iranian nationals have also suffered. The Government of India is taking all possible action to protect Iranian and

other foreign nationals, along with other overall measures being taken to bring the law and order situation under control. The Defence Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, received the Consul General of Iran in Bombay in this connection. The Ministry of External Affairs, on the request of the Iranian Embassy, has requested the Home Ministry and the Maharashtra Government to take all appropriate measures.

AN INDIA

Date : Jan 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for External Affairs Visits Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1993 on the visit of Shri Eduardo Faleiro Minister of State for External Affairs to Maldives:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Eduardo Faleiro visited Maldives as Special Envoy of Prime Minister. He met Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel on January 12, 1993, and handed over to him a message from Prime Minister for H.E. the President of Maldives, as the President is out of the country. He explained to

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Foreign Minister Jameel the circumstances under which our Prime Minister could not attend the Seventh SAARC Summit. Minister of State also briefed Mr. Jameel about action taken by Government on Ayodhya issue. Mr. Jameel appreciated the same and said that the Ayodhya issue is an internal matter of India.

LDIVES INDIA

Date : Jan 13, 1993

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MAURITIUS

Indo-Mauritius Joint Venture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1993 on Indo-Mauritius Joint Venture:

The Minister of Trade and Shipping of Mauritius, Mr. Anil Bachoo, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, here today and discussed with him the possibilities of expanding mutual cooperation through joint ventures in Mauritius. Shri Mukherjee stressed the potential for joint ventures in 3 sectors, namely, textiles, sugar and tourism and the importance of Mauritius as a base for preferential exports to the EC market. Mr. Bachoo said that Mauritius was keen to promote joint venture cooperation with India, and suggested that an expert study be undertaken to identify joint venture possibilities. Mauritius both for the domestic market as well as exports. Mr. Bachoo also indicated that a 25-member industrial delegation from India was due to visit Mauritius soon which would facilitate further dialogue on this subject. Mr. Newoor, High Commissioner of Mauritius, who attended the meeting, said that Indian Trade Fairs in Mauritius had evoked a very good response.

Both sides noted that India's trade with Mauritius had registered substantial growth, having increased from Rs. 14.60 crores in 1985-86 to Rs. 90.81 crores in 1990-91 and Rs. 132.15 crores in 1991-92, although bilateral trade has remained in favour of India with the 2-way trade consisting mostly of exports from India.

Shri Mukherjee said that cooperation possibilities in the area of informatics and software should also be explored.

URITIUS USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 27, 1993

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1995

MISCELLANEOUS

New Welfare Scheme for Handloom Weavers Project Package SchemeExtended

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1993 on Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme:

A project package scheme for handloom weavers initiated by the government during 1991-92, has been extended for the year 1992-93 and during the 8th Five Year Plan. This scheme is designed to benefit specific target group, specific areas on production of a specific items. The target groups could be SC/ST, minorities, women

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and people below poverty line and the benefit cost will be assessed in terms of benefits flowing to handloom weavers. Under the scheme the weavers will be imparted training, supply of new designs, formation of new cooperatives and support for marketing. Funding is on the basis of 50:50 between State Government/Central Government. The commercial components of the projects will have 50% loan and 50% grant. Non-commercial components like training, replication of designs and test production of new designs would be funded on 100% grant. State Governments are required to prepare specific need-based projects under the scheme.

During the year 1991-92 on receipt of concrete/comprehensive proposals, the project packages of Governments of Assam, Orissa and Rajasthan were approved and central assistance extended to these States. During 1992-93, a project package of Government of Orissa has so far been approved. Besides on going area-based projects of Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have also been funded under the scheme.

The Government has also introduced from the year 1991-92, the scheme of Integrated Handloom Village Development. The Scheme is continued in 1992-93 and during 8th Five Year Plan.

The scheme proposes to adopt villages which are known for excellent craftsmanship in weaving but lack in infrastructure related to and not related to handloom. About 24 villages were proposed to be taken up during 1991-92 and the same number in 1992-93. About Rs. 25 lakhs will be provided from handloom budget to take care of equity of the primary society, training, modernisation of looms, common facility centre, housing-cum-workshed and general infrastructure like roads, crossdrainage, community halls, village electrification, primary school building, drinking water supply, health care centres for human beings and animals, marketing centres etc. The DRDA, local bodies etc. are expected to bring in about Rs. 15 lakhs.

So far 21 villages/districts have been identified or approved on the requests of State Governments.

During 1991-92, the projects of Governments of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Orissa were approved and central assistance extended.

During 1992-93, so far the projects of Madhya Pradesh, Manipur

and Tamil Nadu have been approved and central assistance sanctioned.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 06, 1993

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1995

MISCELIANEOUS

START-II Treaty

The following is the text of a press statement issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1993 on the conclusion of the START-II Treaty between USA and Russia:

1. The conclusion of the START-II Treaty on Reduction of Strategic Weapons between USA and Russia is a welcome development. START-II carries forward the process undertaken with the signing of the START Treaty in July 1991. We hope that START-II will make a further contribution in promoting confidence and consolidating the climate of peace.
 2. The conclusion of the START-II negotiations in such a short time frame demonstrates that complex political issues can be rapidly resolved with necessary political will.
 3. START-II demonstrates that it is possible to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament. We hope that the START-II Treaty will be followed by the commencement of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament issues involving not only USA and Russia but all five declared nuclear weapon states. Such a move would be facilitated if all nuclear weapon states could agree to a universal freeze on future development and deployment of nuclear weapons.
 4. In today's age, there is a compelling and for nuclear weapon states to re-
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examine the doctrines of nuclear deterrence which have been used by them in the past to justify the expansion of their arsenals. We would urge all states to commence negotiations for an agreement to prohibit the use or threat to use of nuclear weapons.

5. A cooperative world order can only be based on non-proliferation and genuine disarmament arising out of multilateral agreement aimed at the elimination of all nuclear weapons under international verification in a timebound framework.

A RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date : Jan 12, 1993

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1995

MISCELLANEOUS

OIC Bureau Meeting at Dakar

The following is the text of statement issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1993 on statement of the OIC Bureau Meeting held in Dakar on Ayodhya issue:

The Meeting strongly condemned the destruction by Hindu militants of the Babri Mosque in India which was an ancient Islamic place of worship. It also regretted the loss of thousands of human lives.

It recalled the provisions of the Declaration of Joint Islamic Action to Combat Blasphemy Against Islam adopted by the 18th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and called upon the Islamic countries to individually and collectively exert effective and coordinated efforts to ensure respect for Islam and its noble values throughout the world and to protect and safeguard the Islamic Muqaddesat (the Sacred Book, personalities and places).

After having noted with interest the announcement by the Indian Government of its commitment to rebuild the Babri Mosque, the Islamic world has been surprised by the authorization given immediately after this announcement to the Hindu fundamentalists to perform their religious rites on the site of the Mosque that they destroyed. Reflecting the resentment of the Muslims, the Meeting called upon the Government of India to honour its pledge to rebuild the Mosque without further delay on its original site. It further urged the Government of India to take effective measure to protect the human rights of the Muslims of India particularly their religious and cultural rights as well as their Mosques and holy places.

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MISCELIANEOUS

Training of Foreign Diplomats by India under the ITEC Programme and the Africa Fund

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 18, 1993 on the Training of foreign Diplomats by India under the ITEC programme and the Africa Fund:

16 diplomats from the African National Congress "including some who are at a very senior level" and 11 more from Romania, Hungary, Egypt, Vietnam, Zambia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizstan are participating in the second Professional Course exclusively for foreign diplomats beginning on 18th January. The programme will run for 10 weeks, and is being conducted by the Foreign Service Training Institute of India (FSTI).

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The objective of the specially designed course is to orient the participants to the needs, functions & responsibilities of a diplomatic service. The Course is being organised by the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs and financed by the Government of India under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and the Africa Fund.

The request for training the ANC diplomats came from Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC. The participants from East Europe and North Africa are coming for the first time, along with countries that have traditionally sent their diplomats to this Institute for training.

The training will be conducted by the in-house faculty of FSTI, serving officers from the Ministry of External Affairs, and eminent persons from different fields.

The programme includes the study of diplomatic practice and protocol, international relations, international law, formulation and implementation of foreign policy, training in the use of computers, representational skills and effective communications.

Date : Jan 18, 1993

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1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Projecting India as a Safe and Exciting Destination Two Day's Overseas Marketing Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 18, 1993 on projecting India as a safe and exciting destination Two day's overseas marketing conference:

Smt. Sukhbans Kaur, Union Minister of State for Tourism today stressed the need to address ourselves to specific strategies and objectives, to be implemented in the source markets for projecting India as a positive, safe and exciting destination with a view to encourage inflow of foreign tourists to this country.

She was inaugurating a two-day Overseas Marketing Conference organised by the Ministry of Tourism. The Directors of Government of India Tourist Offices abroad will be making presentations and have inter-action with officials and representatives of travel trade industry.

The Minister said that the intention of the inter-action between the industry and our tourist offices abroad is to monitor as to how best to project India, circuits destinations to be promoted which segments of the market to project is to and the publicity instruments to be used for such presentations. She said that the country had been confident of achieving tourist arrivals to the extent of two million tourists during 1992 as compared to 1.7 million tourists who had come in the previous peak year 1991. This would have been a remarkable turnaround for tourism after the lean tourist arrivals during the Visit India Year 1991 because of international and domestic reasons. The events of December 1992 however, cut-short our efforts but still it has been no mean achievement that 1.86 million tourists came to India in 1992 contributing about Rs. 4000 crores in foreign exchange which is a 34% increase in rupee terms and 8% in dollar terms.

Smt. Sukhbans Kaur said that the Department of Tourism had initiated a series of measures to counter-act the negative factors prevailing and felt that the present Marketing Conference will be another step in the direction of increasing interaction between the industry and the Government to find possible alternatives to the crisis confronting tourism.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 18, 1993

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MISCELLANEOUS

Programme of Elimination of Child Labour Activities Launched

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1993 on launching of programme of elimination of child labour activities:

An International programme on the Elimination of Child Labour was launched today which will be operated through non-governmental organisations and 30 of them have been identified. The effort would be to create an awareness on the tragic situation of children and provide training to reduce the incident of child labour. The amount of US \$ 2.5 million for the implementation of this programme in India has been allotted and the first area to be tackled in this regard is bonded labour, hazardous industries and children below 12 years. The programme was launched by Labour Secretary Shri S. Gopalan in the absence of Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister for labour who could not reach because of his other engagements in the North East Region.

Mr. H. Habenicht, Programme Manager and Mr. Elias G. Mabere, Director, Area Office represented on behalf of the International Labour Organisation.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Mabere described this programme as a movement which has been undertaken to protect the working children, reduce their incidence and finally elimination of child labour. He added that the programme at present was for five years for which finance has been offered by Germany.

Mr. Habenicht felt that child labour was a violation of human right but it has not been taken up in that magnitude at the national and international agend. The purpose was to raise awareness about the plight of the children and the training with the association of non-governmental organisations, trade unions and employers workout would result in protecting the interest of the working children.

He added that the labour standards and convention adopted by ILO had helped in eliminating child labour in developed countries but it could not help in the developing countries. Even efforts were made to strengthen the legislative programme of Member Countries. This programme was launched with a view to help in the reduction of child labour.

Launching the programme, Shri Gopalan called it as a business of investment in human beings and the efforts of NGOs should be to take the problems of child labour in the organised sector first and extending its areas towards unorganised sectors. He pointed out that 25 per cent of the child labour is between the age of six to 15 years and the cooperation of trade unions and employers along with the State Governments would help in reducing the problem of child labour.

The programme aims at that national efforts in the country at the eventual elimination of child labour and that this objective could be attained only through vigorous action by government and the active involvement of employers's workers' and non-governmental organisations. The Memorandum of Understanding signed laid down the principles, areas and modalities of cooperation between the ILO and the Government of India and forms the basis of IPEC's activities in the country. The MOU was effective till the Derember 31, 1996.

Based on the MOU the Government of India constituted a National Steering Committee to consult on the nature and scope of the activities to be undertaken under
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IPEC, select action programme proposals for inclusion provide information and justification for the biennial programme and budget of IPEC and review the action programmes in the context of the national programme as a whole.

A INDIA GERMANY

Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Move to Organise a March to Ayodhya by Some Bangladeshis

The following is the text of statement issued by Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 04, 1993
on the move to organise a march to Ayodhya by some Bangladeshis:

The move to organise a long march to Ayodhya by some Bangladeshis is an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs. Whatever the emotional motivations behind it. It is bound to heighten tensions all around

It is clearly the responsibility of Government of Bangladesh to prevent any illegal border crossing by Bangladeshi citizens. We hope it will discharge this responsibility promptly and effectively.

We are closely monitoring the situation. Firm action will be taken by our border security authorities to prevent illegal entry of Bangladeshi citizens into India. There is no question of permitting any violation of our territory and laws by foreign citizens.

INDIA BANGLADESH

Date : Jan 04, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Expulsion of 418 Palestinians by Israel

The following is the text of statement by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 04, 1993 on the expulsion of 418 Palestinians to Marj-el-zuhour following the kidnapping of an Israeli security official:

It is with continuing and deep concern that the Government of India has observed developments affecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories after the deliberate kidnapping of sqt. Major Toledano, Israeli security official and his assassination. The action taken of expelling 418 Palestinians from the area, sending them into a no man's land where none of the basic requirements even of human survival is available, is excessive and unacceptable from any point of view or value system which should govern relations between peoples. The Government of India urges the Government of Israel to withdraw its expulsion orders as there is no justification for imposing humanitarian hardships on a large number of persons on the basis of one violent incident or other. The Government of India hopes that all

concerned will adopt the path of restraint in bringing down tensions to enable the expelled Palestinians to return. The Government of India will be supportive of international efforts to meet this objective.

RAEL INDIA USA

Date : Jan 04, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Exchange of Lists of Nuclear Installations in India and Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 04, 1993 on exchange of lists of nuclear installations in India and Pakistan:

Briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that in accordance with
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the terms of the Agreement on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities signed in Islamabad on December 31, 1988, the Governments of India and Pakistan have today for the second consecutive year exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under this Agreement. The exchange was carried out simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

In response to a query about the periodicity for exchanging these lists, the Official Spokesman stated that these lists are exchanged every year under the provisions of the Agreement.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jan 04, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reduction in Staff-Strength by Pakistan High Commission

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 14, 1993 on the reduction in staff strength by Pakistan High Commission:

Government's attention has been drawn to statement of the Spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office of January 11, 1993. We have noted that Pakistan would withdraw from India those home-based personnel of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, who are in excess of 110. This decision of Government of India is not a retaliatory step as described by Pakistan but is based on an initiative and suggestion made entirely by Pakistan. It was Pakistan which unilaterally decided on the wisdom of parity between the diplomatic Missions regardless of the difficulties this would create.

Pakistan's request to lease out the property at Mount Pleasant Road, Malabar Hills, Bombay to the Pakistan Consulate General had been under the consideration of Government of India. It has not been found possible to accede to Pakistan's request. In fact, Government had stated this in Parliament on December 2, 1983. The question of Government having failed to fulfil any promise to Pakistan on this account, therefore, does not arise.

KISTAN INDIA

Date : Jan 14, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

SAARC Summit at Dhaka

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 10, 1993 on SAARC Summit at Dhaka:

Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao will not be able to attend the Dhaka SAARC Summit, which was to be held on January 13 and 14, 1993.

2. Member -States of SAARC had agreed to a postponement of the

Dhaka SAARC Summit which earlier was scheduled for December 12 and 13, 1992. India had readily agreed to these new dates in the hope that the situation in and around India would have stabilised and the political tensions created by the actions in some of the other countries in the sub-continent would have abated by then. Unfortunately, public demonstrations and acts amounting to interference in the internal affairs of India have continued to vitiate the atmosphere. This naturally impacts negatively on the prospects of the SAARC Summit. It is felt that the political directions which are needed at this stage to provide greater substance and content to the functioning of regional cooperation in South Asia could not be achieved under the present circumstances.

3. The Prime Minister will be in touch with His Majesty, the King of Bhutan, the Presidents of Sri Lanka and Maldives and the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal conveying our views on this subject. It has proposed that the future dates for the SAARC Summit should be settled through normal diplomatic channels.

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NEPAL PAKISTAN

Date : Jan 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Organisation of Islamic Conference Meeting at Dakar

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 11, 1993 on the OIC Bureau Meeting beginning today in Dakar:

Government has noted that the OIC Bureau Meeting is beginning today in Dakar. We have been in touch with the Governments represented in the Bureau and other governments who are members of the OIC to caution them against falling in with any move by Pakistan to issue a provocation resolution as it only creates more tension. Most governments agreed on the need for moderation in dealing with this issue.

NEPAL PAKISTAN

Date : Jan 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India's Reaction to OIC's Announcement

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1993 on India's reaction to the OIC's Announcement:

While briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that: We have seen with regret the pronouncement by the OIC Bureau in Dakar (Senegal) on January 11 on the Ayodhya events. These events, unfortunate and regrettable as they were are exclusively in the internal jurisdiction of India and the Government of India needs neither advice nor exhortations in regard to the protection of the human and religious rights of its muslim minority numbering over hundred million.

By way of background, the Official Spokesman added that the Bureau Meeting was attended by Senegal, Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestinian, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey.

DIA SENEGAL USA INDONESIA KUWAIT MOROCCO PAKISTAN SAUDI ARABIA SYRIA TURKEY

Date : Jan 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's Meeting with some Indian Heads of Missions from various Countries

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 14, 1993 on Prime Minister's Meeting with the arriving and departing Heads of Missions from various countries:

Briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that: The Prime Minister received departing Heads of Missions as well as those who have recently arrived in New Delhi. He responded to questions relating to their respective countries as well as gave a detailed review of the international situation and domestic developments. Those Envoys who have newly arrived in New Delhi, were from Turkey, Tunisia, Zambia, Algeria, Hungary, Peru, Angola, Israel, Sudan and Iran. The Heads of Missions departing were from Chile, Cuba, Ghana, Tanzania and Slovakia.

DIA USA ALGERIA HUNGARY PERU TUNISIA TURKEY ZAMBIA ANGOLA IRAN ISRAEL SUDAN
CHILE CUBA GHANA SLOVAKIA TANZANIA

Date : Jan 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Allied Air Strikes Against Iraq

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 14, 1993 on Allied air-strikes against Iraq:

In response to a query on the punitive air-strikes of the US, France and UK against Iraq, the Spokesman stated that: India hoped that dangerous escalations would be avoided by strict adherence to the terms of the ceasefire after the Gulf War and full recognition and observance of the sovereignty, integrity and international legitimacy of all States in the Gulf Region.

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AQ USA FRANCE INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jan 19, 1993 on taking over of charge by the new External Affairs Minister and the MOS:

The new Minister for External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh, took over charge in the Ministry of External Affairs today. Shri Salman Khursheed also took over charge as the new Minister of State for External Affairs.

The External Affairs Minister was briefed by Foreign Secretary and the other two Secretaries about the forthcoming visits of Prime Minister John Major of U.K. and President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

At noon today, the External Affairs Minister met all the officers serving at Hqrs. in the Ministry. He was welcomed to the Ministry by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, who recalled that External Affairs Minister had served in the same capacity in the Ministry quite a few years ago and brings over four decades of experience in public life to the Ministry.

In his remarks to the assembled officers, External Affairs Minister mentioned that there were new challenges in the area of foreign policy globally. The world was a dynamic and a changing one and the Ministry would have to efficiently deal with this environment and safeguarding and promoting India's national interests. He stated that he would like all the officers serving in the Ministry not only to express their opinions freely and frankly, but also to implement decisions finally taken quickly and completely. He referred to the importance of building up India's economy and underlined the importance of economic diplomacy.

The new Minister of State, Shri Saiman Khursheed, also spoke at the meeting, mentioning that he was looking forward to his assignment, and was confident that he would receive full cooperation of everyone serving in the Ministry.

ITED KINGDOM RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 19, 1993

Volume No

Bangladesh Parliament Passes Resolution on Ayodhya

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 22, 1993 on Resolution passed by Bangladesh Parliament:

With deep regret, we take note of the adoption on January 20 of a resolution by the Bangladesh Parliament relating to the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya. We categorically reject this resolution; it is a totally unacceptable interference in our internal affairs. We take strong exception to the fact that the ruling party BNP in Bangladesh has thought it fit to indulge in public denunciation of our policies and actions and also to arrogate to itself the right to advise us on matters in which it has no locus standi whatsoever.

For the Government and people of India, an unshaken belief in secularism and the age-old tradition of tolerance have been a source of guidance and will remain so in future. On the other hand, motivated and ill-conceived advice from those many of whom have been under the influence of fundamentalists of one complexion or another, will only hamper the lessening of tensions all around.

The resolution has completely ignored the tragic but widely known facts about the violent reactions in Bangladesh which resulted in extensive damage to and des-

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truction of hundreds of temples, houses, commercial establishments and other properties of the people belonging to the minority community in that country. These reprehensible developments in Bangladesh since December 07 have caused untold suffering and deep insecurity. Hence the attempt to present Bangladesh as a model of communal harmony cannot be taken seriously.

While desirous of maintaining a friendly and harmonious relationship with Bangladesh, the Indian Government would insist that our bilateral relations continue to be governed by accepted norms and principles concerning relations among neighbouring countries. We shall, therefore, watch and judge the future actions of the Bangladesh Government, with due attention.

INDIA BANGLADESH USA

Date : Jan 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Indian Prime Minister and British Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Meeting between Indian Prime Minister and visiting British Prime Minister in the morning of Jan 25, 1993:

The two Prime Ministers had a two-hour meeting this morning. This was followed by a half hour session. There was a wide ranging exchange of views between the two Prime Ministers covering all aspects of Indo-British relations. Prospects of relations in the immediate future were discussed in the context of pressures on Britain with respect to the developments in Europe and on India with respect to the developments in the sub-continent. The discussions also included India's relations with its neighbour after the Ayodhya incidents, Matters relating to external intervention in Punjab and Kashmir, economic cooperation including joint-ventures were also discussed. Prime Minister Major expressed his appreciation and his support for India's commitment to secularism and stated that all peaceful means available to resolve the Kashmir issue should be explored. He also stated that the British Government too would be supportive of re-starting the bilateral political process with Pakistan.

Our Prime Minister informed Prime Minister Major about the improved situation in Punjab, our Government's efforts to normalise the situation in Kashmir and underlined India's willingness to structure good-neighbourly relations with all our neighbours including Pakistan as long as there was genuine responsiveness from the other side.

Our Prime Minister also conveyed that India will hold a stable course in its economic reforms and policies. The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Europe over issues of multilateral nature such as disarmament and non-proliferation and the need to reduce expenditures on Defence, so as to avoid diversion of resources from developmental needs.

Prime Minister Major informed our Prime Minister about post-Maastricht developments in Europe, developments in the Balkans, apart from discussing commercial and economic cooperation.

In the official talks between the delegations, the focus was on an increase in technical and economic cooperation and the

increase in British investment in India. The Indian side also conveyed its appreciation with regard to the 'Extradition Treaty' and related Agreements. Prime Minister Major mentioned that the British Government opposed terrorism, extremism, and secessionism.

After the official talks, the two Prime Ministers met with the high-level British business group. The group gave detailed presentation of their discussions with their Indian counterparts as well as the briefing

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they had received from senior Indian officials. The two Prime Ministers were appreciative of their analysis and expressed their optimism about strengthening of cooperation in the industrial and technological areas. The British business group and their Indian counterparts have decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to concretise the ideas presented in the joint Indo-British partnership initiative. Both sides would report on actual progress made after a year to each Prime Minister respectively. Prime Minister Major told the British group that he was sanguine about increased Indo-British economic cooperation.

Our Prime Minister informed them that despite recent disturbances in India, there should be no doubt the overall stability and the stability of the economic policies of India. He re-affirmed India's commitment to democracy, human rights and a practical approach to economic issues.

An Agreement was signed on 'Avoidance of Double Taxation'. It was also decided that discussions should commence towards the Agreement for private sector investment guarantees.

DIA USA PAKISTAN MALI

Date : Jan 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Russian Talks

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1993 on Indo-Russian Talks:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, met our President, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, this morning and had 40-minute long meeting. He then had an extended meeting, over one hour and 45-minutes, with Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, followed by a 40-minute session of official talks with full delegations. During his meeting with the Prime Minister, President Yeltsin was assisted by the Ambassador of Russia in India, Mr. Drukov, and two Presidential assistants, Mr. Dimitri Rudikoff and Mr. Granovsky. The meetings were held in a very warm and cordial atmosphere.

Our Prime Minister was assisted by Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, our Ambassador in Russia, Mr. Ronen Sen, and Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Prabhakar Menon.

The Prime Minister welcomed President Yeltsin to India as 'the first democrat' of Russia. He mentioned that India and Russia were both democracies, and were both multi-ethnic societies and there was enormous potential for cooperation in a number of areas. He said that all the pillars needed for a new and vibrant Indo-Russian relationship are available and already in place. Both sides would now see to it that these relations reach their full potential. The Prime Minister characterised this visit as the beginning of a new era in Indo-Russian relations.

The Prime Minister and President Yeltsin reached a decisive and forthright political agreement to settle the Rupee-Rouble debt issue as both felt that this was an unnecessary irritant in bilateral relations and could be resolved by such a decision taken at the highest level on both sides. It was decided that the calculation of the applicable exchange rate would be based on the rate existing on 1st January, 1990, and the whole package would be implemented from 1st April, 1992. (The Indian side calculates that this leads to a net advantage to India of around 32 percent.)

In the area of space cooperation, President Yeltsin categorically stated that when two countries such as India and Russia had an agreement, neither country would resile from this agreement because of any third party intervention. He confirmed that there was no room for any interference and that supplies agreed upon

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would be undertaken. Our Prime Minister welcomed these proposals and said that all of them would be tried out.

In the area of defence supplies in which India has been facing problems particularly with regard to spare parts. President Yeltsin made three proposals for ensuring smoother supplies to India, and these were - improvement of the functioning of enterprises in Russia that were involved in manufacturing the spare parts; setting up joint ventures to produce these parts; and, finally, transfer of technology to India so that factories

in India could manufacture the spare parts. Our Prime Minister welcomed these proposals and said that all of them would be tried out.

On bilateral trade, President Yeltsin stated that this needed a substantial thrust and that current trade levels do not reflect the potential of trade between the two countries. This perception was shared by our Prime Minister. Both leaders agreed that every effort should be made to promote bilateral trade.

On Kashmir, the Prime Minister informed President Yeltsin of India's position which was that Kashmir is an integral part of India. President Yeltsin supported India's position and expressed Russia's support for India's unity and territorial integrity. The two leaders also discussed the danger poised by fundamentalism which had led to violence and terrorism in different parts of the world. Our Prime Minister underlined the threat posed by cross-border state sponsored terrorism. President Yeltsin stressed his country's opposition to terrorism and secessionism.

Given that both countries are undertaking economic reform programmes each leader informed the other at length of their respective domestic situation particularly in the light of these economic reform programmes. Both agreed that the progress and completion of these reform programmes would further strengthen the economic relationship between the two countries. President Yeltsin also mentioned that Russia would cooperate with India in negotiations in multi-lateral fora and that their side would keep in close touch with their Indian counterparts.

The two leaders also discussed a variety of other subjects of mutual interest including regional developments in Central Asia, Iran and the Gulf, situation Afghanistan as well as the issue of reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

President Yeltsin also invited the Prime Minister to visit Russia, an invitation which the Prime Minister accepted with pleasure.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM AFGHANISTAN IRAN

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs issued in New Delhi on Jan 30, 1993 on Indo-Russian talks on the issue of Palestinian deportees:

In the course of the meetings that were held between the Russian and the Indian sides during the visit of President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, which concluded yesterday, the question of the Palestinians deported by Israel was also discussed. The Indian side conveyed its views as follows:

The Government of India, party to the UN Security Council Resolution 799, strongly reaffirms its commitment to the provisions of that Resolution. It believes that the key to the settlement of the problem of deported Palestinians, which is of a humanitarian character, lies in the implementation of the already adopted decisions of the UNSC.

It is with continuing deep concern that the Government of India has observed that the provisions of the UN Security Council
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Resolution 799 (1992) have not yet been implemented by the Government of Israel.

The Government of India considers that the action taken constitutes a major implement to the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East through negotiations by all concerned parties, agreed upon in the Middle East Peace process. The suspension of the Middle East peace process would be a matter of great concern to India which has been actively involved in this process and which would wish to see these negotiations continue.

The Government of India, therefore, calls upon Israel to implement the Resolution 799 of the Security Council, to break the current deadlock and ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of those deported.

The Russian side expressed a similar view.

SSIA USA INDIA ISRAEL

Date : Jan 30, 1993

1995

PAKISTAN

Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri M. K. Bhadrakumar called in the Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Mr. Shahid Malik today

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1993 on the meeting between Shri M. K. Bhadrakumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Malik:

The Acting High Commissioner was informed about the decision of the Government of India not to accede to Pakistan's request for making available the property at Mount Pleasant Road, Malabar Hill, Bombay (which Pakistan refers to as Jinnah House) for use of their Consulate General in Bombay or as the official residence of their Consul General.

It was further intimated to the Acting High Commissioner that the Government of India will not allow henceforth any Temporary Visa Offices by Pakistan in places outside of Delhi and Bombay. The Acting High Commissioner was told that they should handle their visa work through their High Commission in Delhi and their Consulate General in Bombay.

Government of India have decided that the total strength of the home-based personnel of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi should, at any time, exceed a maximum of 110 personnel. The Acting High Commissioner was informed that Pakistan should take immediate steps to bring down the strength of its High Commission in New Delhi from the present level of around 150 personnel. It was conveyed that the excess personnel should be withdrawn from India not later than 10th February 1993.

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KISTAN MALI INDIA USA

Date : Jan 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma Congratulates President of USA Mr. Bill Clinton

Following is the text of message of congratulations from our President to President Bill Clinton of the USA on Jan 20, 1993:

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend to you greetings and felicitations on your inauguration as the President of the United States of America.

I am confident that the friendly relations between our two countries will prosper and expand further under your Presidency.

Excellency, please accept my personal regards and good wishes.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Prime Minister Congratulates President Bill Clinton of the USA

Following is the text of message of congratulation from our Prime Minister to President Bill Clinton of the USA on Jan 20, 1993:

Dear Mr. President,

As you prepare to face the responsibilities and challenges of your high office, I want you to know that I share your belief that the world stands on the threshold of a promising new era. I believe that this presents a historic opportunity to further consolidate ties between the two largest democracies in the world.

I hope that we can work together in building an enduring relationship founded on shared responsibility and mutual trust. I look forward to an opportunity for our meeting and for our continued personal association.

With warm personal regards to you and Mrs. Clinton, and the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Official Level Talks Between India and Russia to Resolve Rupee-Rouble Exchange Rate

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1993 on India-Russia co-operation on Rupee-Rouble Exchange Rate:

High level discussions were held today between Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister and Mr. V. P. Shumeike, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation. The discussions centered around the outstanding issue of rupee-rouble exchange rate in the context of debt owed by India to the former USSR.

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Welcoming the Russian Delegation, the Finance Minister said that there have been profound economic changes in both our countries. India has been following with keen interest the economic reforms launched in the former USSR and now continued in the Russian Federation. Finance Minister emphasised that the meeting today is taking place in the background of a very close and mutually beneficial economic cooperation between India and the former USSR which goes back over several decades.

On the settlement of the rupee-rouble exchange rate issue, the Finance Minister stressed that the provisions of the 1978 protocol have been overtaken by the recent economic changes and the India raised the issue of renegotiating the exchange rate formula long before the dissolution of the USSR. He stressed that it is essential to correct the exchange rate imbalances implicit in the 1978 protocol by establishing a mechanism which reflects the strengths and weaknesses of both the rupee and the rouble.

In response Mr. Shumeiko also recalled the long and fruitful economic cooperation between India and the former USSR and hoped that similar relations between India and Russia will not only continue but will be strengthened. While agreeing that there is need to re-evaluate the debt in the context of changed conditions in both the countries, he suggested that the criteria used for such re-evaluation should not be the exchange rate but some other

formula will have to be worked out. He agreed with the Finance Minister that the debt issue should be resolved in the perspective of long term cooperation between India and Russia.

Mr. Shumeiko is leading a high level delegation to India in preparation for the visit of President Yeltsin later this month.

The Finance Minister was assisted in the discussion by Shri M. S. Ahluwalia, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretaries of Defence, Commerce and External Affairs and officials of RBI.

Discussions are to continue at experts level tomorrow while another high-level meeting between the Finance Minister and the visiting Russian Minister is scheduled for Friday, the 22nd January, 1993.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Mr. Yeltsin calls on Dr. Sharma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1993 on the meeting between Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma:

The President of Russia, H.E. Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin and Mrs. Naina L. Yeltsin called on the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimala Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Welcoming Mr. Yeltsin to India, Dr. Sharma expressed happiness over his visit. During the talks, which lasted for about 40 minutes, the two leaders stressed that friendship between India and Russia needs to be preserved and further strengthened. With both the countries having opened up their economies, the scope of economic cooperation between India and Russia has to be increased to the mutual benefit of their peoples.

President Yeltsin briefed Dr. Sharma about the constitutional reforms undergoing in his country.

President Yeltsin said, India has great cultural traditions and is endowed with many natural resources. Russia was keen on

increasing bilateral cooperation with India in many fields including Defence, Technical, Economic and Cultural cooperation. He hoped that there will be a positive growth in the relations within 1993 itself.
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SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement on Cooperation between India Russia on Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Parties):

BEING AWARE that illicit traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances pose a grave threat to the health and well-being of their peoples and present a problem concerning political, economic, social and cultural structures of the society;

EXPRESSING mutual interest in developing bilateral cooperation in the sphere of preventing illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

IN ACCORDANCE with the objectives of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the U.N. Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988;

RESPECTING the principles of sovereignty, equality and non-interference into each other's internal affairs;

HAVE AGREED upon the following:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties agree that in order to ensure the implementation of the present agreement the Ministry of Finance (Narcotics Control Bureau) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Security (Anti-smuggling and Anti-corruption Directorate) of the Russian Federation (herein-after referred to as the sides) will act as

nodal agencies. Apart from this, by mutual agreement the Parties may employ other channels of communication.

ARTICLE 2

Consistent with their national laws, the sides agree to assist each other in exchanging information and undertaking measures in order to identify, suppress and prevent the criminal activities of the International drug syndicates engaged in illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and for these ends to take joint organised actions keeping in view the concern of both the States.

ARTICLE 3

3.1 The sides acknowledge that any information to be exchanged between them is considered to be confidential and may not be passed over to any third party without the consent of the side which has provided such information. The sides agree not to make public the extent and nature of their cooperation.

3.2 The sides agree to provide each other with the information on the identified persons irrespective of their nationality groups and organisations engaged in illegal manufacturing, storing shipment and marketing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, on the methods, modes and means of criminal activities, in case such information is relevant to the other side. The sides shall facilitate the regular exchange of expertise and results of scientific research.

ARTICLE 4

In case of necessity the sides shall immediately conduct consultations on specific issues of combating illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

ARTICLE 5

In order to exchange expertise in preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances the sides shall arrange meetings of the working groups as often as required. Financial and material expenses for these meetings shall be borne by the receiving side.

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ARTICLE 6

In order to improve their cooperation the sides within the framework of the national laws shall exchange texts of laws and other Acts, relating to the subject of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

By mutual consent changes may be incorporated in the present agreement, keeping in view the national laws of the Parties.

ARTICLE 8

The present agreement will come into effect on the date of its signing and will be valid until the expiry of six months since the date on which one of the Parties notify in writing the other Party about its intention to terminate the agreement.

Done in New Delhi on 28 January in the year 1993 in two originals each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

In case of any differences in the interpretation of the text of the present agreement the English text shall prevail.

Sd/On behalf of the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement on Defence Cooperation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as "Parties" and singly as "Party",

Considering the existing friendly relations between their Governments, countries and peoples,

Recalling the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation,

Reiterating their support for the principle of not affecting adversely each other's security interests,

Desiring to promote defence cooperation for mutual benefit,

Recognising that this cooperation should be carried out in an

effective and purposeful manner on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit,

Have agreed to conclude the present Agreement for bilateral defence cooperation.

ARTICLE 1

Scope of Cooperation

1.1 The Parties hereby agree within the framework of their laws to:

1.2 Promotion of bilateral defence relations and cooperation in specific areas to be agreed upon, including guaranteed supply of Defence equipment related items spare parts, product support and comprehensive services needed for maintenance, repair including overhaul, and modernisation.

1.3 Promotion of cooperation in defence science and technology, training, visits, exchange of personnel and joint research and development projects.

1.4 Promotion of cooperation through transfer of technology, assistance in setting up of projects, license production and third country exports.

1.5 Promotion of military to military cooperation through training, visits, exchange
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of information, exchange of personnel and sharing of experience between the two Armed Forces.

1.6 Rendering of continued assistance in the exploitation and servicing of equipment and weapon systems.

1.7 Undertaking other activities or programmes to be mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE 2

Management of cooperation

2.1 Keeping in view the objectives of this Agreement, the two Parties will meet periodically to evolve concrete programmes for mutual benefit.

2.2 Programmes of cooperation may also be agreed upon by exchange of communications between the two Parties or through diplomatic channels.

2.3 For the purpose of execution of the mutually agreed programmes of cooperation, the two Parties shall, whenever

necessary, enter into specific contracts or agreements, without prejudice to the commitments already existing for the maintenance and repair of military equipment earlier supplied.

2.4 Prior to the closure of a line of production of interest to the other Party, the Concerned Party shall proceed only after due consultation with the other.

ARTICLE 3

Meetings

3.1 The two Parties shall meet alternately in India and Russia, whenever required.

3.2 The agenda and related organisational and administrative matters for the conduct of meetings shall be decided by mutual agreement.

3.3 The decisions taken in such meetings shall be recorded in the form of agreed minutes.

ARTICLE 4

Security Arrangements

4.1 Both Parties shall take necessary measures to ensure secrecy of information, obtained in the course of implementation of this Agreement. This information shall not be used by either Party to the detriment of the national interests of the other Party. The Parties shall not divulge such information to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party.

ARTICLE 5

Final Provisions

5.1 This Agreement comes into effect on the date of its signing.

5.2 Either Party may make a request at any time to vary, modify or otherwise amend this Agreement. Such variation, modification or amendment shall come into effect upon the agreement of the other Party.

5.3 This Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement by giving six months notice.

5.4 Any difference on the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be amicably resolved through mutual consultations.

5.5 Done in New Delhi on 28th January, 1993 in two originals each, in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

In witness hereof the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed the present Agreement.

Sd For and on behalf of the Government of The Republic of India

Sd For and on behalf of the Government of The Russian Federation
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SSIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement in the Field of Science and Technology

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation.

DESIROUS of expanding and strengthening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of Science and Technology.

RECOGNISING the mutual benefit from the development of bilateral scientific and technological linkages,

CONSIDERING such cooperation as a means for promoting the further strengthening of the traditional friendship and mutually beneficial ties between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation,

TAKING into consideration the importance and the volume of the Indo-Russian ties in the field of science and technology in the whole complex of relations which existed between the Republic of India and the Soviet Union.

Have agreed upon the following:

To reorganise the Indo-Soviet Subcommittee on Science and Technology Cooperation, and the Indo-Soviet Joint Council on Coordination and Implementation of the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology into Indo-Russian Subcommittee on Science and Technology Cooperation, and Indo-Russian Joint Council on Coordination and Implementation of the Integrated Long-Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and

Technology, respectively;

To consider during 1993 the currently valid agreements, protocols, programmes of cooperation and projects in the field of science and technology, to bring them into accordance with the contemporary realities of the present time;

To convene, not later than the autumn of 1993, the sessions of the newly formed Indo-Russian bodies responsible for coordination of the scientific and technological links between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation with the aim of considering and agreeing upon the future perspectives and forms of bilateral cooperation including modalities for its realisation;

To hold consultations in February 1993 between the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India and the Indian National Science Academy from the Indian side, and the Ministry for Science, Higher Education and Technological Policy of the Russian Federation and the Russian Academy of Sciences from the Russian side, on the issues concerning the realisation of the present Memorandum and the scope of work for 1993.

Done in New Delhi on 28th January, 1993, in three originals, each in Hindi, Russian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic, but in case of doubt the English text shall prevail.

S/d- For the Government of the Republic of India

S/d- For the Government of the Russian Federation

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, (hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties).

GUIDED by friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

RELYING on the positive experience of many decades of multifaceted cultural
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and scientific cooperation which was further reinforced by THE AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, concluded on February 12, 1960, in general, and by the Festival of India in the USSR and the Festival of the USSR in India in particular.

RECOGNISING the importance of deepening and strengthening the mutual appreciation of and familiarisation with the cultural heritage of India and Russia, and

CONSIDERING further to develop their cultural relations and to promote cooperation in the scientific field.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties will promote and encourage the development of cultural cooperation, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit, and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in their respective countries. Cultural cooperation and relations between the two countries, including different regions and institutions in both the countries will be encouraged through:

- a) Exchange of visits for cultural performance and lecture demonstrations by artists, musicians, writers and other cultural personalities, to promote the mutual understanding and appreciation of and familiarisation with the cultural heritage of both the peoples.
- b) Exchange of students and research fellows in various aspects of culture of both countries, and in culture-related fields of mutual interest.
- c) Co-sponsoring of joint efforts to preserve, encourage and propagate, aspects of cultural heritage and cultural values, as mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE II

Each of the Contracting Parties will facilitate and encourage the familiarisation of its people with the art, literature, theatre, music, painting, handicrafts and other forms of culture of the other Party, especially through:

- a) Organisation of book fairs and exhibitions.

- b) Exchange of theatre groups and joint productions and theatrical performances.
- c) Encouraging the translation and exchange of books and publications, as well as exchange and broadcasting of recorded music, films and other audio-visual material, of mutual interest.
- d) Establishing links between creative unions, associations, organisations and institutions of artists and writers.
- e) Encouraging wider distribution of books, periodicals and other publications of one country in the other.
- f) Promoting cooperation in the field of book publishing in particular through joint production of books and exchange of specialists to that end.
- g) Organising lectures, seminars, meetings and conferences.

ARTICLE III

The Contracting Parties, in conformity with international laws and their own national laws, will take necessary steps to prevent the illegal trafficking in cultural relics of both the countries; and will cooperate with the competent authorities of both the countries to exchange information about such cultural relics and also take steps that will lead to the return of such cultural relics to their respective countries.

ARTICLE IV

The Contracting Parties will facilitate scientific research and mutual understanding cooperation between scholars of both the countries in the field of culture, humanitarian and social sciences, through:

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- a) Exchange of visits by scholars of either country to the mutually-identified academic and research institutions in the other country.
- b) Organising joint research on themes of mutual interest and joint publication of such research findings.
- c) Enabling the citizens of each country to have access to the libraries, documentation centres, archives, museums, galleries and other cultural, scientific and educational establishments of the other for the purpose of this Agreement.
- d) Facilitating the participation by scholars from either country, in seminars, conferences and symposiums, held in the other on topics of mutual interest.

ARTICLE V

The Contracting Parties will facilitate the learning and popularising of Russian and Indian languages in each other's countries.

ARTICLE VI

Each of the Contracting Parties will facilitate the smooth functioning in its territory, of the Cultural Centres of the other. Encouragement will be provided for developing cooperation between the Cultural Centres and local organisations, including Friendship Societies for furthering the mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

ARTICLE VII

The Contracting Parties will facilitate the further strengthening of cooperation in the field of education, through:

- a) Exchange of scholars, teachers and other representatives of the educational and academic institutions to pursue research and to participate in refresher courses and practical training, as well as to deliver lectures.
- b) Exchange and translation of teaching materials and text books, periodic updates of bibliographies, book reviews and abstracts of fresh publications.
- c) Joint efforts to produce teaching aids, text-books and other audio-visual teaching material.
- d) Exchange of experience in designing curriculum and syllabi for schools, colleges, institutes and universities.
- e) Exchange of visiting scholars, at various levels to undergo specialised courses at mutually identified academic institutions and universities.

ARTICLE VIII

The Contracting Parties will encourage cooperation in the field of press and massmedia, through:

- a) Exchange on the basis of mutually agreed terms, of news and information.
- b) Exchange and translation of documentary films and news reels.
- c) Exchange of journalists from either country for familiarisation with the other.

ARTICLE IX

The Contracting Parties will encourage cooperation in the field of radio and television in both the countries, through:

- a) Exchange, translation and broadcasting of radio and television programmes.
- b) Joint production of materials on themes of mutual interest, for radio and television.
- c) Facilitating the production, by either Party, of materials for radio and television, in the territory of the other.

ARTICLE X

The Contracting Parties will facilitate the cooperation in the field of cinema; through:
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- a) Exchange and translation of feature films with a view to deepen and strengthen mutual understanding and appreciation.
- b) Joint production of documentaries, feature films and cartoon films.
- c) Participation by either Party in the international film festivals held in the territory of the other.
- d) Reciprocal arrangements for holding film festivals and film premiers of either country in the other.
- e) Establishing contacts between cinematographers, directors and cinema personalities of both countries.
- f) Facilitating the work of either Party to make films in the territory of the other.

ARTICLE XI

The Contracting Parties will facilitate and encourage cooperation between the youth and youth organisations in both the countries.

ARTICLE XII

The Contracting Parties will facilitate and encourage cooperation between the women's organisations in both the countries.

ARTICLE XIII

The Contracting Parties will make efforts to strengthen the cooperation in the field of sports and physical culture through:

- a) Participation in competitions in each other's territories.

- b) Exchange of sportsmen and teams for different sporting events.
- c) Exchange of trainers and by organising training camps.
- d) Development of contacts between sports organisations and unions, federations of individual sports, sports societies and clubs.

ARTICLE XIV

The Contracting Parties will encourage and assist the development of tourism between the two countries.

ARTICLE XV

The Contracting Parties will, in accordance with the laws and regulations prevalent in their respective countries, recognise and uphold the Rights of Authors, particularly over books, audio and video recordings, films, painting and other cultural and scientific contributions of an original nature.

ARTICLE XVI

Each of the Contracting Parties will make efforts to create favourable conditions that are conducive to the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVII

The Contracting Parties will set up a Joint Indo-Russian Commission on Cultural Relations for the implementation of this Agreement. The Joint Commission shall:

- a) Consist of equal number of representatives of either of the Contracting Parties.
- b) Shall meet at least once in two or three years, alternately in the capital of either Party.
- c) Shall draw up detailed Cultural Exchange Programmes, valid for two or three years, in each instance, and shall review the implementation of the previous Cultural Exchange Programme and make appropriate recommendations.
- d) Shall draw up suitable administrative and financial mechanisms for the smooth implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVIII

This Agreement shall enter into force from the date of its signing by the Contracting Parties and shall remain valid for a period of five years.

It shall be automatically renewed for a subsequent period of five years, unless either of the Contracting Parties gives to the other a written notice, six months in advance, of its intention to terminate prior to the date of expiry of the Agreement.

Notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement in accordance with above mentioned provision of this article, it will continue to be in force in relation to any programme or exchanges, agreements or projects which have already been taken in accordance with this Agreement, but were not realised at the moment of its termination.

Signed at New Delhi on 28 January, 1993 in two originals, each in Hindi, Russian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

Sd|-For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd|-For the Government of the Russian Federation

SSIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement in the Field of Information

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

Committed to promoting existing friendly relations and confidence between their peoples;

Mindful of the need to strengthen mutual understanding and to promote co-operation in the field of information;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Parties shall, in accordance with their respective laws, uphold and promote all round co-operation in the areas of mutual interest in all fields of information and make efforts to further the growth of knowledge and understanding of the way of life in

each other's country.

ARTICLE II

The Parties shall encourage cooperation between the news agencies of their countries to facilitate a wider and easier flow of information. For the exchange of information material the news agencies of the Parties shall enter into separate agreements on mutual basis.

ARTICLE III

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of delegations of journalists to study fields of professional interest and exchange experiences under separate agreements to be entered into between the concerned organisations of their countries.

ARTICLE IV

The Parties shall encourage exchange of experts in the field of information and information related technology including personnel engaged in dissemination of Government information.

ARTICLE V

The Parties shall in accordance with their national legislations provide on mutual basis necessary facilities to accredited correspondents of the two countries.

ARTICLE VI

Each Party shall allow dissemination of information bulletins and other publi-

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cations in its territory by diplomatic, consular and other official missions of the other country, subject to local rules and regulations and the principles of reciprocity.

ARTICLE VII

The Parties shall encourage exchange of experiences in publication, distribution and marketing of Government sponsored books and periodicals. They shall also consider offers of exchange of visits, fellowships or scholarships for this purpose.

ARTICLE VIII

The Parties shall promote co-operation between institutes for journalism and mass communication of the two countries.

ARTICLE IX

The Parties shall explore the prospects of holding seminars,

workshops or colloquiums on subjects of mutual interest in the field of Information.

ARTICLE X

The Parties shall encourage the continuation of cooperation between the State broadcasting and television organisations of the two countries.

ARTICLE XI

The Parties shall encourage exchange of personnel and material on campaign planning, printing, designing and mounting of exhibitions with special emphasis on Social themes.

ARTICLE XII

The Parties shall within the framework of this Agreement periodically review the results of its implementation.

ARTICLE XIII

This Agreement shall be valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of its entry into force and shall be automatically renewed for each subsequent period of five (5) years unless either Party gives a written notice to the other, six months in advance, of its intention to terminate the Agreement. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the programmes and projects already initiated. This Agreement may be amended or modified by mutual consent.

ARTICLE XIV

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing.

Signed at New Delhi on this 28th day of January in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Three in two originals each in Hindi, Russian and English, all the three texts being equally authentic. In case of differences, the English text shall prevail.

Sd|-For the Government of India

Sd|-For the Government of the Russian Federation

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Inter-Governmental Protocol of Indo-Russian Consultations

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as one sides).

In keeping with the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation,

Seeking to further strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two Sides,

Desirous of cooperating further to promote international peace and security, general and complete disarmament and peaceful settlement of disputes and pro-
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motion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with their national laws and international obligations,

Convinced that the strengthening of such relations and cooperation is not only to mutual benefit but also in the interest of the international community,

Reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter,

Have agreed as follows:

1. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both Governments shall establish a mechanism for regular consultations to review the implementation of agreements reached between them and for strengthening the process of wide ranging exchange of views on international and bilateral issues and interaction in the international arena.

2. The above consultations shall, in the context of ensuring peace and security in the world, cover all important issues, affecting the interests of both Sides such as

-- Issues under discussion at the United Nations and other international fora.

-- The timely prevention and peaceful settlement of international disputes and all developments of common interest or mutual interest in the region to which both Sides belong.

-- Any other issue of mutual interest.

3. At the consultations, the two Sides may also exchange views on other aspects of bilateral cooperation that may require consideration at the political level.

4. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two Sides shall meet, as a rule, at least once a year. Consultations between Foreign Offices shall be held on an annual basis, alternately in New Delhi and Moscow, at the level of Deputy Minister Secretary.

5. In the spirit of this agreement and in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, the two sides shall also cooperate on matters of mutual interest at the level of diplomatic consular missions in third countries.

6. Both sides shall facilitate cooperation in research on foreign policy issues, exchange of archival documents and preparation of compendia of documents and materials pertaining to relations between the Governments of India and the Russian Federation.

7. The provisions of this agreement shall be without prejudice to any other treaties or agreements to which both sides are parties.

8. The present agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for 5 years. It shall then be automatically renewed for subsequent five-year periods unless either side notifies the other side in writing at least six months before the expiration of the respective period of its intention to terminate the agreement.

Done in New Delhi on January 28, 1993 in two originals each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

Sd| - For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd| - For the Government of the Russian Federation
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SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Agreement on Cooperation and Interaction between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation, (hereinafter referred to as Parties),

Reaffirming their desire to strengthen and develop cooperation in the interests of ensuring state security of both states while respecting the principles of sovereignty, equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

have agreed upon the following:

ARTICLE 11

The Parties shall within their competence and on the basis of reciprocity, exchange information and experience in the sphere of combating different manifestations of terrorism, organized crime, illegal arms trade, international illegal economic activities and contraband.

ARTICLE 2

1. The Parties in accordance with their national legislation will coordinate their activities and render mutual assistance:

- a) in elaboration and implementation of measures to combat offences against their laws, mentioned in article 1 of the present Agreement;
- b) in search of persons, suspected of committing crimes, investigations of which are within the competence of the Parties;
- c) in ensuring security of their respective diplomatic and consular offices and staff as well as to persons whom special security has been provided by the requesting Party in the Russian Federation and in the Republic of India.

2. In the interests of the most effective use of forces and means the coordinated measures in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article will be implemented by the Parties on the basis of their respective legislations.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties will:

- a) conduct joint scientific research in the fields of mutual interest, exchange publications and results of the research as well as scientific & technical information and other materials.
- b) exchange experiences on legal regulations of the activities

mentioned in Article 1, legislative and other acts of law on these matters.

ARTICLE 4

Any information and materials, which are the subject of exchange between the Parties, as well as the information on the extent and content of their co-operation are confidential and may not be transferred to anybody without evidently expressed consent or request of the Party, which has provided such information.

In case of necessity to communicate to a third party the information received by one of the Parties under the present Agreement the written consent of the Party which has communicated this information shall be required.

ARTICLE 5

The present Agreement may be supplemented with protocols on interaction of Parties in particular fields of their activities, enumerated in Article 1. The protocols shall constitute an integral part of the present Agreement, and shall come into force and cease to be valid, if not specifically mentioned otherwise therein, according to the procedure and conditions determined by the present Agreement.

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ARTICLE 6

This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement in writing between the Parties.

ARTICLE 7

To ensure the implementation of mutual commitments envisaged by the present Agreement and its supplementary protocols the Parties will hold regular meetings alternately in India and the Russian Federation in order to review the results of the cooperation and determine directions for further interaction.

ARTICLE 8

To maintain effective communication and coordination of the cooperation under the present Agreement the Parties may on the basis of reciprocity appoint a representative (liaison officer), whose legal status and duties will also be determined by mutual consultation.

The Parties may use other channels of communication by mutual consent.

ARTICLE 9

The present Agreement will come into force on the date of its signing and will be valid till the expiry of six months from the date when one of the Parties informs the other Party by written notification about its intention to terminate the agreement.

Done in New Delhi on 28th January, 1993 in two originals each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-On behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India

Sd/-On behalf of the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jan 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Call by Special Envoy of Prime Minister of India on President of Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1993 on call by Special Envoy of Prime Minister of India on President of Sri Lanka:

Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro visited Sri Lanka on 11th January, 1993 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India. He called on H.E. the President, Chairman of the Sixth SAARC Summit at the Presidential Secretariat this morning.

2. The Minister of State briefed the President on the circumstances which prevented the Prime Minister from attending the Seventh SAARC Summit scheduled for the 13th and 14th of January, 1993 in Dhaka. The President took note of these circumstances and thanked the Indian Prime Minister for sending a Special Envoy to Colombo.

3. It was agreed that considering the current achievements of SAARC and the progress of important programme such as poverty

alleviation and trade liberalization the present momentum of SAARC should be maintained. The present level of co-operation and momentum had been achieved -31>

ed as a result of the efforts and goodwill of all the SAARC countries.

4. The President stated that SAARC programmes which benefit the people of South Asia should be continued with the least interruption and that therefore dates for the Seventh Summit should be agreed on as soon as possible.

5. As the Chairman of the Sixth SAARC Summit, the President would continue discussions regarding fresh dates for the Summit with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Chairperson-designate of the Seventh SAARC Summit and with other heads of State Government of SAARC.

I LANKA INDIA BANGLADESH USA

Date : Jan 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's President Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1993 on the visit of Sri Lanka's President, Mr. R. Premadasa to India:

After completing a three day visit to Bodh Gaya and Patna (January 14-16), president Premadasa paid a brief visit to Delhi today at Prime Minister's invitation, on his way back to Colombo.

2. During his stay for a few hours in the Capital, President and Mrs. Premadasa called on President and Mrs. Sharma. The Sri Lankan President renewed the invitation to President to visit Sri Lanka on the occasion of special ceremonies planned for the 2300th anniversary of arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. President thanked him and said that he hoped to come. President expressed India's appreciation for the constructive role President Premadasa has been playing as current Chairman of SAARC and assured him of India's abiding commitment to further consolidate regional cooperation through SAARC.

3. Prime Minister hosted a tete-a-tete lunch in honour of President Premadasa. They had an informal exchange of views on some issues of interest to them. On dates for the 7th SAARC Summit, it was noted that a decision would be taken through consultations among HOS/HOG. The two leaders agreed that their Governments would keep in close touch on this matter. They expressed satisfaction on the present state of friendly and cooperative relations between Sri Lanka and India and the frequent interaction between the two Governments at different levels.

I LANKA INDIA

Date : Jan 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

SPAIN

Visit of the Spanish Secretary General to India

The following is the text of Press note issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1993 following the visit of the Spanish Secretary General to India:

The Secretary General of the Spanish Foreign Office, H. E. Mr. Fransico Villar visited New Delhi from January 11-12, 1993. He called on Foreign Secretary on January 11 and held talks on January 11 and 12 with Secretary (West) Shri K. Srinivasan.

During the call on Foreign Secretary, views were exchanged on bilateral relations, in particular the need to give greater content to these relations using th impetus of the forthcoming visit to India of the Spanish Prime Minister. There was a broad exchange of views related to Russia, the

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Central Asian Republics and India's neighbours, as also the role of NAM in the post Cold War context. The discussions also covered on the destabilising role played by religious fundamentalist and extremist nationalism.

Two rounds of delegation-level talks were held. The first, on bilateral issues and the second, on international issues of mutual interest. On the bilateral side, it was agreed that relations would be intensified in the economic, trade and

commercial, cultural and tourism, and consular sectors. It was further agreed that the bilateral political dialogue should be strengthened at various levels. It was also agreed that during the visit of the Spanish Prime Minister, a number of important agreements could be signed or initialled. Interest was shown by both sides in joint ventures for deep sea fishing. Discussions related to international issues focussed on the need for closer interaction and cooperation in multilateral fora. India congratulated Spain on its recent election to the United Nations Security Council and Spain thanked India for its valuable support in the elections. Regional issues, questions before the UN Security Council, European integration, Indo-EC relations and terrorism were also covered and a close identity of view emerged.

The Spanish Secretary General expressed his country's support to a strong, stable and united India. The talks were held in an atmosphere of extreme cordiality reflecting the closeness of prevailing bilateral ties.

AIN INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jan 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNESCO

Dr. Karan Singh Appointed to UNESCO Education Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1993 on appointment of Dr. Karan Singh as member of UNESCO Education Commission:

Dr. Karan Singh has been appointed a member of the prestigious International Commission on Education for the Twenty First Century of UNESCO. The Education Commission which has 15 members will be headed by Mr. Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European countries.

The Commission is an independent body of fifteen outstanding people representing a wide cross section of intellectuals and educationists. The other members of the Commission include Rt. Hon. Michael Manley, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Mr. Bronislaw Geremek, Polish historian and Ms. Fay Chung, former Minister of Education of Zimbabwe, Dr. Karan Singh will provide futuristic perspective and new insights to the educational policies and programmes for the next century.

The Commission will make suggestions and recommendations on the challenges facing education in the coming century. Its report can serve as an agenda for action for policy makers and officials at the highest level. UNESCO had earlier constituted a similar Commission in early Seventies whose report "Learning To Be" was highly acclaimed internationally and remains a guide to educational policy makers all over the world.

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DIA USA JAMAICA ZIMBABWE

Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Indo-British Joint Ventures

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 25, 1993 on Indo-British joint ventures:

The Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has said that the economic reform measures initiated by the government have created a climate conducive to the further expansion of trade and investment cooperation between India and the United Kingdom. Addressing the members of the British business delegation, who called on him here today, Shri Mukherjee emphasised that the process of economic reforms was irreversible and said that various facets of Indo-British Cooperation, particularly in the area of joint ventures including joint manufacturing activities should be explored in the context of the new opportunities created by recent reforms in trade, industrial and fiscal policies.

Explaining the importance of the new policies, the Minister told the British delegation that major changes had been made in foreign investment policies with increase in the level of foreign equity participation and liberalisation of procedures; trade had been freed from controls and the role of government had changed from that of regulator to facilitator of industrial and economic activities. He said the success of these reforms as also the country's ability to support imports hinged on exports in view of the balance of payments position. Market access was, therefore, vital for sustaining and increasing India's exports, Shri Mukherjee said the UK as a leading member of the EC could play a

major role in the Uruguay Round in resolving some of the issues of concern to India, such as phase-out of the Multi-fibre Arrangement (MFA).

Some issues relating to foreign investment and facilities for joint ventures were raised by the delegation and clarifications given. Mr. Howard Davies, Director-General, Confederation of British Industries (CBI) said Britain was keen on early conclusion of the Uruguay Round which could be beneficial for world trade.

Besides Mr. Davies, the 19-member delegation includes Sir Brian Shaw, Chairman, ANZ Grindlays Ltd; Dr. Terry Harrison, Chief Executive, Rolls Royce, Norman Davis, Director, British American Tobacco Co; Brian Boldock, Deputy Chairman, Guinness Plc; Peter Grant, Chairman, Sun Life Insurance Corporation; Robert Evans, Chairman, British Gas; Philip Danbeney, Director ICI; Norman Hawkins, Director, Cadbury Schweppes; Patrick Macdougall, Chairman, Chartered West LB Ltd; Philip Hills, Executive Director, Samuel Montago and Co; Douglas Gadd, Chairman, GEC Aesthom; Dick Evans, Chief Executive, British Aerospace; Graham Hadley, Executive Director, National Power Plc; Richard Reynolds, Chairman, GPT Ltd; Roger Mabey, Chairman, Bovis International Ltd; Andrew Cummins, Director, Inch Cape Plc; Christopher Roberts, Deputy Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry and Michael Hawtin, Under Secretary, ECGD.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM PERU USA RUSSIA URUGUAY

Date : Jan 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

USA

US President Bill Clinton Congratulates President Dr. ShankarDayal Sharma on India's 44th Republic Day

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1993 on a message sent by US President, Bill Clinton, to President Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the occasion of India's 44th Republic Day:

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the American people, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your fellow citizens as you celebrate Republic Day. Indians and Americans, who both live in diverse societies

and cherish democratic principles, have many similarities which have produced strong bonds of friendship. I sincerely hope that in the year ahead our cooperation will deepen and expand and the close relationship between our two peoples will grow and prosper.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

USA

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh's Message to Mr. Warren Christopher the US Secretary of State - Designate

External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh's message to Mr. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State-Designate on Jan 20, 1993:

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest felicitations on your appointment as the next Secretary of State of the United States.

Your assumption of office co-incides with my own appointment as India's Minis-ter of External Affairs, at a time of great promise in our bilateral ties. It is my firm belief that the fundamental changes in the international environment call for more intensified cooperation between the two largest democracies in the world.

I look forward to working closely with you in this joint endeavour. Our task will be facilitated by the immense experience that you bring to the office of Secretary of State. I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate my personal willingness to build on the areas of covergence in the mutual interest of our two peoples.

A INDIA

Date : Jan 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

USA

Vice President Speech at World Congress on Total Quality

The following is the text of a speech delivered by the Vice President while inaugurating world congress on total quality in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1993:

The Vice President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan has called for the establishment of a National Quality Institute in order to disseminate the culture of quality in the economy and develop expertise for achievement of quality in production. He has also emphasised the need for a National Accreditation Board, a national scheme for registration of assessors and auditors

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besides launching a mass awareness campaign for making our goods popular both in domestic and world markets.

Inaugurating the "World Congress on Total Quality" here today he said one of the major forces operating today in favour of quality improvement in our country is our economic liberalisation policy. The outward looking trade and investment policy, and the removal of the constricting controls of the permit-license Raj system are making India rapidly an integral part of the global market. The inevitability of competition makes quality control in its totality almost unavoidable. The new industrial policy has recognized the need for a more dynamic and freer relationship between the domestic and foreign industry. This new liberalized environment can be taken by the industry to improve the standards of production and quality of goods in world as well as Indian Markets, he said.

For a developing country like India, he said achieving time goal of Total Quality is inconceivable without rapid technological development. Technology has to be got from abroad and there should be continuous and unimpeded exposure of our industry and agriculture to technological developments in the world. He, however, emphasised the need for rapid absorption and indigenisation of technology in the midst of international inter-dependence and exchanges.

Underlining the need for augmenting exports the Vice President said that today the industry and the nation are compelled to devote attention to quality upgradation because of the discriminating consumer tastes emerging in developing countries

like our own. The European Community is a beacon light as well as a compulsion in this respect. The need for suppliers to conform to ISO - 9000 has made it compulsory for our industry to improve standards and quality. It is necessary, he said, to meet such standards in all the developed markets of the world.
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AN INDIA

Date : Jan 19, 1993

February

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NEPAL AFGHANISTAN REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TAJIKISTAN PAKISTAN POLAND SPAIN MALI
SOMALIA SRI LANKA THAILAND VIETNAM

Date : Feb 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

AFRICA

Indo-African Economic and Political Relations

The following is speech by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs on the occasion of the seminar on 'Indo-African Economic and Political Relations and its future' on Feb 05, 1993 at India International Centre:

Mr. President and Members of the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. I am pleased to be here in your midst today and deem it an honour to have this opportunity to speak to you on the theme 'Indo-African Economic and Political Relations and its Future'. I congratulate IFUNA on having organised this seminar which is of absorbing interest and one which is topical.

3. Indo-African ties go back in history. What perhaps is of significance in these ties is the history of colonial exploitation that India shares with many countries of Africa. We were fortunate in ridding ourselves of the colonial yoke and have lived through the travails of a transformation. India would be happy to share our experience in the endeavours of African countries to become self-reliant members of the world community.

4. While talking of Indo-African ties. I must mention the emotional and sentimental discussions that some strands of ties have for us. Some of our beloved and well remembered leaders have played a significant part in Africa's struggle. The most important milestone in India's interaction with Africa was the arrival in South Africa of Mahatma Gandhi in 1893. This year marks the centenary of that event. We should commemorate it with more such gatherings to study the evolution and future direction of the Indo-African ties.

5. India has been deeply engaged in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. We take pride in the fact that we were the first to raise this question at the UN and that we have never

wavered in our active support to the liberation struggle. Recent events have raised cautious optimism. India has welcomed the reform measures implemented by the South African Government over the last two years. In particular, the unbanning of anti-apartheid organisations such as the ANC and the PAC, the release of Nelson Mandela and other leaders, the removal of the State of Emergency, the repeal of the statutory pillars of apartheid, the agreement with the UNHCR for the return of exiles and the initiation of a dialogue with representatives of the black majority on the modalities for the transition to majority rule. We were glad to welcome Nelson Mandela to our country where his heroic struggle has drawn the sympathy and admiration of our people. Now that there has been some relaxation on sanctions against South Africa, we have been able to send our cricket team to that country and also to plan for expanded cultural contact. We sincerely hope that the process of dismantling of apartheid, which had a set-back last year due to suspension of CODESA and the outbreak of violence, will go on further unhindered following recent discussions between the South African Government, ANC and other concerned parties.

Significant developments are also taking place elsewhere in Africa which will have a bearing on our relations with the

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continent. Democratic forms of government have come to be established in several of the African countries, a development we greatly welcome. Africa, like India, is faced with the need of elaborate restructuring of its economic systems in order to assure rapid economic growth. This offers new opportunities for collaboration between us. In the future, a new relationship based on concrete economic, technological and educational cooperation will assume enhanced significance. It has increasingly been realised that in several areas Indian technology is more relevant to the needs of Africa than provided by the developed countries. India has and will be playing an active role in the economic development of Africa. India's economic policy towards Africa has three distinct dimensions, namely, encouraging transfer of technology through establishment of joint ventures, promoting trade and thereby direct people to people contact, and economic cooperation aimed at developing local technological capabilities.

7. The North-South dialogue not having made much headway, there is all the greater need for South-South cooperation. India has initiated economic collaboration arrangements with several countries of Africa. Our economic and financial assistance to African countries includes India's chairmanship of the Africa Fund, membership of the African Development Bank, assistance under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), government to government credit lines, Exim Bank Credits and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation's cover for exports to Africa. India has set up about 50 Joint Ventures in various parts of Africa in industries as varied as paper and pulp, machine

tools, textiles, sugar refining and light engineering, steel rolling etc. India has established Joint Commissions on Economic Cooperation with a number of countries and entered into agreements with many countries in Africa in the fields of trade, technical and economic cooperation. Under the Indian contribution to the Africa Fund, India has undertaken about 40 projects for Frontline States and for Liberation Movements in South Africa worth over Rs. 500 million. India has also given cash assistance of US \$ 5 million to the ANC.

8. The trade volume between India and the African countries is not impressive and calls for a re-orientation of our mutual efforts to take advantage of the great potential that exists between us. In order to facilitate trade exchanges, India has been extending government to government and Exim Bank Credit facilities to countries like Uganda, Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya, Angola etc. Much more could be and must be done to expand the volume and content of our trading relationship. We must greatly step up trade and economic exchanges across the Indian Ocean if we are to avoid the risk of marginalisation in the world economy.

9. In our economic and technical interaction with the African countries, ITEC has proved to be a useful vehicle of cooperation. The main forms of assistance under the ITEC Programme include training in India, deployment of Indian experts Africa, undertaking feasibility and technoeconomic studies, financing visits of economic delegations, organising workshops and supplying of equipment. A large number of African scientists, professionals and experts are availing themselves of training opportunities in India under the ITEC and other schemes. Nearly 10,000 African students are studying in India on various government scholarships or on a selffinancing basis.

10. India has and will always back every effort of the African leaders seeking a rightful place for their countries in the comity of nations. I conclude my address by wishing that Indo-African cooperation in all spheres will be further enhanced and strengthened.

Thank you.
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DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA KENYA MAURITIUS TANZANIA UGANDA ANGOLA

Date : Feb 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

IRCON Bags New Road Projects in Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1993 on a new Road Contract between India and Bangladesh:

A new Road Contract has been secured by the Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways in Bangladesh for a value of Rs. 23 crores (US \$ 8 million) under a World Bank funded project against stiff international competition. This contract is on the NagarbariPabna Highway which is an important route on the West of Jamuna River. The Road will be constructed to the latest international standards with the use of sophisticated road making machinery and is scheduled to be completed in a period of 30 months. IRCON is backed in this Project Export effort by EXIM Bank.

The IRCON is already involved in two Road Construction Projects in Bangladesh costing Rs. 90 crores wherein the work is at an advanced stage of completion. This is a part of the Project for improving the Dhaka-Chittagong National Highway covered by Asian Development Bank funding. With the securing of a new order in Bangladesh, IRCON is emerging as a reputed Highway Construction Company in South East Asia. IRCON has already completed setting up of a modern Concrete Sleeper Factory as well as an Operating Model Room for the Railway Training Academy in Bangladesh, besides supply of Machinery and Equipment for the modernisation of the Railway Workshops as well as supply of Track Ballast thus participating in the development of the Railway Transportation Sector also as a measure of continuing cooperation.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India and China to Strengthen Cooperation in the Field of Radio, TV and Films

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1993 on Indo-Chinese Cooperation in the field of

Radio, TV and Films:

A seven member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Ai Zhisheng, Chinese Minister of Radio, Film and Television met the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Shri K. P. Singh Deo this morning. The two countries had wide ranging talks to strengthen the existing cooperation in the field of radio, television, films and information between the two countries.

Welcoming the Chinese delegation Shri K. P. Singh Deo expressed the hope that both India and China would benefit from the exchange of radio and television programmes and films between the two countries. The Chinese Minister said that the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries could be enhanced by
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increased cooperation in the field of radio and television. The Chinese Minister expressed keen interest in the exchange of films and said that the Indian film industry was famous all over the world.

During its visit, the Chinese delegation will have discussions with officials of All India Radio and Doordarshan kendras and the film production centres in Calcutta and Madras to meet the film personalities.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Issue of Passports to Students with Admissions in Universities in the Commonwealth of Independent States

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1993 on issue of passport to students with admissions in universities in the commonwealth of independent states:

It has been decided with immediate effect that students who wish to obtain passports urgently for going for studies to Universities in the Commonwealth of Independent States and other Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union must submit with their passport application forms. Letters of admission to these

Universities in the Commonwealth of Independent States or other Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union duly attested by Indian Embassies/ Consulate Generals to the concerned countries where the Universities are located. Passport Offices will only accept such attested admission forms as proof of urgency for issue of passports on priority basis. Admission letters that do not bear the attestation from the concerned Indian Embassies/Consulate Generals will not be accepted as proof for priority issue of passports.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

India's Becoming the Member of Commission on Sustainable Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1993 on India's becoming the member of Commission on Sustainable Development:

Elections to the Commission on Sustainable Development were held on 16.2.93. India was among those which polled the highest number of votes in the Asian Region winning the election by 51 votes out of 53. India will now be a member of the 53 member Commission on Sustainable Development. This prestigious Commission is being established as a follow up on a decision taken at the UN Conference on Environment and Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992. India had attached considerable importance to the work of this proposed Commission

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which is essential to the implementation of important decisions reached at UNCED. India's success in the elections is a reflection of its active participation in multilateral environment and development meetings including preparations for and at the UNCED Summit. It is also a reflection of the international community's recognition of the priority that India attaches to promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development, while simultaneously ensuring the welfare of its people.

A INDIA

Date : Feb 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

CENTRAL ASIAN STATES

Seminar on Central Asian States and India Organised by ICWA

The following is speech by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, at seminar on "Central Asian States and India" organised by ICWA on Feb 22, 1993:

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in addressing this Seminar on "Central Asian States and India" organised by the prestigious Indian Council for World Affairs. The ICWA has a long history of organising such important events to focus on issues of direct relevance to our foreign policy. I am particularly glad that today the focus of this Seminar is going to be on a region which is linked to us by bonds of history, culture, language and art. I am confident that the participants in the Seminar will greatly contribute to enhancing our knowledge of India's relations with Central Asian States.

2. I myself have been privileged to have visited three of the Central Asian Republics, Uzbekistan, Kyrghyzstan and Kazakhstan, recently. My visit enabled me to form a first hand impression of the dynamics of change currently underway in this extremely significant region. This process is of vital interest to us. India has ancient links with Central Asia, which have developed substantially in modern times, and which form a solid foundation for future cooperation between us.

3. In my interaction with the leadership and peoples of the Central Asian States I visited, I found that they share our secular outlook and are desirous of building a modern state where religion is kept separate from politics. I conveyed to my hosts that India wishes to see a strong and self-reliant Central Asia, and expressed willingness to help building the necessary infrastructure needed for this task, mainly by sharing our own experience in development as an independent nation state.

4. I was deeply impressed by the evident interest in Central Asia in India's experience as a functioning democracy. Since they achieved independence, the Central Asian States have witnessed the formation of new political parties. These parties are eager

to evolve their distinct platforms, and will be inevitably interested in the political systems in their neighbourhood. The deliberations of this Seminar will thus be followed with great interest by these organisations.

5. During my own visit to Central Asia, I signed agreements for setting up joint commissions, for strengthening technical and economic cooperation, and also for greater people to people contact through Cultural Exchange Programmes. I am confident that the forthcoming first meetings of these joint commissions in India will give a significant impulse to the growth of our relations in all fields. In turn, such a development of India's relations with

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Central Asia will naturally be influenced by the new order which is emerging in that region. Therefore, the deliberations of this Seminar are of special relevance to the Government of India.

6. Government of India has already hosted the visit of the Presidents of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of Tajikistan to India. The visits have laid the foundation for the long term development of our bilateral relations with these countries, based on the framework agreements signed during these visits.

7. In international affairs, the Central Asian States have expressed general appreciation of India's constructive and consistent foreign policy. India today constitutes a major factor for regional stability, and good relations between India and Central Asia are an imperative for peace and development.

8. The thrust of India's cooperation with all the Central Asian States is to revive the people to people exchanges which had earlier been the hallmark of our interaction with this region. In this task, greater financial outlay for hosting Central Asian visitors to India, as well as the rapid development of air links with each Central Asian State in order to facilitate tourism exchanges, will play a pivotal role. The impulse for achieving the goal of greater people to people exchanges has to come from a clear assessment of the significance and importance of India's relations with Central Asian States. I am confident that the deliberations of this Seminar will suitably emphasise this aspect.

9. It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this Seminar.

DIA USA KAZAKHSTAN UZBEKISTAN TAJIKISTAN TURKMENISTAN

Date : Feb 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Stress on Increased Indo-French Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1993 on Indo-French Economic Cooperation:

The Minister of State for Industrial Development, Smt. Krishna Sahi has stressed the need for more Indo-French Economic Cooperation. She expressed this view to Mr. Bruno Durieux, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of France, who called on her here today.

The French Minister praised the economic reforms programmes being implemented in India and expressed his satisfaction over the results obtained. Welcoming the suggestion of more French capital investment in India, Mr. Durieux said that though France is a major investor abroad, it is not adequately represented in India and there was a lot of scope for this. Referring to the joint ventures of French companies in India in Energy and Telecommunication sectors, he said that French companies were very eager to invest in India, which offered a good infrastructure. The French Minister suggested the formation of a group consisting of four or five topranking French and Indian Companies to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in this country. He also invited Indian businessmen to visit France to explore the possibilities of setting up joint vetnures there.

Earlier, welcoming the French Minister, Smt. Sahi referred to the age old historical and cultural links existing between both the countries. She briefed the
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French Minister about India's new economic reforms programmes and assured him that there would not be any going back on this account.

Later, Smt. Krishna Sahi also met a delegation of French industrialists and assured them of all kind of help in setting up joint ventures in India.

ANCE INDIA USA

Date : Feb 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-French Cooperation in the Power Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 19, 1993 on Indo-French Cooperation in the field of Power Sector:

There was greater scope for further co-operation between India and France in the field of power generation. This was indicated by Shri N. K. P. Salve, Minister for Power to Mr. Bruno Durieux, Minister of State for Foreign Trade of France when he met him here today.

The Minister also informed that the entrepreneurs could expect reasonable returns on their investments in this sector in which demand was ever increasing.

Both the Ministers discussed about the progress in the project being undertaken with the French assistance in India. Both stand committed to the early start of work at the Dukhasti Hydro Electrical Project. The project was to be executed on a turnkey basis by French consortium. The problems arisen during undertaking of the project was being examined by a high level committee.

Shri Salve sought support particularly in the latest and relevant technologies keeping into view the conditions available in the country. He added enterprises firms and industry would find a business like at mosphere here.

ANCE INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia Welcomed the Foreign Diplomats

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1993:

In his inaugural Address to the Second Professional Course of foreign diplomats organised by the Foreign Service Institute on February 1, 1993, Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, formally welcomed the 6 diplomats from Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrghylstan, Romania, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia and African National Congress.

He said that the Second Professional Course for diplomats organised by the Foreign Service Institute will equip them with the professional skills required to serve their respective countries in the field of diplomacy.

He explained that the Foreign Service Institute was set up in 1985 and has successfully organised several training programmes for the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Institute has over the years built up its own institution and facilities and India is only too happy to share its experience and expertise with diplomats from friendly foreign countries.

He hoped that apart from their training and diplomacy, they will be able to get an exposure not only to India's rich and ancient cultural heritage, but also to the advances India has made in diverse fields. He also re-affirmed India's commitment to the South-South Co-operation.

DIA HUNGARY KAZAKHSTAN UZBEKISTAN OMAN ROMANIA VIETNAM ZAMBIA

Date : Feb 03, 1993

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

German Delegation Discusses Scope of Increased Investment in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1993 on German delegation of industrialists meeting with Minister of State for Industrial Development:

Smt. Krishna Sahi, Minister of State for Industrial Development told a visiting delegation of German industrialists that India was not only an attractive market but also a commercially viable base for manufacturing products for third country markets.

The German delegation headed by Dr. Ludolf Von Wartenberg, Secretary General of Federation of German Industries, called on Smt. Sahi here today. Members of the delegation showed keen interest in food processing and mining industries. They also offered a number of suggestions regarding how to further attract German capital and technology, especially in export, oriented ventures.

Referring to the old links existing between the two countries, Smt. Sahi said that Germany had been one of India's major suppliers of both capital and technology which had an enviable reputation all over the world. Although the German investment in India had doubled in 1992 over 1991, Germany had slipped from second position in 1990 to seventh in 1992. She said that after her talks with the German State Minister Mr. Kolb, she looked forward to increased investment for which there was great scope.

RMANY USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Indo-Indonesia Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1993 on Economic Cooperation between India and Indonesia:

The Minister of State for Industrial Development, Smt. Krishna Sahi has reiterated the commitment of the Prime Minister to carry forward economic reforms despite the recent disturbances. Smt. Sahi, who is on a good-will official visit to Indonesia held discussions with H.E. Mr. Hartarto, Minister of Industry, H. E. Mr. Radius Prawiro, Coordinating Minister for Economic, Financial and Industrial Affairs and for the Supervision of Development and Mr. Arifin M. Siregar, Minister of Trade.

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Smt. Sahi briefed the Indonesian Ministers about the economic and

industrial reforms carried out by India and their positive impact on the Indian economy.

She also highlighted the growth of bilateral trade between India and Indonesia, which has grown by more than 130 per cent in the last four years. She pointed out that machine tools, paper, pulp, chemicals and sugar are some of the potential areas for further improvement of trade economic and industrial cooperation.

Regarding industrial cooperation between the two countries, Smt. Krishna Sahi mentioned about the 11 Indian joint ventures in Indonesia in the fields of textile, steel, rubber and oil and asked the Government of Indonesia to consider encouraging Indonesian businessmen to invest in India.

She pointed out the incentives, opportunities and profitable market conditions available in India under Government's new industrial policy. She reiterated that the reform process was irreversible. The Minister also made a request for consideration of awarding contracts to Indian Companies such as WAPCOS, IRCON and RITES, who have successfully completed some jobs in Indonesia and are interested in participating in the developmental activities of Indonesia.

The Industry Minister of Indonesia expressed interest in seeking Indian collaboration in the form of joint ventures for production of engineering goods, components and spare parts. He also promised to encourage more Indonesian businessmen to explore the possibility of investment in India. He mentioned about the efforts of Indonesian state company to set up a palm oil refinery in India in collaboration with an Indian company.

The Trade Minister of Indonesia has agreed to the suggestion made by Smt. Krishna Sahi to set up a mechanism for exchange of trade data, which would help further to promote trade between the two countries.

Indonesia has also expressed the willingness to import iron ore pellets from India for the state-owned Krakatau Steel Plant which has doubled its production capacity recently.

During the discussions, the Ministers expressed satisfaction with the present state of bilateral relations in the economic, trade and industrial sectors and agreed to work for further strengthening them. It was agreed that this could be achieved by increasing the number of visits by business delegations, participation in each others' trade and industrial exhibitions and more closer Government interaction.

DONESIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

IVORY COAST

Meeting between India and Ivory Coast in Development of Small Scale Industry

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1993 on India's assistance to Ivory Coast in development of Small Scale Industry:

India will hold an exhibition in December, 1993 at Abidjan (Ivory Coast) in which Indian machines and equipments will be displayed. This was decided at a meeting when Mr. Ferdinand Kaco Angora, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Ivory Coast called on Shri M. Arunachalam Minister of State for Industry here, last evening.
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Shri Arunachalam told the visiting dignitary that India would help the Ivory Coast in developing its industry in small scale sector. India will also provide technical facilities to develop technical manpower for small scale industries in the Ivory Coast. He said that National Small Industry Corporation (NSIC) could provide support for technical manpower. NSIC could also be useful in preparing feasibility study and supply machinery technology for small scale sector.

The Minister offered the Ivory Coast the technology transfer in field of food processing, coir, coffee, extraction of coconut oil and palm oil. He said that India had vastly diversified and advanced technologically in various sectors of industry like computers, electronics, automobiles, heavy and light engineering goods, consumer goods, small and medium scale industrial technologies and agricultural machineries.

The visiting dignitary said that his country was keen to learn from India's experience in the field. He specially appreciated India's offer for training facilities for development of small scale sector in the Ivory Coast. Shri Arunachalam suggested that a consulate should be opened for closer economic co-operation.

DIA USA

Date : Feb 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

IVORY COAST

Trade Agreement between India and Ivory Coast

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1993 on Trade Agreement between India and Ivory Coast:

India and Ivory Coast have signed a Trade Agreement which aims at developing trade relations between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The Agreement was signed here today by Mr. Ferdinand Kocou Angora, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Government of the Republic of Ivory Coast and Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Commerce. The Agreement, which is effective from the date of signing, provides a legal framework for India and Ivory Coast to increase and intensify volume of their trade exchanges, which at present is insignificant at around Rs. 39.92 crores. India's exports to Ivory Coast consisting mainly of traditional items in 1991-92 amounted to Rs. 13.91 crores and imports from Ivory Coast Rs. 26.01 crores, consisting mostly of precious and semi-precious stones, cashew nuts etc.

The Agreement provides that with a view to facilitate bilateral trade, both sides shall accord most favoured nation treatment to each other and shall communicate to the extent possible all useful information which could contribute to the development of commercial exchanges between the two countries. India and Ivory Coast have also agreed to cooperate for the development of closer ties in the field of maritime transport of cargoes generated by bilateral trade and for the conclusion of favourable arrangement for the development of maritime transport between the two countries. Both sides shall accord most favoured nation treatment to each other's merchant vessels sailing under their flags in respect of matters relating to navigation, access to ports open to foreign trade and use of port and harbour facilities. This is a major highlight of the Agreement in view of the fact that Ivory Coast has one of the best transport and communication infrastructures in West Africa.

According to the Agreement, both sides will, subject to its internal laws and regulations, exempt from customs duty goods meant for any fairs, exhibitions, seminars, conferences etc. in each other's territory which are not intended for sale including advertisement and publicity materials and goods & equipments required for demonstration purposes. Both sides shall encourage

the organisation of fairs
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and exhibitions by each others enterprises and firms. Shri Mukherjee and Mr. Angora underlined the desire on both sides to make special efforts to expand the volume of bilateral trade. In this context, the Ivorian Minister said that Ivory Coast was keen to have closer cooperation with India in the field of industrial development, specially small and medium industries. He also underlined the advantages of Ivory Coast as a base of exports to the rest of Africa. Ivory Coast's imports in 1991 were estimated at around US \$ 1.6 billion with the origin of imports being mainly France, Germany, USA, Spain, UK, Japan, Netherlands and Senegal.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE GERMANY JAPAN SPAIN
SENEGAL

Date : Feb 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

Appointment of Shri Vasant Sathe as President of ICCR

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1993 on appointment of Shri Vasant Sathe as President of ICCR:

The President of India is pleased to appoint Shri Vasant Sathe as President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi for a period of three years with effect from the 5th February, 1993.

Shri Sathe will have cabinet rank in this assignment.

DIA

Date : Feb 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

Inauguration of Japan-South Asia Symposium

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1993 on inauguration of Japan-South Asia Symposium:

A number of proposals for Japanese private investment have been approved during the year 1992 amounting to Rs. 5 billions showing an increase of about fifteen times over the previous years. This was stated by Sh. Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister while inaugurating the Second Japan-South Asia Symposium here today. The new climate created by the economic reform measures of the Government has generated great opportunities for increased investment in this region, he said.

Referring to the proposal of setting up a Japan-SAARC special fund to promote intellectual exchanges and a Japan South

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Asian center in Tokyo on similar lines, he said these developments are indicative of a new phase of relationship of Japan with the countries of SAARC. Based on increased political understanding, economic Cooperation and cultural exchange they will make positive contribution to bring the people of our region and Japan closer together, he said.

Drawing the attention of the participants towards the special characteristics and traditions of individual countries in South-Asia, the Minister said that existing problems among them must eventually be solved peacefully through discussions and dialogue. Japan, he said, could best contribute to this process by supporting the development of areas and sectors of co-operation among South-Asian countries identified by them. Economic co-operation between the South-Asian countries assisted by Japan can go a long way in removing misgivings, promoting collaboration and creating interest in well being of one another, he said.

PAN INDIA USA PERU

Date : Feb 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Indo-Kuwait Co-operation in the International fora

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1993 on Official talks between External Affairs Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Kuwait held on February 10, 1993:

During the Talks between India's External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Kuwait sought intervention by the ICRC in regard to Prisoners of War and Kuwaiti citizens still held by Iraq. India reaffirmed its full commitment to the UN Security Council's Resolutions relating to Kuwait and the Gulf War emphasising the security and territorial integrity of all states in the region.

On the situation in South Asia, both sides made references to India's relations with SAARC and Pakistan. External Affairs Minister stressed Government of India's determination to maintain and strengthen secularism in India and reiterated the Government of India's commitment to rebuild the mosque.

The Foreign Minister of Kuwait expressed his country's desire to cooperate with India in the international fora and stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral economic ties. The two sides endorsed the settlement of Indo-Pak issues under the provisions of the Simla Agreement.

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WAIT INDIA IRAQ PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Presentation of a cheque to Prime Minister of Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 24, 1993 on presentation of a cheque to the Prime Minister of Mauritius:

The High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Shri Shyam Saran, presented to the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood

Jugnauth on February 23, 1993, a cheque of US \$ 5,00,000 representing the second and final tranche of the grant contribution of US \$ 1 million committed by the Government of India towards the construction of the new Court House project at Port Louis. The first instalment of US \$ 5,00,000 was paid to the Government of Mauritius on May 14, 1985. The announcement that India would give a grant of US \$ 1 million for this project, was made during State visit of the President of India to Mauritius in October, 1984.

Besides the financial grant, the Government of India is providing the services of three cooperation officers, including a quantity surveyor and two engineers for the implementation of the project. The Court House building, which is expected to cost Mauritian Rs. 175 million is expected to be completed by August, 1993. The building, spread over an area of 3,460 square metres, will house the Intermediate Court, Industrial Court and the District Court of Port Louis.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Feb 24, 1993

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation Visit Tanakpur Hydroelectric Power Project in Nainital

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1993 on visit of Nepalese Parliamentarians to the Tanakpur hydroelectric power project in Nainital:

1. The Speaker of the Nepalese Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Dhungana, the Chairman of the Upper House of the Nepalese Parliament. Mr. B. B. Karki, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari and eleven other members of the Nepalese Parliament visited the Tanakpur hydroelectric power project in Nainital district of India on 7th February, 1993.
2. The Nepalese Parliamentarians were welcomed at the project by our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and senior Indian officials. During the visit, the Nepalese parliamentarians visited the Tanakpur barrage, the left afflux bund, and the power station, and engaged in detailed discussions.
3. The Tanakpur hydroelectric project is a 120 MW project located

on the river Sharda in Nainital District of Uttar Pradesh. The project is located on a total area of 635 ha with a 2.2 km. long left afflux bund which extend 0.577 km. into Nepalese territory. The extension of the bund protected 20 ha. of low lying Napalese territory from inundation. The pondage covers 235 ha in Indian territory.

4. Discussions revolved around the mutual benefits to the two countries that
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result from the Tanakpur project. Shri Bhatia explained the benefits to Nepal which have been agreed. Nepal will get up to 150 cusecs of water for irrigating 4-5000 hac of Nepalese land. Similarly, India will supply to Nepal 20 million units of electricity annually. It is our hope that the visit to Tanakpur and clear picture of the facts on the ground would have cleared any misunderstandings.

5. The visitors thanked the Government of India for the arrangements it had made for the visit and were most appreciative of the Minister, Shri Bhatia, having come from Delhi for the occasion.

PAL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Feb 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Indo-Netherlands Cooperation in Civil Aviation and Tourism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1993 on Indo-Netherlands cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation and Tourism:

India and the Netherlands today exchanged views on furthering cooperation between the two countries in the field of civil aviation and tourism when the visiting Netherlands' State Secretary for Economic Affairs Ms. Y.M.C.T. Van Rooy called on Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The two leaders agreed that with vast expansion and fleet renewal programmes being undertaken by India in the civil aviation

sector, a vast scope for such cooperation existed which becomes all the more relevant in view of India's open sky policy and its efforts to boost foreign tourism to this country.

DIA THE NETHERLANDS

Date : Feb 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Netherlands Minister Calls on Smt. Krishna Sahi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1993 on Dutch delegation Meeting with Minister of State for Industrial Development:

Ms. Y.M.C.T. Van Rooy, State Secretary for Economic Affairs of Netherlands, accompanied by other members of the visiting Dutch delegation called on Smt. Krishna Sahi, Minister of State for Industrial Development here today. They discussed various aspects of Trade and Industrial Co-operation including foreign investment and joint ventures in India. Secretary, Industrial Development, Shri Suresh Kumar was also present.

Smt. Sahi suggested that Indo-Dutch Joint Councils should be set up to promote Trade Co-operation between the two countries. Referring to the New Industrial Policy, the Minister said that this had brought change in the industrial climate in the country. Ms Rooy welcomed the suggestion on setting up of Joint Councils and suggested that these Councils should initially be at the level of businessmen of the two countries.

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DIA USA PERU

Date : Feb 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Government's Decision to Temporarily Close down Mission in Kabul

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1993 on our Government's decision to temporarily close down our Mission in Kabul:

The Government has decided to temporarily close down the Indian Mission in Kabul. There has been intense fighting in Kabul in the last few weeks including sustained rocket attack two days ago. There has also been damage to property. The Heads of all the Missions, that remain in Kabul, namely, Pakistan, China, Turkey, Indonesia and India, met this morning and all have decided to evacuate.

We view the situation in Afghanistan, where so much bloodshed has resulted from continuing violence with anguish. The people of Afghanistan have suffered enough over the last 14 years. We hope that the people of Afghanistan will be able to settle their differences and work towards a stable and united Afghanistan.

In this context, we feel there is no role for any external intervention and Afghan people should themselves settle their differences and resolve their dispute.

GHANISTAN INDIA USA CHINA PAKISTAN TURKEY INDONESIA

Date : Feb 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meetings of Visiting Singapore Minister with our Ministers

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1993 on meeting of Singapore Minister with our Ministers:

While briefing the newsmen, Official Spokesman stated that the Singapore Minister of Information and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, met the Minister of Human Resource Development this morning at 10.14 A.M. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding

on cooperation in the area of culture. The Singapore Minister stated that the Singapore Government wanted to extend cooperation in the cultural area and specifically wished to organise a major Indian exhibition of the decorative arts in April or May, 1994. He mentioned that Singapore was looking for skilled manpower from India and also wanted to recruit teachers, because the educational system was being expanded and Indian teachers, already there, have created a good impact. They also wanted the Indian participation in their biennial festival of arts in 1994.

At 12 noon, they met the Commerce Minister. The Commerce Minister briefed the visiting dignitary, in detail, on India's trade, industry and fiscal policy reforms. He underlined the Indian Government's determination to continue with those policies, which were irreversible.

On the question of the areas in which Singapore investors would look at in India, specific mention was made of port development including dry-dock repairs and the India-Singapore corridor in Madras. This was mentioned by the Commerce Minister as a possible area of cooperation and Singapore Government will explore this idea further.

Later, they had a meeting with our Finance Minister. In the meeting with Finance Minister, the Singapore Minister mentioned that his Government had made

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a decision, looking at international situation as a whole as well as India's recent economic reforms policies, that they would like to position themselves as a long-term partner in India's progress. The Finance Minister welcomed this and said that India would like to give a new dimension and thrust to overall economic relations. The Finance Minister confirmed that there would be no set back to the reform programme and that India was determined to continue on the same track. He welcomed the possibility of investment including in the capital market. The Singapore Minister recalled the very successful seminar that was held on India as a business partner in October 1991, and hoped that another one will take place as an update.

The two Ministers also discussed economic development in the South-East Asian region, Indo-ASEAN economic relation as well as the international economic situation with reference to North America and the EEC.

The visiting dignitary also held discussions with our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed who provided details on the recent developments in India's regional and global trade and the new policies of liberalisation and de-regulation. Shri P. M. Malik, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, made a specific representation on the possibilities of the India-Singapore corridor.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA MALI

Date : Feb 05, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1993 on Bosnia-Herzegovina:

India has seen reports of the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina discussed in the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia in Geneva recently, and which will be further considered in New York. India expresses support for the efforts of Mr. Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen in their strenuous efforts to arrive at a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, taking into consideration the interests of all the parties concerned. Pending acceptance of this plan by all three communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina, India expresses, the hope that all parties will desist from any actions which will not be conducive to a full and detailed consideration of the merits of the plan. India reiterates that the only solution to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina lies in political agreements which would be strictly implemented by all parties and made irreversible.

DIA USA SWITZERLAND YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Feb 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spanish Prime Minister Meets our Prime Minister and Signing of Bilateral Agreements

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1993 on the meeting of visiting Spanish Prime Minister with our Prime Minister and signing of bilateral Agreements:

Our Prime Minister met the Spanish Prime Minister this morning. This was followed by official talks and later signing of agreements.

The Spanish Prime Minister considered that India had a crucial role to play in international affairs. Relations between the two countries were based on profound mutual interests. It was because of this that, notwithstanding Spain's traditional emphasis on relations with Latin America,

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they consider their visit to India as more important. He said that Spain had a political and human interest in India as an open society, which has coped successfully with numerous challenges over the last 5 decades.

There was considerable discussion on economic liberalisation policies being adopted in both countries. Our Prime Minister mentioned that the liberalisation process in India was irreversible. There was an identity of views between the two Prime Ministers regarding the importance of Government intervention to protect the poorer sections of the population and in areas such as education. There was also an exchange of views on terrorism and specifically how each country saw its respective problems. The Spanish Prime Minister stated that foreign investors were more concerned about stable Government and clear-cut policies, rather than with law and order.

The discussions also dwelt on religious extremism, on India's relations with China and Russia and the challenges facing European integration. The Spanish Prime Minister said that his country's businessmen were keen to develop ties with India and were exploring ideas for setting up of joint ventures specially in areas like fisheries. He also mentioned that Spain needed to find avenues for foreign investments while trying to attract investment at the same time.

Four Agreements were signed by the two sides. The first was on declaration on cooperation against terrorism, organised crime and the economic offences. It was signed between External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh and their Foreign Minister Mr. Javier Solana.

The second Agreement signed was on 'Avoidance of Double Taxation' by Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh on our side and by Mr. Javier Solana, Minister of Foreign Affairs on their side.

A Cultural Exchange Programme for the period of 1993-95 was the third Agreement to be signed by Bhaskar Ghosh, Secretary for Culture on our side and Mr. Santiago Salas, Ambassador of Spain in New Delhi on their side.

The last Agreement was not signed, but it was initialled. It was an Agreement on prisoners' exchange between our Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit and their Ambassador Mr. Santiago Salas.

DIA USA SPAIN CHINA RUSSIA CHILE

Date : Feb 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of First Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait

The following is the joint statement issued in New Delhi on Feb 10, 1993 on the visit of First Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister of Kuwait:

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait paid an official and friendly two day visit to India beginning February 10, 1993. He was accompanied by a high level delegation. During the visit the Kuwaiti dignitary called on the President to deliver a letter from His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait. He also met the Speaker of Lok Sabha. He held extensive discussions with Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs.

The Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Kuwait expressed the gratitude of the Government and of the people of Kuwait for the principled support extended Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs by India as member of the Security Council. He sought India's continued support in implementation of relevant UN Resolutions for ensuring peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Both sides agreed that observance of UN Security Council Resolutions was the

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best way to ensure peace in the Gulf region.

The Kuwaiti side expressed the hope that India and Pakistan would

be able to resolve all their differences, including those on Kashmir by peaceful means on the basis of Shimla Agreement.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady growth in bilateral relations in the last two years. In 1991-92 the bilateral trade stood at over Rs. 950 crores. Over 110,000 Indian nationals have returned to Kuwait. After the on-going liberalisation in India there were encouraging prospects for Kuwaiti investment and joint ventures in India. The two sides decided to expedite the despatch of a multi disciplinary team from Kuwait to India to study the possibility of bilateral cooperation. The Indian side proposed to hold the First Session of the Joint Commission established last year. The Kuwait side accepted the proposal and agreed to hold the session at an early date.

H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah extended an invitation to H.E. Shri Dinesh Singh to pay an official visit to Kuwait. The invitation was accepted. The dates for the visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels.

The President of India extended an invitation to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait to visit India.

WAIT INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 10, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1993 on Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting:

The agenda of the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of External Affairs included impact of the Ayodhya developments on foreign policy projection, SAARC & G-15. The last agenda item has been carried over for the next meeting.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, in his opening address, mentioned that we were going through a major change in

the world situation. In the past, there were two super powers and the balance of nuclear terror existed. One of these super powers was no longer there. Power depends today not on the capability of causing destruction, but on the economic strength of the country. Those powers and empires that have crumbled did so because they lost in the economic competition race. While the reduction of danger from nuclear weapons was welcome, instability continued with many countries still retaining nuclear capability. There were two trends. Major economic powers were putting aside past differences and concentrating on economy through larger economic groupings. On the other hand, developing countries were also seeking smaller groupings for their security. In South Asia such a grouping would have one of the largest markets in the world, skilled manpower and abundant natural resources providing the possibility of becoming a major economic power in the future, but this would not be possible unless the countries of the region are able to reconcile their differences bilaterally and differences within the countries.

The recent succession of high level visits underlines that the world recognises tremendous potential that India has. All these dignitaries came with large business delegations, they wanted to be part of India's economic future. The Minister mentioned that we welcomed this expression of interest at the highest level. The dignitaries perhaps spent more time with industrialists than with politicians. The question for us was, how best to use this opportunity. The

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question that was in their mind, was what is the future of our economic reform programme and, whether it is here to stay.

The Minister mentioned that while there were differences of policy among different parties this was welcome in a democracy. In the area of foreign policy there was a consensus all-along and this has been good for us internationally. The consensus goes back to our freedom struggle. Political parties may continue to have differences but the important point was not to highlight these differences internationally since everyone was determined that foreign policy was an instrument that must support our development.

In their remarks, members present spent considerable time discussing the fall out of the Ayodhya incident. One member felt that we should project our image better and that there was evidence to show that the international community did not view the scenario as grimly as we did ourselves. Another member underlined that foreign policy was a reflection of our national strength. Efficiency, or otherwise, on image projection may give us a little advantage, but it was basically national strength and the strength of domestic policies that would define strength of our foreign policy. It was also mentioned that national sovereignty was not proof against our being subject to pressure.

On questions such as human rights, all members underlined that India had chosen at the time of independence to be a secular nation because this was our national ethos and our heritage and we need no reminding of this by other countries especially those who themselves gave short shrift to secularism and protection of minorities in their countries. One member also stressed the need to project the effect that what had happened in Ayodhya was an aberration and that our heritage and our secular and democratic policy would effectively deal with this. The question of whether the flow of foreign investment was affected by this incident was also discussed by some of the members with most of them feeling that it would be much more important to demonstrate that our economic liberalisation was irreversible and would stay on track.

In his response, the External Affairs Minister mentioned that the committee meeting was confined to considering the international fallout of the Ayodhya issue and not its domestic ramifications. He underlined that there was no point in wondering why there was a major international reaction in media and in different fora because we ourselves had built it up as a major issue. In fact, the Indian Press had perhaps been more critical, than the foreign media coverage. An attitude of confrontation had been built up over the last year or two and this was reflected in the international attention that the incident received. The central point was whether we were moving towards reconciliation or further confrontation. If strong statements are made by parties now and if there is no restraint in words or action this would not help our projection of an India moving in peace and harmony. An account was given to the members present, of all the action that had been taken by the Ministry at headquarters and through our Missions to deal with the situation which he said had been done adequately and effectively.

In response to a question, the Minister mentioned that a team from the Organisation of Islamic Countries had asked for visas for the purpose of a study visit to Kashmir. We had rejected this request and had communicated that no visas would be given for this purpose.

On SAARC, members expressed a range of opinions on its future as well as on the last postponed Summit. They also asked for more information in specific areas of cooperation where work was continuing. The Minister mentioned that freer movement of people, ideas and more economic cooperation to promote an interest in our common well-being and the success of the SAARC multilateral process would provide assistance in eventually resolving other issues also. Some countries in the region, however, do not want this and are against such freer movements. It was, the Government's view that SAARC had a bright future.

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Date : Feb 11, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Secretary General of SAARC with External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1993 on the Meeting of Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. Ibrahim H. Zaki with our External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh:

Mr. Ibrahim H. Zaki, Secretary General of SAARC, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh today. His visit was part of a process of regular consultations between the Secretary General and the Heads of Governments. He has already visited Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives, and from here he will go to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan.

He informed the External Affairs Minister about the different areas of on going cooperation under the technical committees that have been set up. The intention was to ensure that all decisions which had been taken upto the last meeting of the Council of Ministers in Dhaka were in the process of implementation. He also briefed the External Affairs Minister on areas on which a final decision has not yet been taken such as South Asian Referential Trade Agreement (SAPTA), South Asian Development Fund, South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation and the regional goals for children which were adopted at the Colombo Summit or which are to be incorporated by each country in its national plan of action for children. Both the Minister and the Secretary expressed the hope that the Summit would take place in the near future.

DIA MALDIVES NEPAL SRI LANKA BANGLADESH BHUTAN PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

Meeting of Tajikistan Prime Minister with our Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1993 on meeting of visiting Tajikistan Prime Minister, Mr. A. A. Abdullojonov with our Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao on February 15, 1993:

Official talks were held today between the delegation from Tajikistan led by their Prime Minister, Mr. A. A. Abdullojonov and the Indian delegation by our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. Our Prime Minister noted that this was the first visit by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan and opened up new vistas of cooperation. Our Prime Minister announced that a decision had been taken to open an Indian Mission in Dushanbe in the near future. Two other major announcements were - a credit of US \$ 5 million to promote economic and commercial cooperation and of 8-1/2 tonne of medicines as assistance from India to help Tajikistan cope with its present difficulties.

Our Prime Minister also offered to assist Tajikistan wherever necessary by providing experts from India and also accept trainees from Tajikistan in India. The Tajikistan Prime Minister expressed his gratitude at these expressions of support and for the concrete assistance that has been offered. He stressed his country's interest in strengthening cooperation in other areas also and specifically mentioned culture, exploitation of mineral resources and agriculture. 6 Agreements were signed at the conclusion of the talks. These include agreements on 'Declaration on principles and directions of cooperation', 'Protocol on cooperation', 'Agreement on economic and technical cooperation', 'Cooperation in the sphere of culture, arts, education, science, mass-media (including cinematography) and sports', 'Agreement on

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trade and economic cooperation', 'Agreement on cooperation between the Commercial Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of the Tajikistan and the State Bank of India.

After initial talks, the two Prime Ministers had a separate meeting. The Tajikistan Prime Minister conveyed his assessment about the situation in Central Asia, Afghanistan as well as internal situation in his own country.

There was considerable discussion on cross-border terrorism. The Tajikistan Prime Minister mentioned that his country faced major problems arising out of cross-border terrorism and the resulting large number of refugees. Our Prime Minister noted that cross-border terrorism was a subject of concern to India also and he assured the Tajikistan Prime Minister that India stands with

Tajikistan in its opposition to all forms of terrorism particularly state-supported terrorism. The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on the problems created by religious extremism and fundamentalism. The Tajikistan Prime Minister referred to problems they were facing in running their Government because of the need to create a totally new system and a new administrative structure. Our Prime Minister assured him that India will help in every possible way in this task. He also reiterated India's desire to assist in the overall task of development wherever possible. Specifically, it was decided to exchange visits of experts in banking to set up financial arrangements to manage the credit-line offered by India as well as to support the growing commercial links. Our Prime Minister underlined that both countries should aim at reviving and strengthening the historical and cultural ties between the two countries.

TIJKISTAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Feb 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Query on a Nuclear Pact between India and China

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1993 on a nuclear pact between India and China:

In response to a query on a newspaper report which said that China and India are to have a nuclear pact, the Spokesman clarified that the story is speculative and totally baseless and added that there have been no discussions with China on this subject, at any level.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of French Minister of State for Trade 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 Feb 18, 1993 on the visit of French Minister of State for Trade to India:

The French Minister of State for Trade, Mr. Durieux, called on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh this afternoon. He is on a visit to India at the invitation of Minister of State for Industrial Development, Smt. Krishna Sahi. A high level French business delegation is accompanying Mr. Durieux. During his call on Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, Mr. Durieux referred to the extremely close relations between the two countries in the political field and expressed the desire of the French Government to streng
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then relations in the economic field. He indicated that India's economic reform programme had created an excellent climate for French investment. They also discussed multilateral economic issues and both sides agreed that it was important to ensure an early and successful conclusion of the GATT Uruguay round negotiations.

DIA USA PERU URUGUAY

Date : Feb 18, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, in their National Assembly making references 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 Feb 18, 1993 on the statement by Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, in their National Assembly on February 17, 1993. making references to India:

While briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that we have taken note of the Statement by Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, in their National Assembly on February 17, 1993. We deeply regret that Mr. Kanju, in his statement while articulating his world view, has chosen to make references to India and India's internal affairs in a manner which is violative of all recognised norms of interstate conduct and good-neighbourly relations. Both in language and in content, Mr. Kanju's references are gratuitous, totally unwarranted and unacceptable. Pakistan, which for all its troubled history, has been ruled by successive military dictatorships, is hardly a shining example of democracy for the peoples of the region. Though, we sincerely hope that nascent process of democratisation in Pakistan might some day strike roots in that country, Pakistan, which has adopted the state ideology of a single religion naturally cannot comprehend our tenets of secularism. Rather than, concentrate on exercising its own bigotry and religious apartheid, it is regretted that Pakistan is consistently indulging in inflammatory rhetoric and provocative actions intended to raise public passions.

We have, time and again, emphasized that we are ready to resolve all outstanding issues including intractable issues with Pakistan, within the framework of the Simla Agreement. But for a conducive atmosphere, in which any meaningful discussions are to take place, Pakistan must cease its active and sustained support to terrorism and subversion directed against India. We would once again urge Pakistan to give up its State-supported terrorism. Pakistan should eschew its path of confrontation and the adversarial frames of its mind-set which is hardly conducive to peace and harmony in the region. There should be no illusions in any quarter about India's firm resolve to counter Pakistan's challenges to its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 18, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Belgian Parliamentary Delegation 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 Feb 18, 1993 on the visit of a Belgian Parliamentary

Delegation:

A Belgian parliamentary delegation, headed by Mr. Charles Ferdinand Nothomb, President of The House of Representatives of the Belgian Parliament, called on External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, this morning. They are visiting India at the invitation of the Lok Sabha Speaker. During this meeting, Mr. Nothomb recalled that relations between the two countries were most cordial and entirely problem

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free. Mr. Dinesh Singh briefed the delegation on India's relations with neighbours. There was also an exchange of views on the and successful conclusion of the GATT interest of both countries to seek an early Uruguay round.

DIA USA URUGUAY

Date : Feb 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of Chancellor Kohl of Federal Republic of Germany with our Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 19, 1993 on the meeting of Chancellor Kohl with our Prime Minister and bilateral delegation-level talks:

Delegation level talks were held at 1000 hrs this morning for one hour followed by one-on-one meeting between our Prime Minister and Chancellor Kohl for about one-hour-and-fifteen-minutes after which both the leaders met the German business community, who are here as the Chancellor's Special Guests.

On our side at the meeting were the Principle Secretary to Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Industry; Secretary, Defence; Secretary, Water Resources; Secretary, Telecommunication; Secretary, Commerce; and our Ambassador in Bonn, Mr. K. K. S. Rana.

Prime Minister gave Chancellor Kohl his assessment of the internal situation in the country. He underlined India's commitment to economic reforms. He mentioned India's desire to strengthen as well as democratise United Nations. He outlined

India's practical and constructive approach on global issues in areas, such as, the environment, human rights and non-proliferation. In the bilateral context, the Government wanted to lay emphasis on expanding economic, industrial, technological and cultural relations.

Chancellor Kohl conveyed to the Prime Minister the German Government's views on a variety of subjects. He stressed that great importance was being given to relations with India not only because of the long-standing, indeed historical ties, but also because India is emerging as the largest market in the South East Asian region. It was his assumption that good relations between India and leading members of the industrialised group of countries was a positive factor for international stability. On the Prime Minister's comments on the economic reforms in India and his desire for further economic interaction, the Chancellor felt that, it was German Government's perception that, though, there may be difficulties, they were convinced that the liberalisation process was now irreversible.

The Chancellor mentioned that the United Nations was not going to be protectionist. Germany itself was against protectionism, The process should be rather be viewed on a macro-economic level as leading to a large market of 330 million people, and in bilateral Indian context, interacting with the market of over 800 million people here. He emphasized that Germany's economic policies are necessarily outward looking. Germany has to export to sustain itself. This was another important reason for giving the attention to the large market represented by India especially when India is rapidly opening up to the global economy. He also took note of the interest shown by Indian entrepreneurs in setting up business ventures in the former East Germany. He welcomed this and said this was a process which should be encouraged. This would lead to an equilibrium in economic relations. He said that Germany would like to cooperate with India on the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations to lead them to a successful conclusion.

Responding to a suggestion of the Prime Minister on reviving the North-South Dialogue, especially between coun-
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tries, such as, Germany and India and between groups, such as G-7 and G-15, he agreed fully with the approach and said that Germany was very much in favour of reviving the dialogue.

Further, on the subject of economic reforms underway in India, it was his assessment that this would very substantially improve the prospects of German investments. In this context, he dwelt on the major investment plans of the German multinational Siemens to set up joint ventures.

Counsellor Kohl also called for strengthening interaction in the

area of culture, information exchange and education. Germany has a strong tradition of Indology on which this would be based. Apart from doing all that was possible to give thrust to German investment in India, he said his Government would also actively support cooperation in science and technology as well as developing institutionalised links between prominent Indian and German universities. He expressed his gratification at being a recipient of the Nehru Award which he took not just as a personal honour, but he felt that the symbolism of the Award would itself have a good impact on bilateral relations.

Chancellor Kohl also invited Prime Minister to visit Germany. In their meeting with the German businessmen, there was considerable discussion on the modalities of speed up procedural aspects of various proposals including subjects, such as, giving long-term visas to technical experts and businessmen. The Prime Minister mentioned that all these would be certainly examined and included in the fast track mechanism so that minimum constraints were faced by businessmen.

In the one-on-one meeting, Chancellor Kohl had suggested to Prime Minister that a list of specific priorities should be drawn up with a 10-month period for implementation and that the achievement of the target should be monitored. This was repeated in the meeting with the businessmen. The Chancellor said that on their return, the industrialists who visited with him will make a summary which would become a kind of action plan which would be sent to our Prime Minister by the Chancellor.

In the meeting of our Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit with his counterpart in the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the State Secretary Dr. Dieter Kastrup, there was an extensive discussion on a number specific areas of interest including cooperation within the United Nations system. They also agreed to have technical discussions on subjects, such as - arms control, security issues and disarmament.

RMANY INDIA USA URUGUAY

Date : Feb 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia Visits Poland

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1993 on an official visit to Poland by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs paid an official visit to Poland from 9-11th February, 1993, as part of his tour to East European Countries. He was accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of External Affairs. In Warsaw, he met the Polish Foreign Minister, Kskubis-zewski, Speaker of the Parliament, Professor Wieslaw Chrzanowski and Minister of State in the President's
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Chancellery, Mr. Januz Ziolkowski. Delegation level talks were also held with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Foreign Affairs.

In their discussions, the Polish Government expressed a desire to further improve the content and quality of bilateral relations with India. It was confirmed that President Lech Walesa wished to visit India later this year. It was also agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Commission, which last met in September 1990, should be convened in mid-1993, as both sides agreed that this forum would provide the appropriate impulse to further economic, commercial, scientific and other forms of cooperation. The Polish side expressed their intention to include in their delegation to this meeting, important leaders of Polish business and industry.

LAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

President's Speech at the time of Presentation of 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru Award to Dr. Helmut Kohl

While conferring the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding upon Dr. Helmut Kohl, Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany on Feb 19, 1993 in New Delhi, the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma said:

"It gives me great pleasure to be with you for the presentation of the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to H.E. Chancellor Hemut Kohl of the Federal

Republic of Germany.

Excellencies, under Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership, India was among the first to recognise the new Federal Republic of Germany and full diplomatic relations between India and Germany were established in 1952. Relations between India and Germany have from the beginning been based on our shared commitment to basic principles of international relations. The Joint Communiqué issued on the conclusion of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Germany in June 1956, reaffirmed the commitment of our two countries to democracy, individual freedom and an international order based on peaceful cooperation, respect for national independence and non-interference in the internal affairs.

Prophetically, Pt. Nehru had spoken of the future of Germany, I quote:

"In my talks with Chancellor Adenauer I expressed my understanding of and sympathy with, the desire of the German people for the peaceful achievement of their unity which would be facilitated by a lessening of tensions and which would contribute to the improvement of both the European and world situation".
(Unquote)

It is indeed appropriate therefore that the recipient of the 1990 Jawaharlal Nehru Award is the "Chancellor of Unity", Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who gave practical materialization to the long-standing dream of the German people for reunification and did so in a peaceful manner with the willing consent of all concerned.

Mr. Chancellor, the unification of Germany has won the acclamation of the peoples of the world, and is a tribute to your statesmanship and clear perceptions of the needs of humankind.

Some words from your statement to the Bundestag on 13th October, 1982, come to mind and I quote:
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"World peace is threatened not only by weapons but to an equal extent by poverty, hunger and death in many parts of the world. Accordingly, the Federal Government will continue, in the framework of its worldwide policy for peace, to work for cooperation in the spirit of partnership with the Third World. Our goal is a world order based on peaceful cooperation".
(Unquote)

It is a goal which was recognized and endorsed by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Chancellor Kohl's bold, imaginative and sensitive leadership in Germany, over a decade, has contributed most significantly to historic advances towards North-South cooperation, lessening of tensions in Europe and elsewhere, and the building of a better future for all.

During the Chancellorship of Dr. Helmut Kohl, Indo-German relations have grown from strength to strength in both the political and the economic fields. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and India is a major recipient of German bilateral development assistance. The Festival of India in Germany which concluded last year has brought our peoples together in a celebration of the deep cultural ties between our two countries. Through frequent high level visits, our leaders have maintained regular contacts with each other which have further served to enhance mutual understanding. Germany has been a reliable partner in India's development and these bonds, developed over the past four decades, are valued greatly by us.

India's economic reforms, designed to enable fuller Indian participation in the global economy, have created fresh opportunities which we can pursue together. The Indo-German tradition of mutual understanding and constructive cooperation on bilateral and international issues, provides a model for the building of a new international order keeping the need for genuine inter-dependence amongst nations clearly in view for the benefit of all. This, along with the willingness to share technology and resources and facilitate market access for products of developing countries under a new multilateral agreement for regulating world trade and economic relations, should strengthen the framework of environment-friendly and sustainable, development. We look forward to being partners with Germany in this historic endeavour. We have also to work together for a world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. India has always stood committed to this goal. However, we do believe that when it comes to rights and obligations, it is essential that there is no discrimination. All parties must assume equal obligations and responsibilities. Discriminatory stipulations will not help us in achieving our objective of universal and total disarmament. The Chemical Weapons Convention, signed last month, provides a framework for similar instruments in respect of all weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chancellor, we in India watched with admiration as your country emerged from the devastation of World War-II. We believe that under your able and far-sighted leadership, Germany will rise to greater heights and strengths. We follow with interest your role in promoting European integration. Above all, we remain convinced that Germany has a vitally important role to play in maintaining world peace and in shaping a more just and equitable world order.

Excellency, in conferring on you the Jawaharlal Nehru Award, we honour a great son of Germany and a champion of international peace and cooperation, values which were so dear to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the practical idealist and world statesman.

I have great pleasure in extending my warmest congratulations to

you. May your endeavours in the cause of peace, international understanding and human happiness secure greater and greater success in the months and years to come.

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RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Feb 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

SPAIN

External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh Calls on the Spanish Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1993 on call by External Affairs Minister on the Spanish Prime Minister:

Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, called on the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, today at 4.30 P. M.

In the course of their discussion, both welcomed the high level interaction between the two countries and the desirability of ongoing consultations at the ministerial level. They discussed issues which are before the Security Council such as Bosnia and Palestine. Without going into details, Shri Dinesh Singh referred to the need for the Security Council to be more representative. He also referred to the need for respect for the sovereignty of States.

At the lunch today, by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Spanish Foreign Minister, Mr. Javier Solana, referred to the need for a bilateral investment guarantee. Stressing the interest there was in greater business interaction, he said he would return to India in three years with a hundred businessmen.

AIN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

SPAIN

Meeting between Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Spanish Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1993 on meeting between Finance Minister and Spanish Prime Minister:

In a meeting between Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister, and Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, there was an exchange of views on economic reforms undertaken by Spain in the 1980s and India's economic reforms. Finance Minister briefed the Spanish Prime Minister extensively on the nature and scope of our reforms had created a good environment for foreign investment. Spain was willing to participate with investment in various areas to be identified. The potential in fisheries and tourism was underlined.

Shri Shivraj Patil, Speaker, Lok Sabha, and the Spanish Prime Minister exchanged views on the respective systems of parliamentary democracy, the role of political parties, etc. The Spanish Prime Minister expressed admiration for India's long standing experience as a practising democracy, Spain itself has been on this path only since 1977.

AIN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOMALIA

Indian Navy's Role in Somalia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1993 on Indian Navy's Role in Somalia:

Mr. Mark Stirling, the head of UNICEF in Somalia has lauded the Indian Navy support for being wonderful example of mak-
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ing maximum use of the military resources in Somalia to expand

relief programmes.

Indian Navy's Patrol Vessel INS Sukanya is undertaking a number of missions for UNICEF, between Mogadishu, Kismayo and Kenyan port of Mombasa, carrying basic drugs and medicines and high energy foods for malnourished children, besides shelter materials.

INS Sukanya's first UNICEF mission was on February 10, 1993 when it carried 50 metric tonnes of vaccines, immunisation equipment and food stuff from Mogadishu to Southern port city of Kismayo, from where it will sail for Mombasa to pick up 50 metric tonnes of blankets, shelter materials and food before returning to Kismayo.

It may be recalled that INS Sukanya had relieved INS Kuthar and Cheetah earlier this month. She is under the charge of Commodore Sampath Pillai and captioned by Commander KC Choudhry. The ship carries a crew of 150 sailors and 20 officers.

Mogadishu Radio (Somali) has also appreciated services of Indian Navy in successfully assisting 'World Food Programme' and 'CARE' in locating the CARE chartered relief ship MV REMORRA BAY earlier lost on the high seas between Brava and Merca. The Indian Navy mounted a search and assist mission on short notice. They tracked the ship on minimal information and were able to board and assist.

In a UNICEF media release received here Mr. Stirling said "It will allow UNICEF to have a consistent pipeline of supplies available to implement our programme to look after up to 50,000 displaced people to return to their farming activities from camps in Kismayo".

"We will also be able to massively expand our vaccination programme in the southern areas, where recent surveys have shown that measles is the single biggest killer of young children".

"The Indians have also offered us the use of the helicopter based on the ship to transport vaccines, medicines and health workers into towns and villages along the coastline".

LI SOMALIA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM KENYA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a Press release on Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Sri Lanka at New Delhi on Feb 17, 1993:

The Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary H.E. Mr. Bernard Tilakaratne is visiting New Delhi from February 16 to 20, 1993. Earlier today morning he led a Sri Lankan delegation in bilateral talks with an Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit. After the talks Indian Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit held a lunch in honour of his Sri Lankan counterpart.

2. Prominent among the bilateral issues discussed during the talks was the proposed visit by the Indian President Dr. S. D. Sharma to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lankan President Mr. Premadasa. The Indian President has been invited to be present at ceremonies connected with the 2300th anniversary of the introduction of Buddhism in Sri Lanka to be held in June this year. The President has accepted the
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invitation in principle and the precise dates for the visit are presently under discussion.

3. The two Foreign Secretaries also discussed the agenda of the next Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting and agreed that it should be held in the near future. Other bilateral issues discussed included the problems faced by Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen conducting their activities in the Palk Straits. In pursuance of discussions held on the subject during the visit of the Sri Lankan President to India in October last year it was agreed that mutually acceptable modalities should be worked out to address these problems and that the two Governments would make a concerted effort in this direction.

4. The two Foreign Secretaries also discussed Indian assistance for setting up an Institute of Technology in Sri Lanka and bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

5. During his stay in New Delhi the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary is expected to call on the External Affairs Minister and the Secretary to the President.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia to the Slovak Republic

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 18, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia to the Slovak Republic:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, visited the Slovak Republic from February 9-11 and held talks with the President of the National Council, Mr. Gasparovic, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Kovac, and Foreign Minister, Mr. Knazko, and Minister of Economy, Mr. Cernak. During these meetings, Shri Bhatia conveyed to the Slovak leadership, India's greetings on becoming an independent state in a peaceful and constitutional manner. The Slovak side underlined their interest in cooperation with India in the fields of culture, education, science and further strengthening of economic ties.

Shri Bhatia also visited the Czech Republic from February 13-16, where he called on President Havel. He expressed India's readiness to enter into any new agreements to promote bilateral cooperation in different fields and offered India's assistance in training Czech personnel in various sectors like banking, insurance, computers, foreign trade and diplomacy. He also discussed matters of mutual interest with the Foreign Minister, Mr. Josef Zieleniec, and Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Dlouhy.

Shri Bhatia briefed both the Presidents on India's relations with its neighbours and presented books to the Comenius University in Slovak Republic and the Charles University in Prague. Shri Bhatia also informed the two Governments of the forthcoming visit of an official delegation from our Ministry of Commerce in early March to work out new trade and payments agreements.

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DIA CZECH REPUBLIC USA

Date : Feb 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Foreign Secretary's Visit to Bangkok

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1993 on the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit visit to Thailand:

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit held talks with Thai Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pracha Qunakanam today in Bangkok. The talks were a part of continuing high level exchange of views between the two Governments. The two Foreign Secretaries reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and agreed to give a new momentum to cooperation in trade, commerce, science, technology, joint ventures, investments and culture. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Indo-Thai Joint Commission will be held this year. The Thai Minister is expected to lead the Thai delegation. The two Foreign Secretaries also exchanged views on the international and regional situation including developments in their immediate neighbour. There was a broad convergence of views and perceptions on the issues covered.

Later, the Foreign Secretary called on the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr. Bocochu Bojanasation and handed over a message from Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao for the Thai Prime Minister, Mr. Crmn Leektai. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the state of bilateral relations between India and Thailand and assured the Foreign Secretary that he would personally follow-up cooperation proposals discussed by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. The Foreign Secretary is also calling on the Privy Councillor, Mr. Sidhi Sarotaila and the Deputy Foreign Minister. Dr. Suria Pitaman. tomorrow. Later tomorrow he will also address Thai and Indian business leaders and meet with media persons.

AILAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1993 on a visit to Bangkok by Minister of State for Industry:

Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi, now on a visit to Bangkok, addressed a well attended meeting of NRI business leaders and others under the auspices of the Indo-Thai Chamber of Commerce on February 7, 1993. Outlining India's new policies of economic reforms and liberalization in the fields of industry, trade, investment, joint ventures and finance, the minister stated the government's intention to pursue the course of economic reforms which are an integral part of the government's policy. The minister outlined the special incentives and attractions being offered to NRI businessmen for investments and joint ventures in India. She called upon NRI business leaders who have done so well in Thailand to participate in India's economic development through their entrepreneurship, investments and experience. The minister expressed satisfaction over the existing level of Indo-Thai trade and commercial relations but added that the potential for growth and diversification needs to be fully explored. Likewise, in investments and joint ventures, even though their number is impressive India is the 14th largest investor in Thailand, she said further efforts need to be made to facilitate and encourage two

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way flow of investments and joint ventures. The minister answered queries on India's economic reforms and allayed any fears that NRIs may have about durability or predictability of India's new policies in this regard. She answered several questions from NRIs and assured them that their concerns are uppermost in the Government's mind and will be looked at constructively, where necessary.

AILAND USA INDIA

Date : Feb 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Indo-Thai Cooperation in the Fields of Commerce, Industry and Investment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1993 on Indo-Thai Cooperation in the fields of Commerce, Industry and Investment:

The Minister of State for Industrial Development, Smt. Krishna Sahi has called for greater cooperation between India and Thailand in the fields of Commerce, Industry and Investment. Addressing a meeting of NRI businessmen at Bangkok, the Minister, who is now on a visit to Thailand, said that India's new policies of economic reforms and liberalisation in these areas were in pursuance of the new industrial policy. She said that it was India's intention to follow the course of new economic reforms as an integral part of the Government policy.

The Minister outlined the special incentives and attractions being offered to NRI businessmen for investments and joint ventures in India. She called upon NRI business leaders who have done so well in Thailand to participate in India's economic development through their entrepreneurship, investments and experience. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the existing level of Indo-Thai trade and commercial relations but added that the potential for growth and diversification be fully explored. Likewise, in investment and joint ventures, even though their number is impressive. India is the 14th largest investor in Thailand and - further efforts need to be made to facilitate and encourage two-way flow of investments and joint ventures, she added.

AILAND USA INDIA

Date : Feb 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid to Thailand

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid to Thailand:

Hon'ble Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Sqn. Ldr. Prasong Soonsiri today (February 22) afternoon. Later, he also met the Thai Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan. Ambassador Mr. A. N. Ram accompanied the Hon'ble Minister of

State Shri Salman Khurshid.

2. Matters of mutual interest were discussed during both meetings. Thai Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister agreed with Hon'ble Minister of State that Indo-Thai links should be further intensified in all domains. Priority would be accorded to the further development of Indo-Thai economic and commercial linkages. Thai Foreign Minister Sqn. Ldr. Prasong Soonsiri indicated that he would like to visit India in the near future to co-chair the 2nd Meeting of the Indo-Thai Joint Commission.

3. Earlier, yesterday evening, Minister of State addressed a gathering of Indo-Thai Joint Ventures Forum and leaders of the Indian community. He asked them to invest in India, and to share the technical

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expertise gained by them abroad, with Indian entrepreneurs. He assured them of the irreversibility of our economic reforms and exhorted them to be active partners in India's economic development and growth.

AILAND INDIA USA

Date : Feb 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Sri Salman Khurshid to Vietnam

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1993 on an official visit to Vietnam by Minister of State for External Affairs:

Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs, paid an official visit to Vietnam from 18 to 21 February 1993. During the visit, the Minister met top leadership of Vietnam, including the Prime Minister in Hanoi. Vietnam has volunteered to give full backing to India's permanent membership of Security Council. During the banquet speeches Vietnam's Foreign Minister Ngyen Manh Cam called for greater democratisation of UN structure.

Addressing a press conference in Ho Chi Minh City, the Minister announced that India and Vietnam will shortly be signing an air

agreement to facilitate direct flights by the national carriers between the two countries and avoidance of double taxation treaty. The Minister Shri Salman Khursheed announced that Ho Chi Minh City and Bangalore will establish a sister-city relationship. The Minister also announced that a highlevel Indian trade delegation consisting of leading industrialists, senior government officials, bank executives and trading organisations will visit Vietnam very soon followed by a high-power delegation from Vietnam to India, to enter into concrete negotiations on crucial areas of development like infra-structure, transportation and tourism. The Minister conveyed thanks to Vietnam for the understanding shown by them of events in Ayodhya, as conveyed to Indian Prime Minister through a letter by his Vietnamese counterpart.

In discussions with the Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee (equal to Chief Minister of the Province), both sides agreed to cooperate in transportation and tourism sectors. In tourism, India agreed to provide son et lumiere at the world famous Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City. It was also agreed that India and Vietnam would cooperate in strengthening public transportation system in Ho Chi Minh City by providing Indian buses. Setting up of export processing zones and joint development of computer software are other areas where both the sides agreed to take immediate action.

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ETNAM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

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MENIA BHUTAN INDIA CHINA SWITZERLAND JAPAN UNITED KINGDOM USA KOREA
MAURITIUS PAKISTAN RUSSIA UZBEKISTAN SUDAN THAILAND

Date : Mar 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

ARMENIA

Indo-Armenia Sign Trade and Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1993 on Indo-Armenia Trade and Economic Cooperation:

In pursuance of Government of India's policy to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation with the countries formerly Republics of the erstwhile USSR, a framework agreement has been concluded with the Government of Armenia. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Armenia was signed here today by Commerce Secretary, Shri A. V. Ganesan, and Mr. A. C. Navasardyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

The Agreement provides for trade in freely convertible currencies, mutual Most Favoured Nation treatment, encouragement to direct contacts at business level, cooperation in a broad range of economic activities, and counter-trade and other forms of internationally recognised business cooperation. Initially, the Agreement is valid for a period of five years, with a provision for automatic extension for further successive periods of one year each.

Prior to the signing of the Agreement, Mr. Navasardyan called on Shri Ganesan. During their meeting, the two sides affirmed their shared desire to rapidly promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and discussed ways and means for that as well as areas of promise.

Mr. Navasardyan is on an official visit to India, from March 10-12, 1993. This is the first high-level visit exchanged between the two countries since Armenia became an independent nation.

FACT SHEET ON ARMENIA

1. Area: 29,800 sq. kms. (0.1% of the total area of former USSR).

2. Capital: Yerevan

3. Population : 33,76,000 (1991 figures)

4. Ethnic Groups: Armenians 93%, Azeris 3%, Kurds 2% and Russians 2%.

5. Language groups: 89.5% Armenian, 5.2% Azerbaijani and 3.1% Russian.

6. G.N.P. per capita (1992) : US \$ 2,955.

7. Natural Resources: Major deposits of rare metals such as copper zinc, aluminium (bauxite), molybdenum, precious metals, marble, pumice and volcanic basalt.

8. Industry: The main industries are mechanical engineering (machine tools, foundry equipment), mining, chemicals (rubber, synthetic and plastic materials, fertilisers), building materials, light manufacturing (textiles, carpet weaving, footwear) and food processing (beverages, wines etc.).

9. Agriculture: The main crops are grain, vegetables, potatoes, sugar, beet and fruit (grapes).

10. Political: On August 23, 1990, Armenia declared its Independence. The Armenian Pan-National Movement (APNM) came to power in -69>

Armenia in August, 1990. There are 8 opposition parties in Parliament. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation is the strongest opposition faction in this Parliament.

11. Political leaders: President: Levon Ter-Petrosyan Prime Minister: Grant Bagratian Acting Foreign Minister: Arman Kirokosyan Deputy Foreign Minister: A. Navasardyan

12. Foreign policy: The main principle underlying Armenia's foreign policy is normal relations with all its neighbours especially Turkey and Iran. The search for a solution to Nagorno Karabakh problem has been a dominant pre-occupation.

MENIA INDIA USA RUSSIA AZERBAIJAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IRAN TURKEY

Date : Mar 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

Signing an Agreement between India and Bhutan on Hydro Power Consultancy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 16, 1993 on signing of an agreement between India and Bhutan on Hydro Pover Consultancy:

Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. (WAPCOS) has been selected for rendering consultancy services to Bunakha Hydro Electric Project in Western Bhutan. WAPCOS has been assigned the task of conducting surveys, investigations and preparation of detailed report, within 18 months. The contract agreement was signed between the Ministry of External Affairs represented by Shri Shivshankar Menon, Joint Secretary and Shri Rajappa Managing Director of WAPCOS at a brief ceremony held on March 4, 1993.

The Banukha Hydro Electric Project is located upstream of the existing Chukha Stage I. It involves a 140 m high dam with an installed capacity of 20MW. The project would also result in additional power generation from the existing Chukha stage I.

WAPCOS was earlier the main consultant for the Chukha Hydro Electric Project (Stage I) in Bhutan which was successfully completed in 1988 with an installed capacity of 336 MW. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 246 crores and is an outstanding example of cooperation between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India, to the mutual benefit of both countries.

WAPCOS are also engaged in the field of investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Reports for the Tala (Chukha Stage II) and the Wangchu (Chukha (State III) Hydro Electric Projects. These projects are estimated to have a total installed capacity of 1900 MW. The project reports are proceeding as per schedule and will be submitted by December 1993.

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UTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

Joint Indo-British Initiative on Global Environmental Issues

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1993 on Joint Indo-British Initiative on Global Environmental issues:

India and UK have agreed to take a joint initiative to make the UN Commission on Sustainable Development more effective for the implementation of Agenda 21. Both the countries agreed that the priorities at the global level should be decided to give proper thrust to the decisions taken at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in June last year.

The visiting UK Secretary of State for Environment, Shri Michael Howard and the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath held wide ranging discussions on global and bilateral environmental issues, here today. The officials of the two countries are likely to meet shortly to finalise the details of the joint initiatives.

Shri Kamal Nath suggested that the Drinking Water provision should be given top priority as it is the most important need in the developing countries. He suggested the holding of a Commonwealth Conference on Environment to give a proper focus to the subject in Commonwealth countries.

Shri Kamal Nath asked if UK could assist India establish research facility and laboratory in New Delhi, alongwith a Botanical Garden on the lines of Kew Gardens, London. Shri Howard agreed to consider the suggestion.

The Action Plan to clean the Gomti River on the lines of Ganga Action Plan at a cost of 30 million pounds was posed for British assistance. A presentation on the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan was made at the meeting.

Shri Kamal Nath expressed concern at the failure of some developed countries for not honouring their apportioned commitment to the Montreal Protocol Fund. Shri Howard shared the concern and said that UK will use its influence with the developed countries to fulfil their obligations.

Earlier in the morning, Shri Howard Planted a sapling at the Rajiv Gandhi Samirit Van in the memory of the late Prime Minister. He said, this was the most imaginative memorial he has been and said that similar memorial forests will be considered in landfill areas in UK.

Addressing the luncheon meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian industries, in the honour of the British Minister, Shri Kamal Nath said that the Environmental Audit is being made a part of the Companies Act. The Cabinet has approved their proposal, he

said.
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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Mar 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Mr.liu Shuqing, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs delivers a speech at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1993 on the speech given by Mr. Liu Shuqing, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs at a seminar at the Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on 1st March, 1993:

Respected Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

I have visited your great land many times. I feel very delighted to be able to come on this visit at the kind invitation of the Government of India. Permit me to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm hospitality of our host, and to convey, on behalf of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, warm greetings and very best wishes to all the friends present as well as those friends of ours who are not here today.

We have come this time for two purposes: one, meet old friends and make new ones; two, see for ourselves the changes that have taken place in your country in recent years and learn from your experiences. In one word, we have come to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

China and India are neighbouring countries linked together by mountains and rivers. The traditional friendship between our peoples has existed from time immemorial. We are two ancient civilizations with similar historical experiences, and the two largest developing countries in the world today. The two thousand million people of China and India have a common historical mission, namely, to rapidly develop our countries and turn them into modernized ones that are prosperous, strong, democratic and civilized. Our bilateral relationship has been greatly improved and developed, with good exchanges and cooperation going on in

every field and at every level. We ought to have more mutual contact and mutual understanding and more chances of exchanging experiences and exploring possibilities of cooperation. In this way, it will not only benefit our two peoples, but also conduce to peace and development of this region.

My colleagues and I have just come from China, and friends present are perhaps interested in the changes taking place there. Now, I am willing to brief you on the situation in China. But a true understanding of China would require an on-the-spot inspection tour of my country. As a time-honoured saying goes, "To see a thing once is better than hearing about it a hundred times".

Over the past dozen years, the changes that have taken place in China are indeed dramatic. In many parts of the country, the way people dress has changed, and the cities and the rural areas have taken on a new look. As early as in the late 1970s proceeding from the concrete realities in China, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China proposed to shift the focus of our work to economic construction and later formulated the policy of concentrating on economic construction, with adherence to reform and opening up and adherence to the Four Cardinal Principles (namely, adherence to the socialist road, to the people's democratic dictatorship or the dictatorship of the proletariat, to the leadership of the Communist Party and to Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought) as the two basic points of the party line. Whatever domestic disturbances have arisen, and however changeable the international situation has been, the Chinese people have persisted in forging

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ahead courageously along that basic line, and their achievements have attracted worldwide attention.

Comrade Deng Xiaoping, architect of China's reform and opening-up policies, has laid down the strategic goal of "three-stage development" for our people. The first stage target is to basically solve the problem of feeding and clothing the people, and the goal was attained in the 1980s. World opinion regards it as a remarkable achievement to have eleven hundred million people basically well-fed and-clothed. The second-stage goal is to achieve a relatively comfortable standard of living, and that is the goal our people are trying to attain in the 1990s or by the end of the century. The goal for the third stage is to make China one of the medium-level developed countries in another thirty or fifty years' time next century. What the people of all the nationalities of China are thinking about and doing at present is how to seize the favourable moment to accelerate reform and opening up and concentrate efforts on advancing economic construction and to realize our great goal step by step and live a better life.

To develop the economy, we must adopt the policy of reform and opening up. China has her own situation, and we must embark on our own road and build socialism with Chinese characteristics. But we must also learn from the strong points and good things of other countries and draw on their experiences. While we mainly rely on ourselves, we also emphasize international mutual assistance and cooperation. China's reforms started in the countryside. Of their own accord, the farmers in certain areas began to adopt a new kind of management, characterized by the household contract responsibility system, with remuneration linked to output. After four to five years' experiment in and nationwide popularization of the new management methods, the results proved to be good and provided great impetus to the initiative of the farmers. Agricultural production was developed and the livelihood of the farmers improved by a big margin. The experiences of rural reforms were later applied to urban areas. As a result, the national economy reached a new level in the period between 1984 and 1988. Urban reforms, however, turned out to be far more complicated than rural reforms. In autumn 1988, price rises were apparently sharp, and a good many construction projects were redundant. Beginning from the second half of 1989, outside sanctions and pressure have been imposed on China. We spent roughly three years improving the economic environment and rectifying the economic order, deepening the reform in an all-round way and creating conditions for new development. In spring last year, during an inspection tour of South China, Comrade Deng Xiaoping gave several important talks. And in the latter half of last year, the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of China was convened, signifying the entry into a new stage of development of the reform and opening up and modernization drive of our country.

The year 1992 saw the whole country seething with activity and the people full of enthusiasm. The situation was very good. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 12.8 % more than that of the previous year, and agriculture and industry grew by 3.7 % and 20.8 % respectively. The total volume of foreign trade, counting both import and export, exceeded US \$ 160 thousand million. Foreign investment in China increased several times. The Chinese market was brisk, and the people's living standards were further improved. In this new year, the Chinese people will continue to advance and make new efforts to establish the socialist market economy and open up to the outside world on an even greater scale.

Many friends in the audience probably know that when dramatic changes were taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, some "prophets" in the world came to the conclusion that China would collapse, too. But the reality turns out to be just the reverse. China is developing, and the Chinese people are marching triumphantly. China has a correct

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theoretical guidance and basic line, and a core of leadership

supported by the whole people. China's reform and opening-up policies are sound. The country is stable, the economy is developing, and the people's livelihood is being constantly improved. Under these circumstances, it is hardly avoidable that the "prophesies" of these "prophets" have come to naught.

Not long ago, there was some international opinion of the opposite kind circulating that, at her current growth rate, China would become the largest economy of the world by the beginning of the next century. On this point, we are soberminded. China won't be so capable as to achieve that. Despite her high economic growth rate of recent years, China, with a huge population and a weak economic base, will remain a developing country for a fairly long period of time to come. There are a host of hardships and twists and turns on our road of development. According to our schedule, only by working very hard for several decades to come will it be possible for China to catch up with the economic standards of the current mediumlevel developed countries in the middle of the next century. Even by then, China will still remain in the ranks of the Third World.

Of late, there has emerged another absurd argument, to the effect that a strong China will pose a threat to other countries. This is utterly groundless rumour, resulting either from a lack of understanding of China or from attempts to foment discord between China and other nations. May I ask: which country on this planet doesn't wish to improve its economic performance and raise the standards of living of its people? Without domestic stability and unit, and in the absence of a peaceful international environment, construction and development will be simply out of the question, and nothing whatsoever can be achieved. The Chinese people understand this truth only too well. Therefore, we always adhere to an independent foreign policy of peace and develop friendly relations with all the countries of the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (i.e. mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. We attach particular importance to developing friendly, good neighbourly, mutually beneficial and cooperative relations with surrounding countries. We will try our best to create the optimum international environment for our national economic construction and make our due contribution to world peace and development. Therefore, posing a threat to other countries is neither in keeping with Chinese traditions nor a policy of China, nor in the interests of China. As early as in the 1970s, a Chinese leader declared at the solemn platform of the United Nations General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony or expansion and never threaten others, and that we would call on the people of the world, together with the Chinese people, to oppose the Chinese government in case it practiced hegemonism some day. Of course, on questions involving our national interests and state sovereignty, the Chinese people will never yield to any outside

pressure, nor will they brook any interference by foreign countries in the internal affairs of China.

Lastly, I would like to give you an outline of China's foreign policy. As has already been mentioned above, China, being an important force safeguarding world peace, will consistently pursue an independent foreign policy of peace. The basic objectives of that policy are to safeguard our independence and sovereignty and promote world peace and development and to work hard to create a favourable international environment for China's reform, opening up and modernization. We persist in independence and oppose outside interference. Vis-a-vis all international problems, we proceed from the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and the people of the world and independently come to conclusions and decide on our own policy and position in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and established

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principles of international law, and also on the merits of the case. China will not enter into alliance with any country or group of countries and will not join any military bloc. In handling state-to-state relations we adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and do not draw a line in terms of social system or ideology. We hold the view that all nations should respect each other, seek common ground while putting aside differences, treat each others as equals, and live together in amity. We believe that the differences and dispute between nations should be resolved peacefully through negotiation, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and that force or the threat of force should not be used. We will continue to strengthen our solidarity and cooperation with other third world countries, and goodneighborly relations with surrounding countries in particular. China actively participates in the work of the United Nations and in developing international cooperation. We oppose hegmonism and power politics and safeguard world peace. We actively propose the establishment of a peaceful, stable, just and rational new international order on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. China opens to the outside world in an omnidirectional way, and works hard to carry on her economic, scientific and technological cooperation with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and to promote exchange in other fields. That sums up the basic content of the foreign policy of our country.

Friends, China will adhere, in the long run, to the independent foreign policy of peace and the policy of reform and opening up to the world and the basic line of concentrating on economic developmnt. The friendship and cooperation between the Chinese and Indian people will also develop for a long time to come. We hope that China and India, as two great nations, and China and all the friendly nations of South Asia, will further enhance unity and cooperation and make our respective contribution to

peace in Asia and in the world as a whole.

Thank you very much!

INA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

GENEVA

Statement on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom the World Over

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1993 on the Statement by the leader of the Indian Delegation on the situation of Human Rights and fundamental freedom the World over:

Leadar of the Indian Delegation to the Forty-ninth Session of Human Rights in Geneva, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy, in a statement on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms the world over, emphasized that this debate should not be an occasion for levelling accusations or making strident attacks or spirited defence but was an occasion for sober interaction, reflection and analysis if the purpose of this body was to genuinely enlarge the enjoyment of human rights by all. He noted that governments, particularly democratic governments based on the will of the people, were immediately accountable to the people in the exercise of their human rights and were also held accountable for any abridgement of their rights. Drawing the attention of the Commission to the

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vibrant and pluralistic democracy in India at all levels, Shri Reddy underscored our national endeavour to strive without let for strengthening the functioning of our democratic institutions. In this connection, he informed the Commission of the decision taken recently by the Government to set up an independent Suman Rights Commission as an earnest of its commitment to strive ceaselessly for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens.

2. While the function of international organisations such as the Commission on Human Rights was to monitor the implementation by States of international obligations freely contracted, he emphasized that it was not any part of the functioning of a body

such as this to use threat or sanction. Reminding the members of the Commission that our respective democratic regimes for human rights evolved with our societies and were not imposed from outside, a move towards universal norms of human rights had to be a process of evolution and it was the task of the Commission to help that process by extending understanding and encouragement. Reiterating India's consistent position that the issue of human rights was both indivisible and of universal concern, Shri Reddy highlighted the importance of the right to development and said that even as democracy provided the best political setting for the realization of human rights, so did development provide the best economic setting for the realization of these rights.

3. Equally the Commission had to be ever vigilant in responding to new obstacles and threats to the enjoyment of human Rights. Shri Reddy said that the Commission could no longer afford to ignore that terrorism was emerging as the single most dangerous threat to human rights and even less to minimise it by concentrating its attention on governments alone who were fighting terrorism to preserve human rights of millions of their citizens. We could have a situation in which human rights are seen to be the preserve of the practitioners of terrorists while those dealing with the menace in extremely difficult circumstances were being falsely condemned for violations of human rights. In this connection he strongly rejected that baseless allegations made by a so called Pakistani NGO and described it as a campaign of calumny, concoction and disinformation. Leader of the Indian Delegation pointed out to the Commission on Human Rights that really effective safeguards against human rights violations could only be devised on the fundamental basis of the respect for the rule of law and the dignity of the human being, neither of which was respected by terrorists. Many members of the Commission had deplored terrorism, particularly terrorism aided, abetted and sponsored from abroad and the Commission, he urged, should reinforce this message.

4. Speaking on a few human rights situation in some parts of the world, Shri Reddy said that India was concerned at the continuing obnoxious practice of apartheid in South Africa and said that it was essential for international vigilance and international pressure to continue till such time as all the people of South Africa were able to live together as equal citizens. Expressing concern at the setback to the Middle East peace process with the deportation of 411 Palestinians, he said that India was strongly committed to the provisions of the Security Council Resolution 799 which demands the safe and immediate return of the Palestinian deportees. He also affirmed India's solidarity with the people of Cyprus. Deploring the institutionalisation of racial discrimination in Fiji he said that the international community had an obligation to consider how this anachronistic trend could be reversed. Expressing India's concern at the wholesale and flagrant violation of human rights in the territories of the

former. Yugoslavia, Shri Reddy said that it was our hope that all concerned will do their utmost to promote the restoration of peace and security in the area at the earliest.

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ITZERLAND INDIA USA PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA CYPRUS FIJI YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Mar 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japanese Trade Minister Calls on Commerce Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1993 on Japanese Trade Minister, Mr. Noboru Hatakeyma meeting with Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee:

Mr. Noboru Hatakeyma, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Government of Japan, who is on an official visit to India during March 11-13, 1993, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee here today. They discussed bilateral trade and economic matters. Shri Mukherjee apprised the Japanese Minister of the various policy initiatives taken by the Government of India to liberalise trade and industrial regimes and the new opportunities that had arisen in the wake of liberalisation, specially with reference to scope for greater Japanese investment in India and joint ventures. During his visit, Mr. Hatakeyma will also have meetings with Finance Minister, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Foreign Secretary etc. and have discussions on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. Earlier today, Mr. Hatakeyma also had a meeting with Shri A. V. Ganesan, Commerce Secretary.

This is the first ever visit of a Vice-Minister from Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Government of Japan to India. Hitherto these discussions were handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan. As such the visit is significant and indicative of the increasing Japanese interest in the Indian economy. The visit is expected to give a fillip to bilateral economic cooperation, trade and Japanese investment in India.

PAN UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Mar 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

KAZHAKISTAN

Visit of delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry to Kazakhstan

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1993 on the visit of delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry to Kazakhstan:

A 13-member delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry is currently visiting Alma Ata to explore feasibility of diversifying economic cooperation through trade, joint ventures, co-production, counter trade and other mechanisms. Delegation includes Thermax, Tata Exports, TISCO, Business Universal, Ashok Leyland, Bharat Fritz Werner, Godrej and Boyce, DCM, Toyota, IMTM, Vipro, etc. At the plenary session held at Alma Ata on March 10, over 180 representatives from Kazakh Economic Ministries and private and public sector enterprises, including the Kramds Industrial Group, participated. Participants included the acting Minister for Energy, First Deputy Minister for Economy, Deputy Ministers of Foreign Trade and Foreign Affairs and Industry. Plenary was officially opened by the Indian Ambassador, Kamallesh Sharma, who also hosted

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a luncheon in honour of the delegation for 200 distinguished guests.

2. The delegation has had meetings with Deputy Prime minister, Abilsyitov - Co-Chairman of the Indo-Kazakh joint commission, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Industry, Vice Chairman of State Committee on Economy, and would be meeting also the Foreign Trade Minister and other officials. The delegation is proceeding to Karaganda where a similar plenary is being held and luncheon hosted by the Ambassador on March 12, 1993. Thereafter, the delegation would visit Kyrgyzstan -capital Bishkek and Cholpan Ata Lake Issyk Kul.

DIA USA MALDIVES KYRGYZSTAN

Date : Mar 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

KOREA

Visit of DPRK Delegation to India

The following is the text of press statement issued in New Delhi on the visit of DPRK Delegation on Mar 26, 1993:

The DPRK Vice-President, H.E. Mr. Li Jong Ok visited India as special envoy of the DPRK President from March 25 to 27, 1993. The delegation included H.E. Mr. Cho Gyu L, Vice, Foreign Minister of DPRK, and other officials of the DPRK Foreign Office. The request from the DPRK for the visit of the special envoy pre-dated by several weeks the current deterioration of the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

2. The DPRK Vice President met Prime Minister on 26.3.93 and conveyed his message as special envoy of the DPRK President. The message reiterated the invitation from the DPRK President to Prime Minister to visit DPRK and expressed, DPRK interest in an early visit. The DPRK Vice President and Prime Minister also had an exchange of views on bilateral relations and the international situation, with particular reference to the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula.

3. The DPRK Vice President also had a meeting on 26.3.93 with the Vice President, who hosted a private dinner in his honour. He also paid a courtesy call on the President, who had paid an official visit to the DPRK in 1992 as Vice President.

4. During the discussions, both sides expressed satisfaction at the spirit of friendship and cooperation which characterised bilateral relations between the two countries. The DPRK side explained its position on the current situation in the Korean Peninsula and the circumstances leading to its withdrawal from the NPT. The Indian side noted that this was a sovereign decision of the DPRK. However, it was hoped that the current difficulties and the temporary setback to the inter-Korean dialogue would be got over soon as reunification of Korea would a very important positive factor for world peace and particularly for peace and stability in the Asian region.

5. On the NPT itself, the Indian side noted that the 1995 review of the NPT would provide an opportunity for the amendments necessary to give the NPT an universal and non-discriminatory character like the Chemical Weapons Convention which was essential for achieving progress towards genuine non-

proliferation.
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REA INDIA USA

Date : Mar 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDOVA

Visit of President of the Republic of Moldova to India

The following is the text of press release issued New Delhi on Mar 17, 1993 on the visit of H.E. Mr. Mircea Ion Snegur, President of the Republic of Moldova:

In the course of the first day of his programme, H.E. Mr. Mircea Ion Snegur, President of the Republic of Moldova, called on the President today. our Vice President, Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs called on him. The call by the Prime Minister was followed by official level talks and then a one-on-one meeting with the Prime Minister.

During the call on the President of India, our President extended a cordial welcome to him as the first President of Moldova visiting India. Referring to the links that existed in the past, our President mentioned that India wanted to strengthen its bilateral ties with Moldova. Mr. Snegur dwelt on the situation inside his own country, especially the problem of separatism that they were facing. He hoped, however, that it should be possible to tackle this problem through consultations within the CSCE (the Conference on Security and Co operation in Europe) and the UN.

During the call by our Vice President, he invited the President of Moldova to give his views about the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Mr. Snegur gave his assessment of the Moldovan situation vis-a-vis the CIS pointing out that Moldova was an associate member as it had not signed the charter. Moldova wanted to concentrate on economic aspects and does not want the CIS to become a military political institution. Mr. Snegur also mentioned that he thought that the Central Asian situation, overall, would soon stabilise. He had just visited Turkmenistan and was able to see the situation for himself. Moldova also stood at the cross-roads of Europe and wanted strong relations with Europe. But their concentration in the near future would be on economic links with the CIS.

In the call by the Prime Minister, Prime Minister announced a gift of Rs. 5 million worth of humanitarian assistance to Moldova, mostly medicine. He welcomed the President to India and stated that the agreements that would be signed in the course of the visit would provide a strong basis for the future bilateral relations to strengthen. There was a free market approach in both countries which provided a useful potential for trade as well as for the exchange of information and promotion of people-to-people contacts, quite apart from contacts at the government-to-government level.

The Prime Minister also offered to facilitate the exchange of experts and also scholarships for the provision of training facilities in India.

The Moldovan President mentioned that they were moving to a market economy and away from the centralization of the days of the Soviet Union. They wanted to develop economic and commercial links with the West and with Asia but could not ignore the existing economic ties with the CIS countries. He touched upon the problems created by the existence of different ethnic groups, but mentioned that unlike Nagorno-Karabakh and Bosnia, these would be solved in the near future. While thanking the Prime Minister for the humanitarian assistance, he added that he saw strong possibility for cooperation in the areas of science and technology, agriculture and electronic industries. Earlier, Moldova concentrated on making only unfinished products in the days of the Soviet Union but would now like to turn towards value-added and processed goods. He also expressed his appreciation for the Prime Minister's offer of experts and on scholar

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ships, and emphasised the importance of cultural contacts also.

In their one-to-one meeting, Mr. Snegur conveyed his assessment of Moldova's relations with neighbouring countries. Both Moldova and India were multi-ethnic societies and, therefore, had a lot in common and could exchange experiences in this field. The Prime Minister gave an account of our policies in the region, especially vis-à-vis our neighbours, which were aimed at strengthening peace and cooperation. He stressed that India wishes to pursue the dialogue which had commenced at the highest level in the course of this visit. He also hoped that India and Moldova could cooperate in international forums to mutual benefit.

Finally, the Moldovan President invited the Prime Minister to visit Moldova, an invitation which the Prime Minister accepted with pleasure.

Agreements on the following subjects will be signed in the course

of the visit: Declaration of Principles and Directions of Cooperation, Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations, Technical and Economic Co-operation, Culture, Science and Technology and Trade.

DIA TURKMENISTAN USA

Date : Mar 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDOVA

Signing of Six Agreements between India and Maldova

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1993 on signing of six agreements between India and Maldova:

Six agreements were signed between India and Maldova today on the last day of the President Mircea Ion Snegur's official visit to India.

The Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Maldova, was signed on our side by our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and on the Maldovan side by President Snegur. The Agreement regarding Cooperation in Education, Science, Culture, Arts, Mass Media, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs was signed on our side by our Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, and their Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. M. Coscoadan. It provides for developing and strengthening bilateral relations in these fields. The Protocol between Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldova was signed by our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, and Maldovan Foreign Minister, Mr. Nicolae Tiu. It states that the Foreign Ministers of the two countries should meet at least once in two years.

Our Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and their Foreign Minister, Mr. Nicolae Tiu, signed the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which provides for strengthening trade and economic relations on principles of equality and mutual benefit. The Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed on our side by Secretary (West), Shri K. Srinivasan, and their First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. Anatol Arapu. Lastly, the Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed on our side by Secretary, Department of Science and

Technology, Dr. P. Rama Rao, and President of Moldovan Academy of Sciences, Mr. Andrei Andries, provides for promoting close cooperation in scientific achievements and new technologies.
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DIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Agreement for Purchase of a Patrol Ship between India and Mauritius

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 16, 1993 on the Agreement for purchase of a Patrol ship between India and Mauritius:

The Agreement for purchase of a patrol ship for the National Coast Guard has just been concluded between the Government of India and Mauritius.

This ship will be an effective replacement for the Coast Guard ship - Amar, which has rendered 19 years of excellent service to Mauritius. In new patrol ship of the SDB (Seaward Defence Boat) Class is being purchased for US Dollar 3.5 million. As per the agreement, the NCG crew will proceed to India shortly for training and acceptance of the vessel. The vessel under the charge of the NCG crew will subsequently sail under the escort of an Indian Naval Ship from Goa to arrive at Port Louis by the middle of April 1993. The new vessel measuring 37.8 metres in length, 7.5 metres in width is propelled by two main engines capable of attaining a maximum speed of 30 knots. Modern navigational aids are fitted to provide for effective surveillance of the seas around Mauritius.

The agreement was signed on March 15, 1993 on behalf of the Government of India by Shyam Saran, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius and by Mr. Jacques Le Chartier, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Mar 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Inauguration of the renaming Ceremony of Riche Mare Primary Government School to Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government School.

The following is the text of press release issued New Delhi on Mar 17, 1993 on inauguration of the renaming ceremony of Riche Mare Primary Government School to Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government School:

Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth inaugurated the renaming ceremony of Riche Mare Primary Government School (Primary School in Mauritius is up to standard VI) to Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government School. He unveiled a marble plaque in the school premises renaming the School. The school is situated in an area of Mauritius which is predominantly populated by Indo-Mauritians. Besides High Commissioner, Shri Shyam Saran, the Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Armoogum Parsuraman, and Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Anil Bachoo, were present on the occasion.

The Mauritian dignitaries paid rich tribute to the memory of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. They recalled the visit of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Mauritius, his close association with Mauritius and his contribution to the world peace. They also spoke of the close and privileged relations existing between India and Mauritius. The High Com. missioner presented a set of books and a large portrait of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the school. He promised all assistance to the school. The programme was preceded by a cultural show.

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URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Mar 17, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of America to India

The following is Official Spokesman's Statement issued on Mar 11, 1993 on the visit of Mr. A. G. Navasardyan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia to India, from March 10-12,1993:

The visit of Mr. A. G. Navasardyan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia is the first direct contact between independent Armenia and independent India.

India has had long acquaintance with the Armenian people through trading and cultural links since Moghul times. One of Emperor Akbar's queeris was an Armenian lady, and though small the Armenians are an influential community in India to this day.

During the visit Mr. Navasardyan signed a Trade and Economic Agreement with the Commerce Secretary and a Foreign Office Consultation Protocol with Foreign Secretary, both today. He met the Secretary, Science and Technology, Defence Secretary and DG, ICCR and called on the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

Detailed discussions were held in MEA with Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West). These discussions covered bilateral relations, the situation in Trans Caucasus with special reference to Nogorno Karabakh, as also the situation in South Asia, with specific reference to Pakistan's support for transborder militancy and terrorism in Kashmir.

Mr. Navasardyan expressed Armenia's willingness to enter into scientific, technical and defence cooperation with India, and several Agreements were discussed for later signature at an appropriate time and level.

DIA ARMENIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Mar 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Canadian Constitutional Affairs

The following is the text of statement issued by Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Mar 16, 1993 on the visit of Mr. Charles Joseph Clarke, the Canadian Minister for Constitutional Affairs:

Mr. Charles Joseph Clarke, the Canadian Minister for Constitutional Affairs, called on External Affairs Minister at 1630 hours today. The meeting lasted 1 1/2 hours. During the course of the meeting, they surveyed the entire range of Indo-Canadian bilateral relations. The discussions focussed, in particular, on the economic reforms undertaken by India and the participation of Canadian enterprises in the process. Both Minister Clarke and External Affairs Minister reaffirmed the need to strengthen economic cooperation between India and Canada so that the excellent political relations could be carried further.

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A INDIA CANADA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call on Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid by Special Envoy of the Canadian Foreign Minister

The following is official Spokesman's statement issued on Mar 23, 1993 on the call by Special Envoy of the Canadian Foreign Minister on Minister of State, Mr. Salman Khursheed:

Mr. Marc Perron, Special Envoy of the Canadian Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Mrs. Barbara McDougall met our Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed this morning. The Canadian Special Envoy has just been on a special visit to South Africa and the frontline States. He briefed Mr. Khursheed in detail on his visits to these countries. Mr. Khursheed himself has visited South West Africa earlier when he was Minister of Commerce. The Special Envoy had a detailed exchange of views on the evolving situation in South Africa in particular.

They also discussed the Commonwealth Sanctions Regime against South Africa in the context of the developments in that country. The Special Envoy handed over a letter addressed to our External Affairs Minister by the Canadian Foreign Minister.

UTH AFRICA USA

Date : Mar 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reported Move by Pakistan to Table a Resolution on Human Rights Situation in J & K at Human Rights Commission, Geneva

The following is official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1993 on reported move by Pakistan to table a resolution on human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir at the current session of the Commission for Human Rights, Geneva:

We have received reports that Pakistan is trying to interfere in Jammu & Kashmir by raking up alleged human rights issues in the Commission for Human Rights, which is currently in session in Geneva. They are attempting to introduce a resolution which, apart from recalling previous resolutions of the UN Security Council, recommends a fact-finding Mission to visit Jammu & Kashmir to investigate and report on the human rights situation there. It also attempts to place the situation in Jammu & Kashmir on the agenda of the Commission at its next session.

India has taken a firm stand and informed all member countries of the Commission that this is totally unacceptable to us and we are opposing introduction of the resolution. We are also pointing out Pakistan's own track record in aiding and abetting violence and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab. In the event of the remote possibility that such a resolution is tabled and voted in favour, India would not accept it. Pakistan's action in trying to introduce such a resolution will now serve to distance the prospects of a fruitful bilateral dialogue between our countries.

KISTAN SWITZERLAND USA INDIA

Date : Mar 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Response to a Query on Pakistan's Secretary General Statement

The following is Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1993 in response to a query, on Pakistan's Secretary General, Mr. Akram Zaki's statement on March 30, 1993:

In response to a query, the Official Spokesman stated that Government has seen the statement made by the Pakistan's Secretary General for Foreign Affairs yesterday. He has chosen to obfuscate the real issues. We regret the fact that he has referred in adverse terms to our leaders. Very specific information regarding certain members of the Memon family who travelled to Karachi has been communicated to
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the Government of Pakistan with a request for cooperation in apprehending and returning the suspects. We continue to seek Pakistan's cooperation and have noted that in Paragraph 20 of his speech the Secretary General has referred to his Government's readiness to persist in sincere efforts to cooperate in discovering the truth. We trust they will do so.

KISTAN USA

Date : Mar 31, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Response to a Query on the recent Development in Russia

The following is Official Spokesman's statement issued on Mar 22, 1993 on the recent developments in Russia:

Responding to a query on the recent developments in Russia, the Official Spokes man stated that the friendship and co operation between India and Russia are traditional and abiding and we support everything that leads to democracy and stability in Russia.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Mar 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Bill 1992

The following is text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Mar 30, 1993 on SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Bill 1992:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs today introduced the Bill to give effect to SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism in the Lok Sabha. The House passed the Bill. Earlier, on 26 November, 1992, the Bill had been passed by the Rajya Sabha. The process of enacting Implementing Legislation to give effect to our obligations under the Convention, is now complete.

This leaves only Pakistan and Bangladesh as two of the 7 member States of SAARC who, having ratified the Convention in 1988, have still to adopt an Enabling Legislation to give effect to their obligations.

DIA USA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN

Date : Mar 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Talks of Mr. Mark Elliott, Dy. Under Secretary of State of United Kingdom with Senior Officials of Indian Foreign Ministry

The following is Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Mar 05, 1993 on talks of Mr. Mark Elliott, Dy. Under Secretary of State (UK) with senior officials of the Indian Foreign Office today:

Mark Elliott, Dy. Under Secretary of State (UK) held talks with

senior officials of the Indian foreign office today. This is part of the ongoing process of bilateral consultations between the two foreign offices. The discussions commenced with a meeting with Secretary (West) Shri K. Srinivasan. Discussions covered the West Asian situation with special reference to the middle-east peace process. They also discussed threats to stability in the gulf, religious extremism and its impact in different countries and the prospects for peace in Somalia.

The next meeting was with Secretary (East), Shri Salman Haider. The main topic of discussions was the developments in South Africa.

He also called on Foreign Secretary, who gave him a comprehensive briefing on our perception of the issue of human rights especially in the context of state sponsorship of terrorist activities by countries like Pakistan.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA MALI SOMALIA PAKISTAN

Date : Mar 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Travel Advisory to American Citizen against Travelling to India

The following is statement issued in New Delhi by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Mar 16, 1993:

In response to a query on reports that the US State Department had advised its citizens against travelling to India, the Official Spokesman stated, that the Government to India was aware of the statement of the US Government. Their statement was based on information obtained by the relevant U.S. agencies, which related to the possibility of further terrorist acts of violence in India, especially in and around metropolitan centres. This information was conveyed to the Government of India by the U.S. Government.

DIA USA

Date : Mar 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of a Delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry to Uzbekistan

The following is statement issued in New Delhi by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Mar 22, 1993:

A 13 member delegation from the Confederation of Indian industry led by Mr. Rohinton Aga, Chairman of Thermax Limited, visited Uzbekistan from 16-20 March. The delegation including representatives from Tata Exports, TISCO, Godrej, IMTMA, DCM Toyota, Ashok Leyland, Business Universal Incorporated, Thermax, Bharat Fritzwemer and Wipro Infotech Limited.

2. The delegation members had useful meetings with the Uzbek Foreign Minister, First Dy. Minister for Foreign Trade, Ministers for Food Processing and Automobile Industry, Chairman of the National Bank, Union of Private Entrepreneurs and of the State Customs Committee besides the Chiefs of the State Agencies responsible for purchasing selling consumer goods, raw materials, machinery and food products. The members also met the State transporting and forwarding agencies.

3. The delegation members discussed areas such as manufacture of steel furniture, computerisation of the National Bank, establishment of car garages and service centres, supply of trucks, modernisation of textile machinery, transfer of technology for extraction of oil from cotton-seed, joint venture in leather industry, supply of injection moulding machines for plastic products, conversion units for usage of CNG in diesel-powered trucks and technology for kaolin mining.

4. A contract worth one million US dollars was signed by Therinax for supply of water treatment plants in barter for grey cotton cloth from Uzbekistan. DCM, Toyota is to depute a delegation to Tashkent to finalise a deal to supply 2000 trucks to the Uzbek Ministry of Automobile industry. Besides, it is keen to set up a leasing company in collaboration with the IFC (Washington) at Tashkent.

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DIA USA UZBEKISTAN RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

SUDAN

Indo-Sudanese Trade and Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1993 on Indo-Sudanese Trade and Economic Cooperation:

A high-level delegation from Sudan, led by Dr. Ibrahim Obeidallah, Minister of Trade, Cooperation and Supply, Republic of Sudan, called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Commerce and Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce here today. The Sudanese Minister pointed out that there were increased opportunities for trade and economic cooperation between India and Sudan due to the recent liberalisation of the Sudanese economy. He mentioned in particular the scope for closer cooperation in Agriculture, railways and infrastructural facilities. Shri Mukherjee conveyed India's desire to promote expansion of trade and economic ties with Sudan. The Sudanese delegation also raised the issue of concessions under the Generalised System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) agreement for Sudanese exports. They were assured by Shri Mukherjee and Shri Ahmed that Sudan would be eligible for the same once the procedural formalities in this regard were completed.

Scope for investment by Indian companies in Sudan in agriculture, leather and small & cottage industries sectors was also discussed.

Indo-Sudanese trade amounted to Rs. 39.12 crores during 1991-92 out of which exports from India were valued at Rs. 38.87 crores.

The Sudanese delegation included Mr. Bashir Al-Gaili, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Sudan; Mr. Omer Al-Mubarak Abu Zeid, Director-General of Gum Arabic Company and Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Omer, Chairman, Board of Directors of Gum Arabic Company, Sudan.

DAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM MALI USA

Date : Mar 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

SUDAN

Indo Sudanese Cooperation in Small Scale Sector

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 12, 1993 on Indo-Sudanese Cooperation in Small Scale Sector:

India and Sudan have agreed to Co operate in Small Scale Sector. This was indicated when Shri Ibrahim Obeidalla, Minister for Trade, Cooperation and Supply called on Shri M. Arunachaiam, Minister of State for Industry, here today and discussed the possibility of sending a team from India to Sudan for development of Small Scale industry in Sudan.

Shri Arunachalam said that India was prepared to provide technical and entrepreneurial training to Sudanese participants in India.

Mr. Obeidalla who earlier visited National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) was very impressed by the progress made by the Small Scale Sector in India. Shri Arunachalam told the visiting dignitary that India would provide all possible cooperation in the field of Small Scale Sector. Both the Ministers agreed that there was immense scope of cooperation in village industries and leather sector.

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DAN INDIA USA

Date : Mar 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Indo-Thai Relations

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1993 on Indo-Thai relations:

Thailand's highly respected elder statesman and former Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Thanat Khoman, made an impassioned plea for

closer and deeper Indo-Thai relations consistent with the age-old ties and potential for mutually beneficial relations. Dr. Thanat Khoman made these remarks of March 18 when our Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. A. N. Ram, was invited to address the International Studies Centre, an autonomous thinktank under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Ram had made a presentation on India's security and defence policies in the context of the new world order. In his remarks, Dr. Thanat Khoman, dismissed apprehensions that India will not be able to overcome the pressures generated by communal and ethnic problems. He said that India will bounce back with renewed resilience in a short period. Dr. Thanat Khoman also saw India emerging as a major player in the region and outside. He said that India and Thailand can cooperate in South-East Asia. Dr. Thanat Khoman advocated an intensive intellectual interaction between academics of the two countries and proposed periodic exchange of views. He recalled his personal association with India and post-independent India's leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, when he was Thailand's first Charge d'Affairs in India.

The participants at his conference were senior officials, academics and others.

AILAND INDIA OMAN USA

Date : Mar 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

HUMAN RIGHTS

Statement on Human Rights by Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Indian HighCommissionerto the United Kingdom

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1993 on the statement on Human Rights by Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom:

Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and leader to the Indian Delegation to the Asian Regional Meeting on Human Rights being held in Bangkok from 29th March to 2nd April, 1993, spoke on behalf of India in the plenary session held on 30th March.

Dr. Singhvi's statement, highlighted the importance of human rights and the forthcoming World Conference, stressed the need for coherence and concordance between local, national and global levels of human rights observance, called for the conceptual and

operational audit by the World Conference to set up an agenda and a blue print to achieve local and global human rights goals. Dr. Singhvi also advocated the strengthening of national institutions and greater independence of judicial machinery for better implementation of human rights instruments. He stressed the individual nature of social, economic, political and civil rights, the importance of right to development and the linkage between peace, democracy and development. Terrorism was identified as the most monstrous onslaught on human rights.

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tutionalities, selectivity and discrimination were rejected.

The Asian Regional Meeting will consider important issues relating to protection & promotion of human rights, the objectives of the World Conference of particular importance to the region. The meeting is expected to make recommendations for inclusion in the Final Documents to be adopted by the World Conference, to be held in Vienna in June 1993.

The Asian Regional meeting was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Thailand on Monday, 29 March 1993. India was elected as one of the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the meeting. Over 40 Asian countries are participating as well as a large number of Observers and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

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DIA USA AUSTRIA THAILAND

Date : Mar 31, 1993

April

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1995

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Date : Apr 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

India-Belgium Sign Double-Taxation Avoidance Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi
on Apr 29, 1993:

Mr. Willy Claes, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, External
Trade and Cooperation for Development, and Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta,
Ambassador of India, have signed the Double Taxation Avoidance
Agreement between Belgium and India on the 26th April, 1993 at
Brussels.

This agreement was earlier initialled between Belgium and India
on 12th November 1990 replacing the already existing agreement
and the protocol for the Avoidance of Double Taxation signed on
7th February 1974 at Brussels and the additional protocol
modifying the above mentioned acts signed on 20th October 1984 at
New Delhi.

LGIUM INDIA USA

Date : Apr 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

CSR Abroad asked to Project New Investment and Trade Opportunities Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed Inaugurates Orientation Programme for Commercial Representatives in Indian Missions

The following is the, text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 19, 1993:

India's commercial representatives abroad have been urged to project effectively the opportunities for foreign investment in India and to help in realising the full potential of India's export capabilities Particularly in the context of the liberalisation of the economy. Inaugurating the Foreign Trade Orientation Programme for Commercial Counsellors sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) here today, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce said that the 2-week programme would help the officers to shoulder an enlarged and diversified role and the discussions with representatives of trade and industry and leading Chambers of Commerce which formed part of this programme would help the Indian Missions to reoriented improve quality of the services to meet the expectations of the exporting community.

Shri Ahmed said that in the new economic policy, exports have been accorded the highest priority along with modernisation and technological upgradation in various sectors. These offered immense scope for promoting 2-way trade and investment flows with the rest of the world. The encouraging results of economic liberalisation had lead to full convertibility of the rupee on trade account and

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drastic cuts in import duties. Exports to the General Currency Area (GCA) had also started looking up, the Minister said and added that the role of commercial representatives in the light of the structural reforms could not be over emphasised. He noted that IIFT had recently revised the Commercial Representatives manual to help the existing and future incumbents in the Indian Embassies.

Shri D. K. Chatterjee, Director General, IIFT, stressed that one of the ways of boosting exports was to update the knowledge of commercial representatives in Indian missions abroad. To this end, IIFT, had been organising courses for a number of years. With the linkage of the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) to Indian missions for purposes of data base, it would be possible for commercial representatives to update their knowledge and be of use to exporters and prospective investors, he added.

Date : Apr 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

50th Session of ESCAP to be held in New Delhi in 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 29, 1993:

The 50th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held in New Delhi in 1994. The recently concluded Session of ESCAP in Bangkok has unanimously accepted the offer of India to host the 50th Session.

There are 58 countries who are members of ESCAP. India has been a founder-member of ESCAP, then known as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), since 1947. Being the 50th Session of the Commission, it is envisaged to be landmark Session. India last hosted an ESCAP Session in 1976.

The theme topic of the Session will be "Infrastructure Development as key to Economic Growth and Regional Economic Cooperation". This topic has been selected by the Commission keeping in view the fact that deficiencies in physical infrastructure, such as, electricity, telecommunications, roads, railways, ports and the like are emerging as a major constraint in the economic growth of the region. The Asia Pacific region is out-performing the rest of the world in GDP growth, trade and investment. The region is projected to post a GDP growth rate of more than 7% per annum in the coming decade. But the fast pace of growth is also placing heavy demands on infrastructural facilities. The 50th Session of the Commission will, therefore, focus on the magnitude of the physical infrastructural requirements, the resources needed for it and policy measures to attract investment, both domestic and foreign to create infrastructural facilities.

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DIA USA

Date : Apr 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Commerce Minister Addresses 49th Annual Session of ESCAP in Bangkok

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 22, 1993:

The economic reforms under way in India, designed to bring about greater competition in the market place and integrate the Indian economy with the the global economy, would provide enormous opportunities for an expansion of trade and investment between India and countries of the ESCAP region.. Addressing the 49th annual Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok today, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Commerce, said that India was committed to mutually beneficial bilateral and multilateral cooperation with all countries of the region. He said that within the SAARC forum, India had consistently called for building greater trade and economic linkages and the Framework Agreement for the South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) signed at the Dhaka Summit held a forth night ago would pave the way for a preferential trading agreement being established among the SAARC countries in the near future. With ASEAN too, India was forging greater economic cooperation and with the countries outside SAARC and ASEAN also, India is keen to enhance trade and economic relations that would bring benefits to both countries.

Studies by ESCAP had affirmed that coordinated regional strategies could be fashioned to encourage more efficient use of capital, expand both intra-regional and inter-regional markets and encourage capital flows within the region. India would certainly look forward to working in this direction, he said. Pointing out that inadequacies in infrastructure could be a major constraint in efforts to promote trade and investment, the Minister said that, deficiencies, in power, transport, telecommunications, water supply, roads, ports and the like were retarding investment, both domestic and foreign, in many countries of the region. Hence, India attached high priority to both private and foreign investment in building up the infrastructural facilities. Regional economic cooperation and sharing of experiences in this ara would be of great value in promoting trade and investment in the future, Shri Mukherjee said.

Emphasising that regional economic cooperation obviously did not mean confrontation with the rest of the world, Shri Mukherjee

said that the international trading environment must be conducive to the expansion of world trade, particularly of the developing countries. "A rule-based multilateral trading system, that is transparent and non-discriminatory, is important for the orderly growth of world trade and meaningful participation in world trade by developing countries. We therefore look forward to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Negotiations on a balanced basis, taking into account the interests of all the participating countries," the Minister said.

Referring to the economic liberalisation process under way in India since June 1991, Shri Mukherjee said this process had started yielding results. Between August 1991 and now, foreign direct investment of US \$ 2.8 billion had already been approved in over 1050 ventures and the investor interest was showing a rising trend. Inflation had been brought down from 17% in August 1991 to 6.5% in April 1993 and the fiscal deficit had been reduced from over 8.5% in 1990-91 to 5% in 1992-93. The GDP growth rate is expected to be 4.2 % in 1992-93 and over 5% in 1993-94. "With the economic reforms now taking roots in India, we are confident that the Indian economy will move into a higher growth path in the coming years and this will indeed generate vast opportunities for trade and investment with India," the Minister added.

Recalling that India was one of the founder-members of ESCAP, Shri Mukherjee mentioned that the Government of India had offered to host the 50th Session of the Commission in New Delhi in 1994.

The Asia Pacific region has continued to demonstrate its capacity and resilience as a region of economic dynamism, even when other parts of the world are affected by recession or slow economic growth. While the East and South East Asian economies continued to show robust economic performance, the South Asian economies have also recovered strongly in 1992. The merchandise exports of the developing economies of the region rose by nearly 13% during 1992, more than twice as fast as the rate at which the world merchandise trade grew in that year.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM BANGLADESH

Date : Apr 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Fifteen Nation Initiative on Global Environment Issues

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 13, 1993:

Fifteen countries including India have taken initiative to priorities Global Environmental Issues for taking action as a follow up of the decisions taken at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro last year. The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath left here for Canada today, to take part in the meeting of Environment Ministers of 15 countries at Magog in Quebec, from April 14 to 19, 1993.

The other countries besides India, participating in the informal meeting hosted by Canada are China, Malaysia, Japan, USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Brazil, Canada, France, Ivory Coast Mexico and Nigeria. This informal group came into being at Rio last year to solve the contentious issues like the Forestry Principles and Agenda-21.

The Magog meeting is likely to set the International Environmental Priorities for decades to come. The wide ranging talks will include the scope and functioning of institutions like the Commission for Sustainable Development, Global Environmental Facility, restructuring of UNEP, FAO and the proposed World Commission on Forestry. Various conventions and problems of various countries will also come up for discussions.

India will press for giving top priority to drinking water and sanitation, funding of research projects on substitutes for ozone depleting substances and control over the poaching of tigers as a result of demand for tiger bones in certain countries.

DIA CANADA CHINA JAPAN MALAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM USA AUSTRALIA BRAZIL FRANCE
GERMANY INDONESIA MEXICO NIGER NIGERIA

Date : Apr 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Press Briefing by the Foreign Secretary on the 15th Meeting of the Personal Representative of the Heads of Government State of G-15 Countries

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 19, 1993:

At a press briefing, held on April 19, 1993 at 1700 hrs, on the 15th Meeting of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of Government State of G-15 countries held in New Delhi on April 18-19, 1993, Foreign Secretary informed the press that the conference was attended by 14 out of 16 members. Jamaica and Yugoslavia did not participate. Chile has joined as a new member. The Meeting formed part of the process of preparing for the next G-15 Summit to be held in the 2nd or 3rd week of November 1993 in New Delhi.

2. The agenda of the meeting included reviewing implementation of the various G-15 projects formulated at the previous three summits in Kuala Lumpur, Caracas
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& Dakar. India has contributed the largest number of projects proposals, which include projects on solar energy, a gene bank, a computer centre and a vocational training centre in Senegal. Egypt has proposed a project on cooperation in the field of petroleum and gas, while Nigeria's proposal deals with the exploitation of mineral and natural resources. Indonesia has put up a project for urban development and urban health care, while Malaysia has a project called South Investment Trade and Technological Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC). There are now 12 to 15 project proposals under consideration of the meeting which are likely to be approved without any major amendments.

3. The next agenda item was on the modalities of interaction between G-15 and G-7. In this context, the President of Dakar had written to Chancellor Kohl of Germany whose response was positive. Now, India will interact with Japan (which will host the next G-7 Summit), on behalf of G-15 and a senior Indian representative will visit that country between now and July to discuss issues related to debt-restructuring, technology transfers, investment flows and market access.

4. One of the points of discussion was the respective roles and spheres of operation of G-15 and NAM and the consensus was that the two were complementary rather than mutually exclusive.

5. The administrative and financial arrangements for setting up the secretariat or a Technical Support Facility of the G-15 were also on the agenda. Under this head, shortage of funding was noted and the consensus is that most of the funding for various projects will come from the project originators themselves.

6. The programme of mutual consultations leading to the G-15 Summit in New Delhi was also chalked out. The Ministers of the G-15 members countries will meet in Vienna in mid June. The

Personal Representatives will meet again in September in New York. Both the Personal Representatives and Ministers will meet in New Delhi just before the Summit.

7. In response to queries, Foreign Secretary clarified that environmental issues did come up for discussion at the meeting. The conclusions of Rio de Janeiro were discussed and India's viewpoint that environmental protection should go hand in hand with the developmental concerns of the developing countries, was articulated. In response to another query, he said that the G-15 group will be approaching G-7 not to seek funds, but to seek action on matters the G-7 itself has talked about such as market access, protectionism, etc.

8. At the end, Foreign Secretary added that the role of United Nations and its restructuring in a changing world order was also discussed. There was a consensus that there should be a greater transparency in the functioning of United Nations. It was also agreed that further democratisation of the United Nations should be carried out and to that end G-15 member countries should cooperate and act as a catalyst on the common issues effecting them. Such cooperation among G-15 member countries is particularly desirable in view of the fact that 1995 will be the 50th year of United Nations and the UN Secretary General has spelled out the agenda for UN which includes the issues of development, Peace and restructuring (of the United Nations).

DIA JAMAICA CHILE YUGOSLAVIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALAYSIA VENEZUELA
SENEGAL EGYPT NIGER NIGERIA INDONESIA GERMANY JAPAN AUSTRIA

Date : Apr 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Shri Kamal Nath Inaugurates South Asian NGOs Conference on Environment

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1993:

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has called upon the Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of Environment to act as catalysts for change, encouraging paths that protect the environment without retarding the pace of development. He said, environmental concerns should not lead to

environmental extremism, or taking a position on the environment, for the sake of environment alone, neglecting to consider the people.

Inaugurating the Second South Asian NGO Summit on Global Environment Management, here today, Shri Kamal Nath said that it is the people who breathe life into the environment and forgetting the needs of the society will be counter productive. He said, environmental extremism gets marginalised and only succeeds in pitting people against nature by making them feel that their continued deprivation is necessary for ecological preservation.

Shri Kamal Nath, said, if the hundreds of millions of people of the South are to be involved in environmental protection, then the programme of action has to be placed before them in terms they can understand and appreciate, and in forms that touch their daily lives. Ozone layer depletion may be something very real to people living in the higher latitudes; but if they want the tropical and equatorial countries to help, they have to speak in words that are relevant and meaningful.

Shri Kamal Nath regretted that despite the historic endorsement at Rio by world leaders of the environmental Agenda, the emission of green house gases in the EEC countries has gone up during the last one year. He said the emissions are going up while the availability of funds to the developing countries is going down.

The Minister said that the issues like global warming, ozone layer depletion and biodiversity reduction are not historical accidents. They are the direct result of unsustainable consumption of the world's resources and unrestrained interference with the planet's ecology. Costs cannot and must not be passed on to the poor of the world, or even to future generations. Global problems can only be solved through global cooperation and appropriate global management systems, which, to be workable, must be fair and equitable.

He said, the North must now accept structural adjustments to its economy to get the world ecologist to shape the way we in India are making painful adjustments to integrate our economy into the international economy. There are no limits to growth, but there should certainly be limits to waste. Market forces alone cannot ensure this.

Shri Kamal Nath said that trade should not be used as a weapon, but as incentive for international cooperation and growth. It has been estimated that a reduction by half in the OECD trade restrictions would raise developing country exports by over \$ 50 billion at 1991 prices - almost equal to the net flow of official development assistance in the same year. The process of evolution

of new values for sharing prosperity would have to include i.e. the sharing of environmentally sound technology.

Dr. Mustafa Tolba, former Executive Director of the UNEP delivered the keynote address.

Presiding over the function to mark the first anniversary of the environmental magazine "Down to Earth", here last evening Shri Kamal Nath said that the massive rural employment programme by the Government during the last few years has helped in regeneration of ecological activities like soil conservation, afforestation, grassland development and small water harvesting activities. It not only helped in bringing ecological stability to the rural natural resource base but also met peoples need for firewood, water and fodder.

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DIA USA

Date : Apr 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Indo-Iranian Cooperation in Industry

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1993:

The Iranian delegation led by Dr. Nezhad Hossinan, Minister of Heavy Industry, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran which is visiting India at the invitation of Smt. Krishna Sahi, Minister of State for Industry, had detailed and fruitful discussions with Smt. Sahi, here today.

All aspects of industrial cooperation between the two countries, were discussed by the two leaders. Smt. Sahi expressed the hope that such cooperation would further increase. She also referred to the various proposals submitted by the Public Sector Undertakings like WAPCOS, BHEL, HMT and hoped that this would fruitify into concrete agreements. She referred to the increase in contacts between the two countries in the industrial sector arising out of mutual exchange of visits. Smt. Krishna Sahi also referred to the excellent response by the Indian side in the Tehran International Fair last year where more than 50 companies had participated.

The Iranian Heavy Industry Minister stated that he has been very much impressed with the various industrial undertakings which he has visited. He desired that Indian companies should establish joint ventures in Iran keeping in mind the complementarities which exist between the capabilities of two countries especially in the Engineering sector. Such joint ventures would be more lasting and would ensure a permanent bond between the two countries.

In the end, Smt. Krishna Sahi once again reiterated the need for Iranian consideration of various proposals submitted by Indian companies and impressed upon the delegation that India can be a useful partner in the industrial sector.

AN USA INDIA

Date : Apr 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Indo-Israeli Cooperation for Agro-Exports

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1993:

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, has invited joint collaboration with Israel for the export of horticultural products and the development of infrastructural facilities for marketing and export. In a meeting today with the delegation of Israeli industrialists, the Minister said that value addition to agricultural produce and exports in the sector was an important priority of the Government.

Israel today, is the third largest exporter of flowers in the world, after Holland and Columbia. Government has increased the outlay for the horticulture sector from Rs. 24 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan to Rs. 1000 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

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Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar also invited Israeli cooperation for the optimum use of water for dryland farming. He said that India was already using technology for drip irrigation and would welcome joint missions for technology for greenhouses, advanced milk

production and mechanised poultry farms. An Agro-Business Consortium had already been set up and plans were being formulated to develop the infrastructure for the export of flower and fruits. The Minister also informed the delegation of the Government's plan to expand the food processing industry.

The Israeli industrialists informed the Minister that Israel exported its goods through a unified marketing agency. This helped to ensure a very high degree of quality control and was critical for exports and also helped the farmers get better prices for their produce. Today, Israel exports about 1.5 billion dollars worth of agricultural goods every year.

RAEL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Apr 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Malaysian Minister Calls on Shri Sukh Ram

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 28, 1993:

A high-level Malaysian delegation of telecom experts, led by H.E. Mr. S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Energy, Telecom and Posts called on the Minister for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram, here today. The Chairman, Telecom Commission, Shri H. P. Wagle; Secretary, Posts, Shri S. K. Parthasarathy; CMD of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd, Shri Y. L. Agarwal and other senior officers of the Ministry were also present.

Shri Sukh Ram told his Malaysian counterpart that India had the potential of exporting a wide range of telecom equipment. The Malaysian delegation evinced keen interest in the developments taking place in the country in the field of rural connectivity and smaller exchanges. Both sides expressed the desire to have cooperation in the field of telecom, especially fibre optical systems and sharing of satellite frequencies and radio communications.

The Malaysian Minister extended an invitation to Shri Sukh Ram to visit his country for further bilateral negotiations.

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LAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date : Apr 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Indian Defence Boat Commissioned by the Government of Mauritius

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 04, 1993:

The Seaward Defence Boat acquired by the Government of Mauritius recently from the Indian Navy was commissioned this morning in Mauritius by Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jagnauth in an impressive ceremony. The boat has now been named as "CGS Guardian".

The Indian High Commissioner, Shri Shyam Saran, handed over the ship-book to the Prime Minister on this occasion.

The High Commissioner in his speech mentioned "I am particularly happy that the vessel being commissioned today is of Indian manufacture and a symbol of India's industrial and technological capabilities, this will be a valuable addition to the capabilities, of the National Coast Guard of Mauritius and it will significantly upgrade the services which the earlier ship CGS Amar had been able to provide for the last 19 years."

The Mauritian Prime Minister in his speech declared that "as the most suitable option made possible by the close links of friendship between India and Mauritius and generous cooperation offered which the Indian Government is maintaining inspite of its own difficulties, it became possible to purchase from the Indian Government an Indian naval vessel of the sea-going defence boat class, generally designated by the abbreviation SDB, fully armed and equipped. I am most grateful to the Indian authorities for having extended cooperation by despatching the Indian Naval Ship 'Tir' to escort this SDB to Mauritius and by temporarily deputising to Mauritius a number of Indian Naval officers who will familiarise our National Coast Guard personnel with the operation and maintenance of their newly acquired vessel. I warmly welcome these Indian officers who are amongst us today."

URITIUS USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Apr 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

TCIL Gets Rs. 40 Crore Contract in Mauritius

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1993:

Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), a public sector company under the Ministry of Communications has won an additional contract of Rs. 40 crore from Mauritius. TCIL is already executing a Rs. .28 crore contract which is getting completed in June 1993.

Discussions are under-way for setting up joint ventures for the manufacture of telecom equipment with Indian knowhow and software packages. Some Indian experts in telecom training, network planning and financial management may also assist Mauritian Telecom on a short term basis.
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URITIUS USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Apr 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

India Offers Technical and Economic Assistance to Namibia

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1993:

India and Namibia signed today a Memorandum of Intent for a Turn-Key project which would cover a detailed investigation into the potable groundwater sources in the North-Eastern Ohangwena region

by carrying out Hydrogeological and Geophysical studies to identify location of freshwater Aquifers and, drilling and construction of about thirty Borehole water points including installation of Handpumps. The Project also includes on-the-job training to Namibian staff in the operation and maintenance of the installations.

In addition to the complete Technical Support, India is contributing over rupees 1.6 crores to the project as part of its commitment to the Africa Fund, earmarked for Namibia.

High Commissioner K. S. Jasrotia signed the Memorandum on behalf of Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS), the executing agency for the project. Deputy Minister of Water Affairs, Mr. John Mutorwa, signed the Memorandum on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Managing Director of WAPCOS, Shri R. Rajappa, was also present during the signing Ceremony.

Deputy Minister Mutorwa stated that the independence of Namibia was achieved as a result of the combined effort of the international community in which India played a very significant role. After independence, India's generous Technical and Economic Assistance to Namibia has greatly strengthened its developmental efforts towards Nation-Building and providing better Socio-Economic conditions to its people. Namibia is a known drought prone country and any assistance to tap groundwater is of immense importance to the people and the government of Namibia. Namibia is, therefore, most grateful to the Government of India for providing Technical and Financial assistance for the OWAMBOLAND water project.

In response, High Commissioner Jasrotia stated that over the years, India has had the privilege to provide developmental assistance to Namibia through the Africa Fund, the Commonwealth and bilaterally, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. Signing of the Memorandum of Intent, he added, was yet another significant milestone in the Technical and Economic Cooperation. He expressed confidence that the project will further strengthen mutually beneficial ties between the two countries.

MIBIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Apr 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

Palestinian Foreign Minister Visits India

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 06, 1993 on the visit of Mr. Farouq Kaddoumi, Foreign Minister of Palestine from April 5 to 7, 1993:

While briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mr. Farouk
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Kaddoumi, Foreign Minister of Palestine called on the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao today. In his talks with the Prime Minister, he said that the question of deportation of Palestinians had become a major stumbling block in the Middle-East peace process. He explained that there would have to be guarantees with respect to their return before peace talks could resume. He conveyed the good wishes of the Leader of the PLO, Mr. Yasser Arafat, to the Prime Minister as also appreciation for India's principled and continuous support for the Palestinian cause.

The Prime Minister recalled India's traditional support for the Palestinian cause and reiterated that India would continue to stand by the Palestinians. He stressed that it was important that progress in the peace talks should be attained because this was a long-standing problem that deserved an early resolution to enable the peoples concern to turn their energies towards the task of development.

At a lunch hosted in honour of the visiting Foreign Minister of Palestine today, our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, delivered a speech, copies of which have been given to you.

In his short return speech, Mr. Kaddoumi basically referred to India as one of the great supporters of the Palestinian cause right from the days of the Indian freedom struggle itself. He mentioned that the examples set by Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru and other Indian leaders in their fight for freedom continued to inspire. The Palestinian people were also fighting for peace, for equality and for freedom. He said that the present peace process was initiated by the United States. The Palestinians were ready for a peaceful solution but in one and a half years, there had been no progress. At the beginning of the process, they had been told that there will be genuine progress within a year but even after one and a half years the situation today was that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank had been sealed off and the Palestinians were witness to terrorism against their own people. But the Palestinians were not willing to surrender and would continue the

fight for their homeland. He again paid tribute to India's people and its leaders for their support.

He called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, and before that our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, called on him. Mr. Singh & Mr. Kaddoumi's talks focussed on bilateral matters and the developments in West Asia & the Gulf.

The Palestine Foreign Minister told the Indian leaders that a meeting of the Arab leaders would be held in Damascus on April 16 to decide on participation in the talks. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is now in Washington for discussion with President Clinton and Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, on this question. Although the Palestinians had broadly accepted the 6-point formulation arrived at after intensive discussion, the Israeli who had first accepted them, later expressed reservations about some of them.

These six points are : (1) - declaration by the U.S. of the illegality of the deportations. (2) - a general letter of assurance from the U.S. reaffirming applicability of U.N. Resolution 242, the principle of land for peace and the U.S. commitment to play an active role as a full partner in the peace talks. (3) -an abiding commitment from Israel that deportations will not be resorted to in future. (4) - Israel will undertake steps in compliance with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and allow deportees to return in an accelerated manner. (5) - compilation by Israel of an agreed-upon list of deportees since 1967 and measures for their early return, and (6) - effective and concrete human rights measures by the Israel authorities in the occupied territories.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA SYRIA EGYPT ISRAEL

Date : Apr 06, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Response to a Query on Pakistan

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs , New Delhi on Apr 15, 1993 on a query on press reports about statements made

to a section of the press by speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly:

Responding to a query, the official spokesman stated "It is extraordinary that a person of the status of the speaker of the Pakistan Assembly sees fit to abuse the hospitality of the country where he is attending an international conference, by making statements which can only be described as irresponsible.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Clarification on EAM's Statement regarding Pakistan's involvement in Bombay Bomb Blasts

The following is the text of a clarification issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 19, 1993 on External Affairs Minister's statement regarding Pakistan's involvement in Bombay Bomb Blasts:

In response to a question regarding press reports following the External Affairs Minister's press conference recently in Lucknow, which quoted him as saying there was no evidence of Pakistani complicity, official spokesman clarified that the Minister had answered a question as to why only the issue of the Memon family had been taken up with Pakistan and not Pakistan's involvement itself, as had been stated by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the police commissioner of Bombay. The Minister had answered that full facts about part of the Memon family going to Pakistan were provided by the Indian investigating authorities, with a request to take up the matter with Pakistan, which was done. However, on the question of Pakistani complicity, full facts had not yet been provided by the investigating agencies with a similar request, since the investigation was still going on. The Minister had mentioned that his Ministry would have to wait for their report and specific request before taking up the question of Pakistani complicity. Thus, the Minister had focussed on the proper procedure.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Apr 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Mexican Parliamentary Delegation meets the Prime Minister

The following is the text of statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Feb 23, 1993 on the meeting of 8-member Mexican Parliamentary Delegation led by Senator ALPHONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ with the Prime Minister:

An 8-member Mexican Parliamentary delegation led by Senator Alphonso Marcinez Dominguez called on Prime Minister today.

The leader of the delegation mentioned to the Prime Minister that the composition of his delegation represented the piurality of the representation in the Mexican Parliament. He emphasised the similarities that exist between India's and Mexico's cultural heritage, reflected in the arts and crafts of both countries. Politically, he referred to the identity of views of both countries on virtually all international issues, which was reflected in the voting patterns
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in the UN-India and Mexico had voted the same way on issues before the UN more than 95% of the time.

The delegation referred to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Mexico City and mentioned that they look upon the Mahatma as a universal human being. Mexico had learnt much from the struggle Mahatma Gandhi led in India to liberate the country.

The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation and dwelt upon the common ex- periences of the two countries in emerging out of colonialism. He meant that he was keenly looking forward to receiving President Salinas for G.15 Summit in November in New Delhi. Prime Minister also stressed the need for increasing cultural exchanges. He also dwelt upon the possibility of collaborating with Mexico in areas such as petroleum technology and other joint ventures including ventures aimed at the North American market.

DIA MEXICO

Date : Feb 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Canadian Delegation Visits India

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 23, 1993 on the visit of Canadian Delegation led by Mr. Gaetan Lavertu, Assistant Deputy Minister for Political Affairs and International Security Affairs:

A Canadian delegation led by Mr. Gaetan Lavertu, Assistant Deputy Minister for Political Affairs and International Security Affairs accompanied by two other officials of the Foreign Office from the Arms Control and Disarmament Division and the International Security and Defence Relations Division have been having discussions with officials in our Foreign Office from yesterday. Yesterday's discussions in Ministry of External Affairs focussed on global security and disarmament issues. UN related issues such as peace-keeping operations as well as forthcoming G-7 ministerial meeting in Tokyo were also discussed. Today the delegation had meetings with other officials in our Foreign Office in which they were briefed on India's bilateral relations with its neighbouring countries and the regional situation. They will also have an interaction with Home Ministry on the subject of terrorism, particularly Pakistan's role in aiding and abetting terrorism in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, as well as a briefing on issues such as the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission.

DIA USA JAPAN PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Foreign Office Statement about recent cases of Plane Hijacking in India

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 27, 1993 on Pak Foreign Office statement about recent cases of plane hijacking in India:

Responding to a query relating to the statement by the Pakistan Foreign Office about the recent cases of plane hijacking in India, the Spokesman stated that it is an extraordinary statement. The implication is that the Government of India is engineering hijacks and endangering the lives of hundreds of its citizens to embarrass Pakistan and this is, of course, ridiculous. The question does arise as to why the hijackers, in a majority of cases, want to head for Lahore. We have also noted -101>

that in earlier instances Pakistan had allowed hijackers to land in their territory. The reason for not allowing hijackers permission to land in these recent cases is clearly the increasing pressure that is being brought to them (on Pakistan) by the international community with regard to its sponsorship of terrorism.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 27, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Minister of Libya visits India

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 30, 1993 on the visit of the Foreign Minister of Libya, Mr. Omar Mustafa AlMuntasir, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Foreign Minister of Libya, H.E. Mr. Omar Mustafa Al-Muntasir arrived in New Delhi, accompanied by a six-member high level delegation, for a brief visit. The Minister has come here as a Special Envoy of the Libyan President Col. Gaddafi and during his visit he will convey messages from the Libyan President to our President and Prime Minister.

Today, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia

called on the Libyan Foreign Minister. During the discussions the Libyan Foreign Minister stated on the Lockerbie case that Libya was in full compliance with UN Resolutions and they were ready to have the suspects tried in any country in the world, and under any legal system, but not in the UK or the USA. This was because the media in these two countries had already pronounced the suspects guilty. Libya would prefer an Arab country simply because it would avoid any language problem.

On the OIC Resolution, the Libyan Foreign Minister stated that Libya wanted to be even-handed with India and religious problems in India should be solved in the Indian spirit of tolerance. He said: 'We know that tolerance is the pre-dominant factor in India'. On bilateral relations, the Libyan Foreign Minister urged for an early meeting of the Joint Commission between the two countries.

The Libyan Foreign Minister told Minister of State that very few people spoke about Kashmir at the OIC meeting. It was played up by Pakistan media. As far as Libya is concerned it should be settled through mutual consultations on the basis of Simla Agreement.

DIA LIBYA USA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

OIC Resolutions on Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 30, 1993 on the OIC Resolutions on Kashmir - at the conclusion of the 21st meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers:

Government has been press reports of the Communique and Resolutions adopted by the 21st Meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers at Karachi on April 29, 1993.

The Communique and Resolutions adopted at Karachi make it obvious that the OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting has been misled by certain elements within the OIC Secretariat and the host country. In the circumstances, the views expressed in the Communique and the Resolutions do not come as a surprise to Government of India. At

the same time, the Government of India categorically questions the assessments and recommendations endorsed by the OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting at
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Karachi. We consider them totally unacceptable.

Kashmir is an integral part of India, and the enduring issue is for Pakistan to come to terms with realities and to cooperate with India to serve the larger objectives of peace and stability in the sub-continent. The OIC Resolution will serve no purpose other than encouraging Pakistan to persist with its support and sponsorship of terrorism and subversion directed against India.

The OIC has presumed further to take on a role in safeguarding the interests of over 100 million Indian citizens who happen to be Muslims. It is ironic that an organisation which refuses India participation in its activities despite India being endowed with one of the largest Muslim populations in the world, now pretends to arrogate to itself a role to protect their interests. The political gimmicking inherent in this futile gesture is obvious. The interests of stability and protection of minorities in the Indian sub-continent are not served by such tendentious statements by the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

DIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Suo Moto Statement by Shri Dinesh Singh Minister of External Affairs in the Lok Sabha on 19th Aprfl, 1993 on the Dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif Government

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 19, 1993:

Honourable Members are no doubt, aware of the political events evolving in Pakistan in recent weeks. On 18 April 1993, the President of Pakistan, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, dismissed the Government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, dissolved the National Assembly and inducted a caretaker Government with Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari as the caretaker Prime Minister. The other two Ministers sworn in are Mr. Farooq Leghari of the Pakistan Peoples Party and Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatta of the Pakistan Muslim League. There have

been general indications from the office of the President of Pakistan that elections will be held around the middle of July, after a gap of nearly two and a half months. From the remark made by the Chief of Army Staff, the view of the armed forces is that the processes generated by the decisions of the President of Pakistan on the 18th of April should be finally resolved either by the courts or by the people of Pakistan.

2. Developments in Pakistan are basically that country's internal affair. But there is no gainsaying the fact that events in this important neighbouring country always have implications for us both in general and in terms of our security. We cannot thus remain indifferent towards the situation in Pakistan. Being a democracy ourselves, we would wish to see democracy flourish in Pakistan. In the prevailing situation where elected Governments have been repeatedly impeded from striking roots and gaining continuity in their policies, a phase of uncertainty in our relations with Pakistan cannot be ruled out. Government will be closely following further developments.

3. It is, however, our hope that whichever Government is in power in Pakistan, the attitude of reason and moderation will animate their policies towards us, as having a good neighbourly, working relationship with Pakistan remains a continuing objective in our policies towards that country.

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KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Apr 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid

The following is the Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid on Apr 29, 1993 in response to Pak Prime Minister's remarks at OIC meeting regarding welfare of Muslims in India:

It is surprising that Prime Minister Mr. Mazari of Pakistan should be using the OIC forum to seek so called "Safeguards for rights and welfare" of Muslims in India. India is perfectly capable of looking after all its citizens without exception. Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, Christians and all other

minorities have both a say and a stake in our collective national future and aspirations. Kashmir's welfare is intrinsically linked with the welfare of the rest of India. We are confident that we are secure in our future without the false tears, indeed despite the false tears, of Mr. Mazari and his colleagues. If he is concerned he should exert himself to apprehend the culprits of the Bombay carnage. instead of casting his eyes across the border he should heed good advice - "Physician heal thyself".

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS/ MESSAGE / SPEECH

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Dhaka

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao made the following remarks at the banquet hosted in his honour by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in Dhaka on Apr 10, 1993:

"I am honoured to respond, on behalf of my colleague in SAARC and on my own behalf, to the Toast so graciously proposed by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. We shall always remember the warmth and hospitality which we witnessed this morning at the inauguration of the 7th SAARC Summit. May I at the outset assure her, and the people of this great land, that we all share the hopes and aspirations which she has expressed for SAARC and that we are committed to strengthen it and encourage the growth of its institutions.

SAARC was created eight years ago and has come a long way, showing us, and the rest of the world, that countries of the region can get together to achieve common objectives. Our history, geography, cultures, languages, even our thoughts, display essential similarities of which we are all too conscious. Besides, we have common problems and have to evolve common development strategies by virtue of our proximity and in terms of developmental imperatives

With SAARC, we sought to begin the process of regarding ourselves as part of a wider group whose similarities and complementarities could reinforce each other to reach desired ends. We realised also that internationally, our voice is better heard if spoken in unison. For all these reasons, we are determined to provide

active collaboration and mutual assistance to each other in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields. Accordingly, after identifying a list of subjects and priorities to begin this process, we launched into regional cooperation with, as one might say, "a hope and a prayer".

Given some discordant notes in the past, our Association invited much scepti

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cism when it was launched. Our charter recognises these limitations, and conscious of the need to nurture the seeds planted jointly by us, enjoins on us to concentrate exclusively on common issues in our common SAARC fora. It also provides all members States with an equal voice in the affairs of the Association. Armed with our Charter and with a patience borne of millennia of civilisation, we picked our way slowly, choosing such fields and such methods as would allow trust and confidence to be built up in time. We created continuous opportunities for useful dialogue between officials and even nonofficial groups of people. We encouraged our people to hold Seminars, Conferences and Workshops, to prepare state-of-the-art reports and bibliographies and to participate in audio-visual exchanges. Some might consider these peripheral activities, but they represent in themselves a substantial advance in cooperative effort over the pre-SAARC period.

Recently, however, we have observed a growing sense of impatience both with the pace and the content of regional cooperation under SAARC. Comparisons are being made with other regional associations, longer established than our own perhaps, but such as would indicate that we were missing out on an essential ingredient of this kind of exercise. The simultaneous shortfall of performance over promise leads us to conclude that technical and cultural cooperation alone may languish for lack of more solid foundations of cooperation in economic areas.

Since the Male Summit, when this realisation first came to us, we have done much to identify the scope and direction that our Association should take in the future. Indeed, even by comparison with other regional organisations, I would venture to suggest that we have worked at a satisfactory pace in the two years since Male. Our officials have laboured over a possible source of action which seeks to expand productivity while ensuring that the weakest is not exploited by those who are comparatively strong. What remains is for us to demonstrate the requisite political will and wisdom. The choice in this regard, and with regard to the pace that we set, can only be our own.

As leaders of a region beset by poverty and blessed with potential, we would be missing a historic opportunity if we do not combine our energies and direct them progressively to concrete programmes of regional development. Let us then at this

moment, as we begin the second cycle of SAARC Summits, resolve firmly to pursue the path which we know to be right and good for us, and which is fervently desired by our people.

May I conclude by saying that we look forward to welcoming all of you in India at the Next Summit.

I propose, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we raise our glasses and drink - to the health of our generous hostess, Begum Khaleda Zia, and to the progress and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh; to the progress, prosperity and well-being of all our countries and peoples; and - to the health, vigour and success of SAARC."

INDIA USA FRANCE MALDIVES BANGLADESH

Date : Apr 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS/ MESSAGE / SPEECH

Prime Minister's Address at Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1993

Addressing the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said here today:

"It is a matter of great pleasure that the Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union returns to India after a gap of nearly a quarter century. We feel privileged to host the Conference which has steadfastly remained a forum of international cooperation. India's unshakable commitment to the parliamentary system, staunch belief in the efficacy of democratic political processes and deep faith in peace

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and co-existence as worthy principles of international relations, translate naturally into a full commitment to the IPU. I extend to you all, a very warm and hearty welcome.

In a world where every channel of cooperative action is important, it is particularly incumbent upon us to strengthen old and valued associations. The IPU stands as a proud symbol of such cooperation, dating back a century and more. Over these turbulent and epoch-making decades, it has remained a force making for mutual understanding and cohesion. That indeed is a cause for rejoicing and hope.

The IPU carries the voice of the people across national boundaries and on to a common international forum. The collective voice of the people as expressed through their Parliaments is an enduring force indeed. This is the significance of the IPU at the people's level.

As votaries of the representative system of Government we are aware that a political system derives substance and legitimacy from the people. The system must therefore genuinely reflect their aspirations, concerns and continuing needs. These are often conditioned by the international environment and thus have international ramifications. It is, therefore, imperative that representative institutions do not remain insular, or that in their own perceived national interest, those elected to power do not remain isolated from fast changes in the world at large. When representative institutions from as many as 110 countries form an international union, we can readily see that such an organization is uniquely placed to play a significant role on behalf of a very substantial section of world population.

History has emphasized that the greatest good can come from strengthening international cooperation. Interdependence becomes more and more real and compelling with every passing day. More than ever before, economic and ecological security have become matters that transcend national boundaries.

Yet, notwithstanding the many signs of human progress, our generation and this century have been witness to horrors of war, disease, famine and degradation. We are not too far away from the 21st century. Many experts feel that we may also not be too far removed from the brink of the final abyss. This is admittedly a sombre scenario, but perhaps it will bring into sharper focus the responsibility that we, as parliamentarians share.

The IPU has a large membership of 116 countries, not all of which have exactly the same political system. But the adherence to the principles of democratic functioning is beyond question. Similarly, the problems that nations have to contend with may differ in specific terms. Our national achievements are often a mixed bag of pressing problems, unforeseen crises, temporary setbacks as well as heartening successes. But no one can deny that the quest for a peaceful world is, and must be, a shared concern of all nations.

We are all in some way, protagonists in contemporary history. But even as we live our lives, we are, through our actions, inexorably shaping the future. This entails on every one of us the solemn duty of making every honest effort for a better world.

Let us then, without delay, start at the present. Every venture is also an opportunity for a fresh beginning. Let us use the forum of the IPU not only for theoretical reasoning on the future, but more urgently, for practical action today.

We have embarked on a journey into a momentous decade. The 1990s will truly be the watershed years in global affairs in the realm of political, economic and environmental challenges and changes. The road to a peaceful and stable future can only be traversed through cooperation which recognizes equality among nations, big or small, rich or poor, and pledges them to respect the sovereignty of each.

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We cannot go wrong if we make coexistence and peace our watchword, and common universal good our objective. The notion of oneness is a timeless one, and has been an important element in Indian philosophy and thought. The Rig-Veda, one of our most ancient Scriptures, has enunciated that the human race is one and consists of all human beings. Implicit in this is the whole philosophy of humanism, understood in the West as freedom and fundamental unity of humankind.

Let this Conference be an occasion for holistic and integrated thinking and action on common problems. I understand that the agenda for the Conference includes a broad range of subjects that touch on crucial aspects of political, social and economic lives of People and nations. I am happy to see that problems relating to gender inequality, health and well-being of the elderly are going to be taken up. Equally urgent is the need to counter the growing use of violence for political ends, as well as to design policies which will foster greater respect for democratic values. May we use this opportunity, and the collective wisdom of all the distinguished participants, to strike a note of real hope for the well being of humankind.

Even while we are dealing with momentous topics, it may not be out of place to remind ourselves that a Parliament can only be as useful and effective as its members choose to make it. Laws can be passed and business transacted, but the manner in which this is done is extremely important to the people. The method of utilising Parliament's time to the best advantage, including the education of the people, needs to be constantly borne in mind because Parliament above everything else, is a great educator by itself. In any event, Parliament's proceedings should always be relevant to the lives of the people.

In conclusion, Mr. President and friends, I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and memorable stay in our country and wish the Conference every success."

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS/ MESSAGE / SPEECH

Prime Minister's Message to Dr. Nelson Mandela

The following is the text of message of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to H.E. Dr. Nelson Mandela on the demise of Mr. Oliver Tombo:

Distinguished Friend and Colleague,

I was greatly distressed to hear of the passing away of Mr. Oliver Tombo, Chairman of the African National Congress. I know that he had been ailing for long, but his demise nonetheless comes as a shock.

Mr. Tombo was well-known to us as one of South Africa's noblest and most determined freedom fighters. His dedication to the cause of majority rule in South Africa is a saga of tenacity and heroism that the world will long remember.

The people of India join me in mourning this grievous loss. Please convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

With assurances of my highest consideration, and with our continuing solidarity with you, Dear Friend, and with your colleagues in this hour of bereavement.

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OUTH AFRICA USA INDIA

Date : Apr 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS/ MESSAGE / SPEECH

prime Minister's Message to the Zambian President

The following is the Prime Minister's message to the Zambian President regarding the Zambian plane crash in which the Zambian

football team lost their lives:

Excellency,

I was shocked and saddened to hear about the plane crash in which the Zambian football team lost their lives. Any mishap that take away young and talented lives is a great tragedy. We join you in mourning their passing away and would like to express our sympathy and condolences for the bereaved families.

SHRI P. V. NAPASIMHA RAO

MBIA

Date : Apr 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Government of India Express Grief at the Killing of Mr. Chris Hani

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1993:

Government are deeply grieved and shocked to learn of the gruesome killing of Mr. Chris Hani, Secretary General of the South African Communist Party and leading member of the National Executive Council of the ANC and an indefatigable fighter against apartheid in South Africa.

It is our hope and expectation that this great tragedy for the ANC and South Africa, notwithstanding, the ongoing process of negotiations for a truly democratic government in South Africa will continue unhindered. This would be the ultimate tribute to the memory of the deceased leader who has laid down his life to the cause of a free, democratic and non racial South Africa.

OUTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Apr 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Minister of State for Science and Technology visits Silican Valley at San Francisco

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 23, 1993:

Minister of State for Science and Technology, shri P. R. Kumaramanglam, visited the San Francisco Bay Area from April 17 to 21, 1993. During the visit, Shri Kumaramanglam established personal contacts with some of the leading companies in the Silicon Valley, like Apple Computer, Silicon Graphics, Maspar Computer, Corporation, Cirrus Logic, Loral Space Systems and California Micro Devices.

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At Silicon Graphics, the Minister addressed a round-table conference which was attended by about 60 senior executives from various electronics companies in the valley. He reiterated India's firm commitment to integrate into global economy, outlined the economic liberalisation process underway in India, the opportunities opened up for US high-tech companies in the Indian market and India's comparative advantages in the large number of highly skilled and qualified technical manpower. The Minister explained the incentives being given by the Government of India to attract foreign investment in electronics sector through the establishment of Electronic Hardware Technology Parks, Software Technology Parks and Export Oriented Units.

The enthusiasm with which the Minister was received by various companies is a tribute to India's acknowledged proficiency in the electronics sector and the interest that been aroused in the addvantages of investing in India as result of the liberalisation policy.

Minister Kumaramanglam also interacted extensively with a number of NRI engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs. He separately addressed meetings of the Silicon Valley Indian Professionals Association (SIPA) and the newly formed Indus Entrepreneurs Club, which is an apex Organisation representing the Indian entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley. Both these meetings were attended by over one hundred professionals and entrepreneurs each. At each meeting, professionals and entrepreneurs offered to associate themselves more actively with the ongoing liberalisation programme in India.

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A INDIA ANGUILLA
Date : Apr 23, 1993

May

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1995

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Date : May 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Trade and Economic Co-operation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 03, 1993 on Indo-Bangladesh trade and economic cooperation:

Mr. Ali Ahmed, Minister of Communications, Bangladesh, called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister of Commerce here today. They discussed bilateral trade matters with particular reference to trade and economic cooperation. Both the Ministers underlined the scope for expanding bilateral economic and commercial relations specially in view of the complementarities of the two economies and the importance of promoting balance flow of trade. Shri Mukherjee suggested that commodities and areas should be identified where trade and economic relations could be enhanced. This could be done through Joint Ventures for exports to third countries, closer interaction between the business communities of the two countries and facilitating the transit routes for improving trade. Both the Ministers agreed that special efforts should be made to exploit the potential for Joint Ventures between the two countries. Both sides noted that the recent SAARC Summit had created the right environment for promotion of bilateral trade and this opportunity should not be missed.

The Bangladesh Minister underlined the need for steps to promote exports from Bangladesh to India for the purpose of reducing the existing gap in bilateral trade.

NGLADESH INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : May 03, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Communications Minister Calls on Shri Chavan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 04, 1993 on a meeting between the Bangladesh Communications Minister and Shri S. B. Chavan:

The Bangladesh Minister for Communications, Col Oli Ahmed called on the Union Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan here today. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest covering repatriation of Chakma refugees and the issue of exchange of team of officers with a view to sort out matters.

Home Secretary, Shri N. N. Vohra was present.

The Home Minister requested the visiting dignitary to create congenial atmosphere for the Chakmas to settle in Chittagong hills.

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NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : May 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Visit of Communications Minister to India

The following is text of a Statement issued in New Delhi on the visit of Communications Minister, Mr. Oli Ahmed to India:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. C. K. Jaffer Sharief, Minister for Railways, Government of India, His Excellency, Mr.

Oli Ahmed, Communications Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid a visit to India from May 02, 1993 to 9th May, 1993.

2. During his visit, H.E. the Communications Minister of Bangladesh also called on His Excellency Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Shri S. B. Chavan, Home Minister, His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister, His Excellency Shri V. C. Shukla, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Water Resources and His Excellency Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.

3. H.E. the Communications Minister of Bangladesh accompanied by H.E. Mr. Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs of India and five M.Ps of Bangladesh, Secretaries of Home, Foreign and Special Affairs Division of Bangladesh and High Commissioners of Bangladesh and India visited Tripura on 8th and 9th May, 1993. H.E. the Minister called on H.E. Mr. Raghunatha Reddy, Governor of Tripura and H.E. Mr. Dasaratha Deb, Chief Minister of Tripura, whereafter the two delegations held formal discussions. The list of the delegations is attached herewith.

4. The visit was in pursuance of the understanding reached during the visit to India of Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in May, 1992.

"The two Prime Ministers agreed to arrange speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh in full safety and security. In this context, the Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative political level Committee that would encourage the refugees to return. The Indian side assured that its authorities would cooperate fully in the process of repatriation".

5. H.E. the Communications Minister of Bangladesh accompanied by H.E. Minister of State for External Affairs of India and five Bangladesh M.Ps. visited three Refugee Camps namely, Takumbari, Panchharampara and Karbook in South Tribura and addressed the Tribal Refugees of Chittagong Hill Tracts. The refugees were responsive to the proposal for the speedy repatriation to Bangladesh and expressed their eagerness to go back to their homes. They made certain suggestions of their own in this regard to facilitate repatriation.

6. Following the visit to the Refugee Camps, the two delegations agreed on the following.

i) Recalling the agreement reached between the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of India in May 1992 regarding arranging speedy repatriation of all tribal refugees from Chittagong Hill Tracts to Bangladesh in full safety and security, the Bangladesh side reiterated its commitment to take back the refugees whereas the Indian side reiterated its willingness to render full cooperation to facilitate their return.

ii) The Bangladesh side agreed to undertake all measures that would en-
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courage the Bangladesh refugees to return including full assurances that they would be restored their homes and legitimate properties and live in dignity, safety and security. The Indian side assured their fullest support and cooperation to assist and encourage the refugees to return.

iii) The two sides agreed to begin the process of implementation within thirty (30) days from today. They exchanged views on the broad parameters to be established including the time-frame envisaged, logistics, transit camps and other practical modalities.

iv) Bangladesh Government has agreed to accept all tribal Bangladesh refugees from Chittagong Hill Tracts, based upon available records of both sides and information furnished by the concerned village headmen.

v) Bangladesh Government has agreed to ensure return of land and homestead belonging to a refugee.

vi) Bangladesh side has agreed to sustain by way of ration a refugee during his stay at the reception camp and also give him cash grant for house construction and other necessities for his rehabilitation.

7. Both the sides agreed that one or more teams of concerned officials as considered necessary could meet immediately on 19th May 1993 to firm up all the details so that the repatriation can be expeditiously implemented.

NGLADESH INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : May 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Cooperation in Railway Transportation Sector

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1993 on Indo-Bangladesh Cooperation in Railway

Transportation Sector:

During the 7-day visit in India of Col.(Retd.) Oli Ahmed, Communications Minister of the Republic of Bangladesh to discuss further cooperation between India and Bangladesh in the Railways sector, comprehensive and wide ranging discussions were held between the Bangladesh Communications Minister and Shri C. K. Jaffer Sharief, the Minister for Railways in an atmosphere of friendship, harmony and cordiality.

The two Ministers noted that there is tremendous scope for joint cooperation between Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railway. Minister for Railways, Government of India, said that Indian Railways is the largest network in the world today with self-sufficient production units for locomotives and coaches. He drew attention to the fact that there are two major construction and consultancy organisations under Ministry of Railways viz. IRCON and RITES, which have comprehensive expertise in executing projects, construction activities, workshop rehabilitation, technical training etc. Bangladesh communications Minister reiterated the interest of Bangladesh Railways in availing the experience and expertise of the Indian Railways in taking up projects as well as in training and construction activities and indicated that Bangladesh Railway will give preference to Indian Railways on projects being taken up in Bangladesh.

Minister for Railways, Government of India, mentioned that SAARC countries can come together and make joint efforts to participate in projects.

Bangladesh Communications Minister stated that there was a requirement for a large quantity of boulders and stones worth more than US \$ 100 million for the Jamuna Bridge river protection works and that if India was interested this could be
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supplied by IRCON or other Private enterprises through proper tender. He requested Government of India to indicate its willingness to supply boulders and also their noobjection to allow Nepal and Bhutan (SAARC countries) to supply the same using the transit through India. Minister for Railways, Government of India, agreed in principle to supply the boulders and stones through IRCON or other private enterprises of India through proper tender subject to prevailing laws. But with regard to the transit facilities regarding the supplies from Nepal and Bhutan position will be intimated to Bangladesh later on.

Bangladesh Minister mentioned that Bangladesh Government had a plan to construct a double line railway track between Chinki-Astana and Akhaura of the Chittagong-Dhaka section at a cost of TK 2279.30 million to improve the line capacity between Dhaka and Chittagong, which is the main corridor of Bangladesh Railways. Bangladesh Minister requested the Indian Government to construct

this double line railway track of 132 Kilometres as a token of friendship for which India may be required to spend about TK 1381.30 million. Minister for Railways, Government of India, agreed to examine this proposal favourably.

Bangladesh Railway is planning to replace its outdated signalling system on six railway stations on the Jamalpur-Mymensing section by route relay interlocking system for which about TK 87.20 million would be required. Bangladesh Government will shortly present a proposal for availing part of the Indian Government Credit to meet the foreign exchange requirement for this project estimated at TK 63 million. IRCON would be available as executing agency from Indian side.

Bangladesh Railway has also taken up a plan for laying of concrete sleepers in place of old wooden sleepers on Dhaka-Chittagong main line section to revamp the track. Bangladesh Government would shortly present a proposal for availing part of the Indian Government Credit estimated approximately TK 130.13 million. Minister for Railways, Government of India, agreed that Government of India would favourably consider the above proposals and process the same expeditiously as soon as these were presented by the Government of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Minister mentioned that Bangladesh Railway is introducing 5 ton capacity container service but there is inadequate know how with them and if Indian could train about 10 personnel of Bangladesh Railways in planning, designing, manufacturing and handling of the proposed containers, it would be very helpful. Minister for Railways, Government of India, agreed to provide the training facilities to them.

The two Ministers directed that authorities concerned would meet at an early date, preferably in August-September, 1993, to hold review talks to consider steps for increasing the cooperation between the two Railway systems, new facilities required and areas of technical cooperation.

The Communications Minister of Bangladesh expressed his appreciation to the Railway Minister, the Government and the people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of the delegation during his stay in India.

The Communications Minister of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the Minister for Railways, Government of India to visit Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The Bangladesh Minister was in India at the invitation of the Indian Railway Minister.

During his visit, the Communications Minister of Bangladesh also called on the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao,

the Home Minister Shri S. B. Chavan, the Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources Shri V. C. Shukla and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia.

NGLADESH INDIA USA BHUTAN NEPAL TOTO RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : May 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Indo-Belarus Trade and Economic Relations

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 12, 1993 on Indo-Belarus trade and economic relations:

Belarus is keen to expand trade and economic relations with India, including joint ventures covering number of sectors, such as, chemicals, medicines, tea, coffee etc. This was conveyed by Mr. Vladimir V. Radkevich, Chairman, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister of Belarus when he called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee here today. Both the Ministers underlined the scope for expanding the two-way trade between the two countries from its present low level of around US \$ 15 million annually. The need for institutional mechanism to promote interaction between business communities of India and Belarus was emphasised. Shri Mukherjee assured that all possibilities would be explored for the expansion of bilateral trade as well as economic ties. Mr. Radkevich also indicated that Belarus was a leading manufacturer of fertilisers including muriate of potash and nitrogenous fertiliser and could supply the same to meet Indian requirements. He also said that Belarus would be keen to purchase a number of traditional items from India including tea, coffee, rice, sugar and medicines. Shri B. P. Mishra, Joint Secretary (East Europe), Ministry of Commerce, was also present at the meeting.

Before the disintegration of the Soviet Union, trade between India and Belarus was conducted under the Agreements and Protocols signed with the former USSR. With the emergence of the independent state of Belarus in December, 1991, a separate Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between India and Belarus was signed during the visit of an Indian delegation, to Minsk in October 1992, which provided for trade in freely convertible currencies, mutual MFN treatment, encouragement to

counter trade, barter and other internationally recognised form of business cooperation etc.

Mr. Radkevich suggested that areas of mutual cooperation between the two sides could be identified and a trade protocol drawn up to give a concrete shape to future trading pattern. In this context, the Indian side mentioned that illustrative lists of goods which could be imported and exported by the two countries had already been identified including some items for a special focus. List of joint venture proposals given by the Belarus side have also been circulated to trade and industry associations in India for fruitful cooperation.

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A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES(CIS)
BELORUSSIA

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed Called on the Chairman of the Council of Minister of the Republic of Belarus

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 12, 1993 on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed's call on Mr. Vyacheslav P. Kebich, Chairman of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus:

Our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, called on the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Vyacheslav F. Kebich, today.

They discussed the future of the CIS, of which Belarus, the Chairman said, remained a strong protagonist. Minsk, in fact, is the capital of the CIS.

They also discussed the integration of Belarus with Western Europe and the situation in Yugoslavia. Mr. Kebich mentioned that while it was their desire to strengthen the CIS in every way, and while they wish to move as quickly as possible on European integration, they would like to do this without sacrifices to their Eastern connections. On the question of Yugoslavia, he said it was a very complicated question, like putting out a fire with a fan. Both the Minister and the Chairman expressed the hope for

a quick and peaceful resolution of the situation in that area.

Mr. Kebich proposed 3 specific areas for cooperation, namely, joint venture in the food-processing area in Belarus, pharmaceuticals' manufacture in Belarus, and defence cooperation.

The question of the dangers posed by fundamentalism also figured in the discussions.

Mr. Salman Khursheed, while underlining India's desire to strengthen bilateral ties in every way possible, also conveyed to Mr. Kebich the special problems being faced by India in terms of trans-border interference in our internal affairs.

A INDIA COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES(CIS) BELORUSSIA YUGOSLAVIA RUSSIA

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Belarussian Delegation meeting with Indian Delegation

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 12, 1993 on visiting Belarussian delegation meeting with Indian delegation:

The visiting Belarussian and the Indian delegations had official talks today at 4.30 P.M. The delegations were led by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao and H.E. Mr. V. F. Kebich, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

At the official talks, our Prime Minister announced gift of Rs. 5,00,000 worth of medicines for children in Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The Indian leader also promised a sympathetic consideration to Belarus's request for a seat in the Security Council from January 1994. On the Belarussian side, their leader assured their support for India's arguments in favour of an extension of the Security Council to make this body more representative.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in international forums, on a variety of issues, and to keep in touch with each others' delegations for this purpose. Mr. Kebich made a specific mention of the high potential of cooperation in certain areas, namely,

joint ventures in agriculture and cooperation in the areas of health, defence, tourism and culture. Prime Minister of India promised full support for these and other proposals relating to technical cooperation, from the
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Indian side. Mr. Kebich also gave an assessment of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh in Kazakhstan.

The delegations discussed the dangers posed by fundamentalism and outside interference in the affairs of sovereign countries.

Mr. Kebich also explained his country's desire to strengthen its neutrality and become a non-nuclear weapon state.

In a one-on-one meeting, that followed immediately after the official talks, Prime Minister explained the problems being faced by India with regard to state-sponsored terrorism being carried out by Pakistan on Indian soil. He also expressed his deep concern at the exploitation of religious fundamentalism. The Belarussian leader shared his concern. He also mentioned that huge quantities of arms from the old Afghan conflict were spreading all over the region and getting into the hands of terrorists. Prime Minister concurred that this was a problem in the region and it affected India as well. Both leaders agreed that cooperation in the area of defence could be taken up. Prime Minister added that he was glad that the Belarussian delegation, led by Mr. Kebich, would have an active interaction with business leaders in Delhi as well as in Bombay - this was of great importance as private sector cooperation was a major growth area in bilateral relations.

A RUSSIA INDIA KAZAKHSTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Belarus

During their meeting in New Delhi on May 12, 1993 during the State visit to the Republic of India of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, the Prime Minister of India and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Belarus held a wide-ranging exchange of views on bilateral and

international issues of mutual interest. Following these discussions, both sides:

RECALLED the friendly relations between their peoples and countries;

EXPRESSED deep interest in developing multifaceted cooperation between India and Belarus to the mutual benefit of their peoples;

NOTED that there exists a broad identity of views on important international political and economic issues and on the need to build a more just and equitable international order;

EXPRESSED their commitment to achieving a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world;

NOTED that they share the common ideals of peace, equality, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

CONVINCED that greater friendship between India and Belarus would further promote international peace, security and cooperation;

AGREED that

1. Relations between the Republic of India and the Republic of Belarus shall be governed by respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

2. Both sides shall adhere to the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter.

3. Both sides shall make every effort to preserve and strengthen peace all over the world, to eliminate the arms race and achieve universal and complete disarmament, especially nuclear.

4. Both sides shall develop cooperation in the political, economic, trade, scientific, technological, industrial, transport, cultural and other field on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and Most Favoured Nation treatment. For this pur-
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pose, separate agreements, where necessary, shall be signed.

5. An Inter-Governmental India-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Co-operation shall be established.

6. Both sides shall promote further development of cooperation in the fields of education, culture, art, tourism, sports, and exchanges in the field of information through contact between institutions and representatives of mass media and mass

communications.

7. Both sides shall cooperate with each other in their efforts against crimes in general, particularly terrorism, taking of hostages, crimes against civil aviation security, illicit international traffic of narcotic drugs and in cultural and historical objects. They also undertake to oppose all forms of religious bigotry, hatred and violence.

8. Development of cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Belarus shall not prejudice their rights and obligations under any existing bilateral and multilateral treaties to which they are parties and is not to the detriment of their relations with any third country.

9. Both sides shall cooperate with each other in the field of environment by exchange of experiences in sustainable use of natural resources, introduction of environment-friendly technologies and undertaking measures for the protection and restoration of the environment. They would contribute to the formulation of an international strategy for protecting the environment, taking into account their respective national concerns.

10. Regular contact shall be maintained between the Governments of both countries at different levels on issues of bilateral and international concern. Both sides shall promote the development of contacts between the Parliaments and Parliamentarians of the two States.

Done at New Delhi on 14 May 1993 A.D. in duplicate in Hindi, Belarusian and English, all the texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the

Republic of Belarus, hereinafter referred to as "Contracting Parties",

Aspiring to continue and consolidate their historic friendship and cooperation,

Wishing to further strengthen trade and economic relations between the two countries on the principles of equality and mutual benefit,

have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with their national laws and regulations, promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries on a long term and stable basis.

ARTICLE II

(a) The Contracting Parties shall accord to each other most favoured nation treatment in respect of import and export licenses, custom duties and all other charges and taxes applicable to importation, exportation or transit of commodities.

(b) The Contracting Parties will grant each other in respect of import and export licences or permissions where
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such licences/permissions are prescribed under their regulations treatment no less favourable than that granted to any other country.

(c) Any advantages, favour privilege or immunity granted by either of the Contracting Parties to any product originating in the territory of a third country or destined for its territory shall be granted, immediately and unconditionally to the like product, originating in the territory of either of the Contracting Parties or destined to be imported into its territory.

ARTICLE III

The provisions of Article II shall not, however, apply to the grant or continuance, of any;

(a) advantages accorded by either Party to contiguous countries for the purpose of facilitating frontier traffic;

(b) preferences or advantages, accorded by either of the Contracting Parties to any country, as existing on the date of the conclusion of the present Agreement or in replacement of such preferences or advantages that existed prior to the 10th April,

1947;

(c) any advantage or preference accorded under any scheme for expansion of trade and economic cooperation among developing countries which is open for participation by developing countries and to which either of the Contracting Parties is or may become a party;

(d) advantages and preferences resulting from Customs Union and/or free trade area of which either of the Contracting Parties is or may become a party.

ARTICLE IV

The Contracting Parties shall encourage and facilitate contacts between their natural and juridical persons, inter alia, through exchange of visits of delegations and businessmen, participation in fairs and exhibitions, and sharing of information.

They shall encourage the opening of branch offices of the foreign trade organisations, companies, firms, banks etc. in each other's territory in accordance with their national laws and regulations.

ARTICLE V

The Contracting Parties shall promote cooperation in the fields of science and technology, ecology, transport, tourism and communications, training of personnel and in other spheres of mutual interest.

ARTICLE VI

Import and export of goods and services shall take place on the basis of the contracts to be concluded between the natural and juridical persons of the two countries at international prices in accordance with their laws and regulations and international trade practices. Neither of the Contracting Parties shall be responsible for liabilities of natural and juridical persons arising from such commercial transactions.

ARTICLE VII

All payments of a commercial and non-commercial nature between the Republic of India and the Republic of Belarus shall be made in freely convertible international currencies, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon between the two Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE VIII

Natural and juridical persons of either country shall also be free to import or export goods and services from each other on the basis of counter trade, compensation arrangements, leasing and buy-back arrangements or any other internationally recognized

for of business cooperation in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two countries.

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ARTICLE IX

The Contracting Parties shall encourage investment and technological cooperation between them, inter alia, through establishment of joint ventures in their territories, for their domestic markets as well as the markets of third countries.

ARTICLE X

The Contracting Parties, at the request of either Party, will hold consultations in order to facilitate smooth implementation of this Agreement, as well as for settling any disputes that may arise in the interpretation and implementation of the Agreement.

ARTICLE XI

(i) This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signing and shall remain valid for a period of five years.

(ii) The period of validity of this Agreement shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year unless either of the Contracting Parties informs the other Party in writing of its intention to cancel the Agreement at least six months prior to its expiry. Upon such expiry, the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue to apply to all contracts concluded during the period of the validity of the Agreement and not fully executed till the date of expiry of this Agreement.

(iii) This Agreement may be amended with mutual consent, in writing, by the Parties.

ARTICLE XII

This Agreement shall be approved by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their laws and regulations, if necessary. Each Contracting Party shall notify the other Party of the completion of the procedures required by its laws and regulations.

Done on 14th May, 1993 in New Delhi, in two original copies, each in the Hindi, Belarusian and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Agreement on Tourism Cooperation

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus (hereafter referred to as "Contracting Parties")

- Striving to develop tourist relations between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
- Desirous of more effective cooperation in the field of tourism on a bilateral basis.

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties, recognising the differing background of tourist industry in each other's countries, agree to share their experience and capabilities in a manner which would be of maximum mutual benefit. They would identify specific areas of expertise where fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation is possible.

ARTICLE II

The Contracting Parties will explore the possibilities of cooperation in the building, establishment and management of hotels and allied establishments, as these are regarded as central to the expansion of tourism in both countries. Both Governments would encourage cooperation in this

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regard by extending appropriate facilities, within the framework of their respective financial regulations.

ARTICLE III

The Contracting Parties will explore the possibility of collaboration, including joint ventures, in the field of developing resorts, taking into account their past experience in

this field. A particular priority would be accorded to lake resorts and water sports in this context.

ARTICLE IV

The Contracting Parties will promote bilateral tourism by extending appropriate facilities to encourage tourists to visit each other's countries.

ARTICLE V

Publicity material, including material for tourist exhibits and tourist films for promotion of tourism, will enjoy exemption from customs and other import duties in accordance with the Additional Protocol to the Convention Concerning Customs Facilities for Touring, relating to the Importation of Tourist Publicity Documents and Material (1954).

ARTICLE VI

The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to cooperate in their activities in the international tourism organisations.

ARTICLE VII

The Contracting Parties would consider additional concrete measures necessary to promote and encourage tourism. In this connection they would consider agreeing on work plans as and when appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date the Contracting Parties notify each other through diplomatic channels of the completion of the constitutional requirements of their respective countries necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.

The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years. The Agreement shall automatically be renewed for a successive period of five years unless either Contracting Party notifies the other Contracting Party of its intention to terminate the Agreement at least six months prior to its expiry.

Done at New Delhi on 14 May, 1993 in two originals each in the Hindi, Belarusian and English languages. In case of divergence, the English Text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Cooperation in the Spheres of Culture, Arts, Education, Mass Media, Sports and Tourism

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus hereafter referred to as "Parties";

Pledging to promote the development and strengthening of their traditional friendly relations,

Declaring their intention to develop and strengthen undeviating friendship and cooperation between both Parties and peoples in the spheres of culture, arts, education, science, tourism, sports, and mass-media,

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties declare their desire to maintain and strengthen cooperation in
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the fields of culture, arts, education, information, sports and tourism.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties express their desire to promote mutual cultural exchange, to stimulate cooperation and support the development of relations between the educational, cultural, sporting and tourism institutions of the two Parties.

ARTICLE 3

Each Party will receive, as far as its own resources and requirements will permit, nationals recommended by the other Party for study, training, carrying out research work and specialisation in its educational, cultural, mass-media and sports institutions.

ARTICLE 4

The two Parties pledge themselves to take all appropriate measures to provide all possible facilities for giving effect to the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

For the purpose of carrying out the terms of this Agreement, the Parties agree to set up a Group consisting of an equal number of representatives of each Party. The objectives of the Group will be:

- (a) to formulate a detailed programme of exchanges, and
- (b) to keep under periodical review the implementation of the Agreement.

The Group shall meet as and when necessary.

ARTICLE 6

The present Agreement shall come into force from the date of its signing and shall be valid for five years. Its term shall be automatically prolonged for a further period of five years if neither of the Parties notifies the other of its decision to terminate it 6 months in advance before the expiry date.

This Agreement can be amended by mutual consent.

Signed at New Delhi on 14 May, 1993 in two original sets each in Hindi, Belarusian and English, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of any doubt, the English text will prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Visa-free Travel of Government Officials

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties",

DESIROUS to further develop and strengthen the friendly relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

HAVE Agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1. Citizens of the Republic of India, with valid diplomatic and official passports of the Republic of India and the citizens of the Republic of Belarus with diplomatic and official passports, as well as minor children, included in these passports, may enter, exit or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party without visa.

2. The photographs of the above mentioned children in the age group of 7 to 16 must be pasted in the passports of their parents, if so provided under the regulations of any of the contracting parties.

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ARTICLE 2

Citizens of one Contracting Party, covered by Article 1 of the present agreement, have to enter, exit or transit through the border posts of the other Contracting Party, open for international passenger traffic, and are obliged to complete necessary formalities in accordance with the rules and regulations, formulated and enforced by the competent organisations of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 3

Citizens of one Contracting Party during their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party must follow the laws and rules of the Contracting Parties and also go through the formalities of registration in accordance with the rules prescribed by the competent organisations of the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 4

The present agreement does not restrict the right of both the Contracting Parties to refuse entry or curtail the duration of stay on its territory of "persona non grata" and non-acceptable persons of the other Contracting Party without showing cause.

ARTICLE 5

The Contracting Parties can provisionally stop complete or partial enforcement of the present agreement on the grounds of law and order, state security or public health. However, till the adoption or revocation of the above mentioned steps, each of the Contracting Parties is obliged to inform the other Contracting Party about these steps well in advance through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 6

1. Before the present agreement comes into force, the Contracting Parties must carry out timely exchange of specimens of passports, envisaged in article 1 of the present agreement through diplomatic channels.

2. When one of the Contracting Parties changes the above mentioned specimens of the passports, it must inform the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels about it, at least 30 days before the introduction of such new specimens of passports.

ARTICLE 7

Till the issue of diplomatic and official passports of the Republic of Belarus, the citizens of the Republic of Belarus may use the diplomatic and official passports of the former U.S.S.R. instead of passports of the Republic of Belarus as mentioned in Article 1 of the present agreement. These passports, however, must carry a note indicating that the bearer is indeed a citizen of Belarus.

ARTICLE 8

The present agreement may be modified or amended by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties and enter into force through exchange of notes.

ARTICLE 9

The present agreement shall enter into force from the date of its signing and shall remain valid unless either of the Contracting Parties gives to the other a written notice ninety days in advance of its intention to terminate this agreement from the date of its expiry.

Signing at New Delhi on this 14th day of May 1993 in two originals each in Hindi, Belarusian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA MALI CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Cooperation in Science and Technology

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties"),

MINDFUL of existing friendly relations between the two Countries,

RECOGNISING the importance of science and technology in the development of economies of both the countries,

DESIROUS to strengthen and develop the cooperation between the two Countries in the fields of science and technology.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties agree to strengthen and develop the cooperation in science and technology between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in accordance with the terms of the of this Agreement and legislations in force in both the Countries.

ARTICLE II

The cooperation shall be in the following forms:

- a) Joint research, development and design projects, including the exchange of their results as well as exchange of scientists, specialists and researchers participating in the execution of the projects;
- b) Joint scientific conferences, symposia, courses, seminars and exhibitions;
- c) Exchange of scientific and technical information and documentation;

- d) Joint utilisation of scientific research devices and equipment;
- e) Other forms of scientific and technical cooperation as mutually agreed upon between the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE III

1. In order to implement this Agreement a Joint Indo-Belarusian Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology shall be established, represented by an equal number of members from each Contracting Party. The Joint Committee shall consist of the Chairman and the Secretary from the two countries and any designated members according to the established norms of the Contracting Parties.
2. The major functions of the Joint Committee shall be as follows:
 - a) creation of favourable conditions for implementation of this Agreement;
 - b) rendering assistance for the execution of joint programs and projects;
 - (c) exchange of opinions on the perspectives of the scientific and technical cooperation and consideration of suggestions for its further development.
3. The meetings of the Joint Committee shall take place annually, or as and when required by mutual consent, alternately in India and Belarus.
4. The Joint Committee shall form its own rules of procedures.

ARTICLE IV

1. The list of areas of cooperation shall be agreed upon by the Joint Committee in the form of Executive Programs. The Contracting Parties shall encourage conclusion of long term agreements aimed at developing long term cooperation between the governmental agencies, research institutes, scientific societies, higher educa-

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tional establishments, and other scientific and technical organisations (hereinafter referred to as "the Cooperating Organisations").

2. These agreements shall contain:
 - a) the purpose and content of the cooperation, and the

participating institutions/organisations responsible for the execution of the joint projects;

b) the extent of financing of the cooperation.

c) the procedure of using the results of joint research and development projects.

ARTICLE V

The expenditure for the exchange visits of experts, scientists and other specialists within the framework of this Agreement shall be met as per the following basis:

The sending party shall pay for the return trip between the capitals of the two countries and the host country shall pay for the accommodation, internal travel, daily allowance, and medical expenses in case of sudden illness or accident according to the health regulations prevailing in the country.

ARTICLE VI

1. Scientific and technical information resulting out of joint activities within the framework of this Agreement, excluding the data, which is considered to be a commercial secret, shall be disseminated in world scientific circles through normal channels in accordance with the legislations of the Contracting Parties, as well as the rules and practices adopted by the Cooperating Organisations, unless otherwise stated in agreements mentioned in Article IV.

2. Scientists, technical experts and organisations of third countries or international organisations may be invited to participate in projects and programs within the framework of this Agreement with the acceptance of both the Contracting Parties. The expenditure related to such participation shall be generally borne by the third parties, if no other procedure is approved and agreed in writing by both the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE VII

In order to promote cooperation within the framework of this Agreement, each of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with the legislations in force on its territory, shall:

- expedite and simplify the dispatch and delivery of equipment and devices between the territories of the Contracting Parties;

- expedite and simplify entry and exit, free movement and working of persons participating in execution of this Agreement, including access to relevant geographic regions, necessary information, materials, as well as enterprises and persons, participating in the execution of this Agreement;

ARTICLE VIII

The terms of this Agreement shall not contravene other agreements and treaties signed between the Contracting Parties, and also with other international agreements to which both the countries are signatory or party.

ARTICLE IX

Issues connected with interpretation or execution of this Agreement shall be resolved by mutual consultations between the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE X

1. This Agreement shall be subject to approval by the two Governments in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and shall enter into force upon exchange of notes concerning such approval.

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2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a further period of five year, unless either of the Contracting party gives to the other, a written notice of its intention to terminate this Agreement, twelve months in advance prior to its expiry.

3. This Agreement can be amended, supplemented or modified by mutual consent.

4. The amendment, termination or expiration of this Agreement shall not affect the carrying out of any project or program already being undertaken under this Agreement and not fully executed at the time of the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XI

The Ministry of Science & Technology, Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Department of Science & New Technology of Council of Ministers shall be responsible for the supervision, coordination and implementation of the Agreement from India and Belarus, respectively.

Done at New Delhi on May 14, 1993 in two originals each in Hindi, Belarusian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic, but in case of doubt the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Related Technical Cooperation

PREMABLE

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus hereinafter referred to as 'PARTIES' and singly as 'PARTY'.

CONSIDERING the existing and new friendly relations between their governments countries and peoples:

DESIRING to promote Defence related Technical Cooperation for mutual benefit:

RECOGNISING that this cooperation should be carried out in an effective and purposive manner, on the basis of the equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit:

Now, therefore, the Parties hereby agree to the following understanding:

ARTICLE 1

SCOPE OF COOPERATION

THE PARTIES hereby agree to cooperate, within the framework of their laws, for:

1.1 Promoting of bilateral Defence Relations and cooperation in specific areas to be agreed upon, including areas of product support and services as well as bilateral projects relating to Defence equipments and components.

1.2 Promoting of cooperation between the Defence industries of the two countries in various areas of mutual interest including, interalia, transfer of technology, technical assistance, training and co-production.

1.3 Promoting of cooperation in defence science and technology through exchange of information, training, visits, exchange of personnel and joint projects.

1.4 Promoting of bilateral contacts in military sphere through training, visits, exchange of information and personnel.

ARTICLE 2

MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATION

2.1 In order to control, manage and implement this understanding, the two
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Parties will meet periodically to evolve concrete programmes for mutual benefit.

2.2 Programmes of cooperation may also be agreed upon by exchange of communications between the two Parties or through diplomatic channels.

2.3 For the purpose of execution of the mutually agreed programmes of cooperation, the two Parties shall, whenever necessary, enter into specific contracts or agreements, without prejudice to the commitments already existing.

ARTICLE 3

3.1 The two Parties shall meet alternately in India and Belarus, whenever required.

3.2 The agenda and related organisational and administrative matters for the conduct of meetings shall be decided by mutual agreement.

3.3 The decisions taken in such meetings shall be recorded in the form of agreed minutes.

ARTICLE 4

Security Arrangerments

4.1 Both Parties shall take necessary measures to ensure secrecy of information, obtained in the course of implementation of this Understanding. This information shall not be used by either Party to the detriment of the interests of the oether Party. Neither Party shall divulge such information to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party.

ARTICLE 5

Final Provisions

5.1 This Understanding comes into effect on the date of its signing.

5.2 Either Party may make a request, at any time, to vary, modify or otherwise amend this Understanding. Such variation, modification or amendment shall come into effect upon the agreement of the other Party.

5.3 This Understanding may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement by giving six months notice.

5.4 Any difference on the interpretation or application of this Understanding shall be amicably resolved through mutual consultations.

5.5 Done in New Delhi on 14 May 1993 in two originals each, in the Hindi, Belarusian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. However, in case of any doubt, the English text will prevail.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to European Parliament

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1993 on visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to European Parliament:

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla held a meeting with the President of the European Parliament, Dr. EGON ALFRED KLEPSH in Strasburg last evening.

The Delegation is on a week-long visit to the European Parliament. Among the

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subjects discussed during the meeting were the Perspective of Indo-EC Relations, Post Cold War situation in Europe-role of European Institutions, International issues of mutual interest including threat to democratic societies by terrorism, Regional Environment in South Asia and prospects for SAARC.

The Mayor of Strasburg hosted a dinner in the honour of Shri Shukla.

The Delegation consists of S/Shri Nirmal Kant Chatterjee, Hari Singh, Digvijay Singh, Srikant Jena, Guman Mal Lodha, K.H. Muniyappa and the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, Shri Sundershan Aggarwal.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : May 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Meeting between Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, Leader of Indian Parliamentary Delegation and the President of the European Parliament

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1993 on the meeting between Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, leader of Indian Parliamentary delegation with the President of the European Parliament:

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, who is leading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation for discussions with the European Parliament in Strasbourg, accompanied by Indian Ambassador to the E.C., Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta, had a 15-minute meeting with the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Egon Alfred Klepsch on May 25. During the meeting, Mr. Klepsch highlighted the strength of India's democratic traditions and the need for enhancement of cooperation between E.C. and India. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla emphasised the need for cooperation among democracies to tackle the menace of terrorism. He also called for greater understanding of the political and economic developments on both sides. Mr. Klepsch referred to the institutional developments in the European Parliament and efforts to prevent Parliamentary Resolutions being used for partisan ends.

During a working session on political issues with the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with countries of South Asia, the Indian Delegation discussed future perspectives for Indo-EC relations. The leader of the Indian Delegation clarified various misunderstandings on the Kashmir issue and the Narmada project. There was also a serious discussion on human rights and problem of terrorism and fundamentalism. Both sides exchanged notes about the role of the Central Asian Republics. The members of the European Parliament referred to the future plans for integration of the European Community in the political, economic and social fields.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA FRANCE

Date : May 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia on the North-South Dialogue at the meeting of Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation at the NAM in Bali, May 10, 1993

The following is text of the Statement made by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia at the Opening Plenary Session on May 11, 1993 on the agenda item "Relaunching of the North-South Dialogue" at the Meeting of the
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Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement Bali, 10 to 13 May, 1993:

Mr. Chairman, may I first of all take this opportunity to express our great appreciation for the warmth of the hospitality that has been extended to us and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting. We also look forward to working along with you to achieving real content, to see results of this extremely important meeting which is addressing critical areas of common global concern.

This morning we have had the opportunity to listen to a truly inspiring address by H.E. President Soeharto, who with deliberate precision has focussed our attention on issues of North-South concern, the approaches of partnership and the crucial areas of South-South cooperation. We thank him for his address. We wholeheartedly agree with the emphasis that has been provided in the inaugural statement on the need to revitalise and re-orient

the debate on structural issues and issues of development.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you on taking the initiative or hosting the Standing Ministerial Committee Meeting on Economic Cooperation. We have been enjoined to convene here by our Heads of State and Government who met in Jakarta last year with a specific mandate to look at ways and means to augment economic cooperation.

I also have to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for the extreme relevance of the items chosen for the Agenda. The very first item - Relaunching of the North South Dialogue is even more important for our future development today than it was ever before. When I say our, Mr. Chairman, I do not mean only the countries of the Non-aligned Movement of the developing countries of the South. I mean the entire world because the North and the South are closely interlinked and so are their futures. Therefore the call for a revitalise dialogue is not based on a question of right or wrong, but makes sound economic sense, which is speaking out today for a non-confrontationist yet decisive North South dialogue this point. Structural changes in the world economy have brought about increasing globalisation of trade and new patterns of production and consumption. Economies have become more inter-dependent and there is a need to maximise complementarities between them. The world has to stress on growth and production and come out of the global recession which is centred around the industrialised North. Within the so-called concept of "regimes of growth" is the underpinning of advances in science and technology and the development of higher scales of technology in the advanced industrialised countries. However, there are contributions of relevance also being made by science and technology in the South. The main factor is in the commercialisation of technology. This is where the North scores clearly over the South. Mutualities are thus apparent and we can draw on each other for a strengthening of the extremely important area of development.

Further, Mr. Chairman, the world has seen unprecedented political change over the last few years and mankind has made some progress towards peace and stability. This offers us a rare historic opportunity. The resources that relative peace has released should be channelised to development. Yet stability is not indivisible from development and growth cannot be achieved only if a handful of countries are to enjoy the benefits.

The logic for the North-South Dialogue, Mr. Chairman, is, therefore, undisputed. However, it is important to devote our attention to the methods of this dialogue as much will depend upon our approach. We have to evolve practical, realistic steps, short on rhetoric and based on a mutuality of interests which will bring tangible economic results. These will need an understanding of each other's concerns and knowledge of mutual potential. Rhetoric will not help. I am certain that under your wise and experienced deliberations, we

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can hope to evolve a meaningful programme which would emphasise the need for a meaningful and effective dialogue.

In ending, Mr. Chairman, I presume that we shall have discussions on the different sectors of the North-South dialogue. I have thus not gone into specifics which session.

DONESIA USA

Date : May 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia for promotion and strengthening of South-South Cooperation at the NAM in Bali

The following is text of a Statement made by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia in the Plenary Session on May 12, 1993 on the agenda item: "Promotion and Strengthening of South-South Cooperation", at the meeting of the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Non-aligned Movement Bali, 10-13 May 1993:

Mr. Chairman,

India, has always attached great importance to South-South cooperation. This is evident from the commitments that we have displayed in support of both the bilateral and the multilateral programmes of South-South cooperation.

2. You will permit me, therefore, Mr. Chairman, to make a few points in the spirit of brain-storming and free-thinking which forms the basis of the present meeting. We have to recognise, as developing countries, that so far the achievements on the South-South basis have been rather limited. They definitely fall well short of fulfilling the potential that exists.

3. Mr. Chairman, on numerous occasions representatives of the South have expressed a firm belief in strengthening South-South cooperation with the clear objective of presenting this as an example of the degree of achievement and serious commitment that we attach to our own development. It is a pity, therefore, that despite this recognition, when it has come to actual

implementation of acknowledgedly important programmes and projects, there has been a persistent lack of commitment and most of these programmes have remained on the peripheries. There has neither been adequate commitment of resources nor expertise. What is even more unfortunate is the fact that while there is no dearth of experience, expertise, technical capabilities and a fair degree of technology available within the South, the actual utilisation of these capabilities has been minimal. If I sound somewhat harsh in my statement so far it is because it is important that we recognise that if the North does not take us seriously at least partially we are ourselves to blame. We have not been able to utilise our opportunities and optimise our strengths to mutual advantage.

4. Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that if we want to attract the North to the advantage of acting in partnership with the South to attain sustained growth of the global economy, we have to demonstrate that we do not only have the knowledge of our capabilities but have the ability to exploit our strengths through mutually beneficial arrangements.

5. On present trends it is quite apparent the developing countries will find increasing restrictions based on their access to western markets, finances and western technology. And that developing countries must seek to find new engines of growth, a process which can be helped by pooling resources in well thought out collaborative ventures. No country, has really been able to achieve economic and social progress without in some way acquiring the capability to develop new technologies, apply them on the field and ensure that they are widely disseminated in practical applications. More and more so, it is being recognized that economic development is not merely a function of land, labour and capital inputs, but largely a function of a

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society's ability to expand the available bases of scientific knowledge and to apply it to the needs of its people.

6. Sir, let me illustrate by a simple but significant example the strengths and the weaknesses that the South suffers from. In the area of biotechnology and the utilisation of natural genetic materials, there is a tremendous growth of benefits to mankind projected into the future. What is happily forgotten is that the genetic resources of the world are preserved in the South and are being more and more exploited by the North. The vitality of seed strains which will sustain the population of the globe, the pharmaceutical advances which will produce the next generation of medicines and the ecological diversity which will sustain life in the future are all in the custody of subsistence farmers and the disadvantaged of the South. The strength of the South is that we have reservoirs of genetic materials and these have been exploited on a traditional basis for centuries by our people. The weaknesses is that we have in the past not recognised the immense

potential that these reservoirs present. We have not devoted the efforts of research and development and science and technology towards developing modern linkages. Instead research and development and commercialisation is taking place on a very large scale in advanced countries based on materials and experiences that have been taken from the reservoirs in the South.

Ultimately, while mankind will certainly be a beneficiary, the material advantages which should have rightfully belonged to the countries in the South shall remain with the advanced countries. Sure it is to our advantage that we utilise to the optimum the availabilities in the South to develop on our natural advantages. The institutions exist, we have availabilities of highly skilled manpower. What is lacking often is availability of material resources. If we look around within the South, there is no shortage of such resources. It could be, therefore, a message that we can send out from Bali that a real programme devoted to the development of our own reservoirs through mutual efforts and commitments would be developed. In fact, Mr. Chairman, if we can cooperate in this area, we would definitely develop an extremely important element to attract the partnership and shared responsibility which we are trying to offer to our friends in the advanced industrialised countries. Once they are aware that we will preserve our reservoirs and develop and exploit them through our combined efforts and thereby ensuring not only the availability of the developed elements in the form of projects of bio-technology and hybridisation of seeds but also that we would ensure that the price at which these would be available would be more competitive, it would be in the interest of the advanced country institutions to join hands with us.

7. Mr. Chairman, a few other areas which need to be emphasised on which we feel a much greater degree of concentration and commitment needs to be displayed by the South are:

i) Finance: Priority should be given to strengthening regional and sub-regional clearing and payment arrangements as well as export credit financing facilities. The role of regional and sub-regional banks should be made more active to support financial, trade and other forms of South-South cooperation. A concerted effort should also be made by the developing countries to turn the attention of the Bretton Woods institutions towards playing a greater and systematic role in South-South cooperation. Specific projects and programmes should be prepared for such support. These projects may involve two or more developing countries.

ii) Trade: GSTP should be expanded and a Programme of Action should be devised so that a significant proportion of trade between developing countries comes under the GSTP by the year 2000.

Commodity producers should consider reinforcing existing associations and setting up new ones. Counter trade amongst developing countries and improved trade information exchange can

make useful contributions.

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iii) Food Security: Special attention needs to be paid to joint research and productive enterprise in agro-industry and food production so that the South can become increasingly self-reliant in its food requirements. Arrangements should also be made to coordinate national food stocks and to establish jointly managed food emergency reserves.

iv) Science and Technology: Current advances in science and technology especially in frontier disciplines like bio-technology and micro-electronics should be examined by the South for their implications and possibilities of cooperation between the developing countries. The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and other developing countries should be used to play an important role in sponsoring and coordinating work in these areas. As a first step, the countries of the South should become members of the Centre and support it financially through contributions.

8. While concluding, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can draw attention of this august meeting to another extremely important area of cooperation. As is widely known and understood, the requirements of energy are rising on a proportionately incremental basis to development. It is becoming more and more apparent that alternative nonconventional sources have to be utilised to ensure not only that the development processes continue but also that the more backward and remoter areas in our respective countries are also brought onto the main stream. One clear source is solar energy. The advantages of its development and application are well recognised. In India, for instance, the rural applications of solar energy are being developed at a very rapid pace. One major factor that comes in the way of full exploitation of the existing potential is the higher capital costs of large scale solar energy applications. We feel that this is a programme area which could be beneficially exploited in practically every country of the South. What is needed is an agreement or understanding that a certain proportion of surplus resources would be devoted to the development and manufacture of solar energy applications. Mr. Chairman, it is even in the interest of the developing countries who have surplus hydro-carbon availabilities that they encourage the growth and expansion of non-conventional energy systems. This, in fact, would assist in conservation, where it is necessary, and at the same time ensure a more harmonious exploitation of hydro-carbon reservoirs. This is an area where cooperation could lead to several benefits - social, economic, political - and also assist in the negotiating process between the North and the South.

9. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that it is through such programmes that our real commitments will be demonstrated and the seriousness of South-South cooperation acknowledged. We must also

ensure a greater involvement of our private sectors and encourage them towards greater realisation of the opportunities that exist within the South.

DONESIA INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Indo-Israel Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on Indo-Israel Cooperation in the field of Agriculture:

Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Union Minister for Agriculture, today met Mr. Shiman Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel. The two Ministers had wide-ranging talks on promoting bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture.

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The two Ministers discussed the application of technological advances made by Israel in the field of water management, sprinkler and drip irrigation systems for optimum use of scarce water resources. They agreed that the application of this technology in India would also lead to solution of the intractable problems of water logging and soil alkalinity. These technologies could be successfully applied in fighting desert in Rajasthan, Gujarat and in enhancing agricultural productivity in the semi-arid areas of Maharashtra.

During the discussions it was noted that the recently concluded Agri Tech Exhibition organised in Tel Aviv in May 1993 had generated great interest in the Indian farming community. An official level delegation led by the Maharashtra Chief Minister and comprising amongst others the Minister for Cooperation, Government of Punjab and the union Agriculture Secretary had visited the exhibition. A 15 member farmers and entrepreneurs delegation sponsored by the National Horticulture Board, and about 600 farmers particularly from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat had also visited the Agri Tech Exhibition and acquainted themselves with technologies for optimum water use and productivity.

Sequel to the visit to Agri Tech Exhibition in Tel Aviv and discussions held by the Indian delegations in Israel, several proposals for joint ventures especially in the area of seed production and manufacture of agricultural machinery have been formulated. Pilot projects and turnkey projects have also been identified for promoting Indo-Israeli cooperation in the agriculture sector.

The Union Agriculture Minister hoped that the Travelling Seminar being planned jointly between the Israel and the Indian experts to visit the Indira Gandhi Canal and desert areas of Rajasthan would help in evolving appropriate water management and crop planning in these areas.

Development of links between the Ben-Gurion Desert University of Negiev and Indian academic and research institutions such as Rajasthan Agricultural University would enable the scientists of the two countries to exchange ideas in the field of desert stabilisation, water management, polygreenhouse technologies, etc.

Dr. Jakhar also expressed satisfaction that industry level collaborations were being finalised between the two countries for manufacture of drip irrigation systems, tissue-culture, hybrid seed production and manufacture of farm machinery. He said that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries would give an impetus to further cooperation between the two countries in the agriculture sector.

RAEL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA RUSSIA

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Discussion's between Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on Discussions between Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister:

Israel has evinced keen interest in close contact between the commercial banks of India and Israel for promoting cooperation and as a confidence building measure.

At a meeting with the Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh here this evening, the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Shimon Peres suggested creation of a joint fund for research and development on the lines of similar funds existing in other countries.

Israel also offered assistance for the rural development particularly in the area of desert farming in Rajasthan.
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RAEL USA INDIA

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

India-Israel Trade, Economic Cooperation

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on Indo-israel Trade and Economic Cooperation:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on economic cooperation between India and Israel was signed here this evening. According to the MOU, which was signed by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce and Civil Supplies on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Shimon Peres, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, on behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, India and Israel have agreed to promote trade, economic and technological cooperation and to this end, encourage contacts between their public and private sector organisations in various fields such as, industry, agriculture, solar energy, research & development, natural resources, tourism and transport.

Both sides will encourage establishment of joint ventures and projects in agriculture, agro industries, telecommunication, medical equipment, non-conventional energy and computers. They will cooperate with each other in promoting third country venture in trade and industrial sectors; participate in international fairs and encourage exchange of visits to delegations. The MOU will come into force on the date of its signing and will be valid for a period of one year. It may be renewed for a subsequent period of one year unless either of the parties gives to the other written notice 3 months in advance of its intention to terminate the MOU.

Both parties may give effect to cooperation indicated in MOU through appropriate separate agreements, in sectors like trade, science & technology, industrial research and development, agricultural, tourism and avoidance of double taxation.

After the establishment of diplomatic relationship with Israel in early 1992, India's trade with Israel was normalised in July 1992 subject to prevailing regulations about interaction generally with foreign countries. During 1992-93, India's exports to Israel were Rs. 168 crores and India's imports from Israel were Rs. 308 crores during the first 10 months of 1992-93, i.e. April 1992 to January 1993.

RAEL INDIA USA MALI

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Visit of Israel Foreign Minister to India

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on a speech delivered by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs on the occasion of the official dinner hosted in honour of H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel:

Mr. Minister, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, It gives me pleasure to extend to you, Mr. Minister and members of your delegation, a warm welcome on behalf of the Government as well as, of course, on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues and Indian guests who are present here.

2. Since times immemorial, India has been the melting pot of races, religions and creeds. India has believed and continues to believe in universalism, humanism and tolerance, which made India attractive for those who sought shelter, or refuge, or an atmosphere of moderation and liberalism. It is in this context that nearly 1600 years back, India had welcomed the earliest migration of Jewish people to India. Mr. Minister, it is in the same spirit that we welcome you and your delegation today as our guests and we hope that you will feel at home during your stay in India despite the uncomfortably hot season. We pay tribute to the notable contribution of the people

of Jewish faith to the rich cultural mosaic of India, and we are glad to hear of the success and enterprise of the Jews of Indian origin in Israel.

3. Israel, like India, followed a path of self-reliance and development. India and Israel have achieved significant progress in various fields and there is scope for great cooperation between the two countries. It is through sharing of each other's experience in various fields that we can build a world free from fear, hunger, aggression and intolerance. We believe in cooperation and hope that your present visit to India will lead to the achievement through signing of various agreements, for concrete cooperation in diverse fields.

4. Excellency, we are meeting at a time when the nature and contours of international relations have undergone significant change. These changes do not in our opinion invalidate the relevance of our approach, our basic principles and values which have served as the basis of our foreign policy since the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister. We believe in peaceful co-existence, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and settlement of all disputes through political dialogue and negotiations. It is in this spirit that we welcomed the launching of the 'Middle East Peace Process' in Madrid in October 1991. We are happy that after a gap of 4 months, the dialogue has commenced again. We have extended our full support to the peace talks and will continue to do so, so long as it enjoys the goodwill and cooperation of all the concerned sides, as we believe that it offers a unique opportunity to the peoples in the area to reach a settlement of long outstanding issues. We hope that all parties to this dialogue will create the necessary conditions to seize this historic opportunity to find a just, honourable and peaceful solution of the problems that have beset this region for several decades spanning nearly our entire lifetime, taking into full consideration the rights, national interests and aspirations of all the parties to the discussions.

5. Excellency, experiences of the past have given us greater wisdom. We know that to survive in this world as nations and peoples there is a need to evolve and innovate new ideas and strategies to meet the challenges facing us today. The time has come to create conditions for the lessening of tensions so that we can devote ourselves to pressing needs such as the improvement in quality of life, elimination of poverty, preservation of the environment, reduction in level of armaments and military expenditure, and the removal of injustice and discrimination of all kinds. We must move towards the 21st century with the hope that the future generations of humankind will be able to live in peace without fear or threat.

6. Mr. Minister, I would like to extend our best wishes to you and to your delegation for a successful visit to our country. We have confidence that your visit will usher in an era of friendship and cooperation between India and Israel.

7. I invite those present here to rise and join me in a toast to:
- the good health of Mr. Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel, and
- Friendship and cooperation between India and Israel. Thank you.

RAEL INDIA USA SPAIN

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Indo-Israel Agreement on Tourism

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1993 on Indo-Israel agreement on Tourism:

India and Israel signed here today an Agreement on Tourism, envisaging, among other things, investments in the field of tourism in private enterprise in the form of joint-ventures.

The Agreement was signed by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Tourism
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and Civil Aviation on behalf of India and by H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel on behalf of his country.

The Agreement provides for encouraging measures by both the countries for promoting and increasing exchanges in tourism. Development of cooperation between the official tourism organisations in both the countries will also be encouraged. The Agreement further stipulate customs duty exemption on import and export of material and documents for publicity of tourism and facilitating and encouraging the activities of tourism related services such as travel agencies, commercial tour operators, hotel agents, airlines etc. It has also been stipulated to establish a Joint Committee composed of an equal number of representatives of both India and Israel to help achieve the goals of this Agreement. The Joint Committee will meet

alternatively in India and in Israel to evaluate the activities.

The Agreement will be valid for a period of five years.

Earlier, during discussions between the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the visiting dignitary, an effort was made to identify areas of cooperation between the two countries. Beside seeking cooperation in the field of tourism and civil aviation, Shri Azad expressed India's desire to learn from Israel's experience in drip and drop irrigation, dry land farming, solar thermal power plant, horticulture and exchange information in science and technology. The visiting dignitary was informed that an India Festival-cum-Tourism Workshop is being organised at Tel Aviv next month which will present a multi-facet splendours of India to the people of Israel. H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel shared the view-point expressed by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and expressed his country's equal keenness to develop cooperation in various fields with India including tourism.

RAEL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : May 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

India, Israel Sign Cultural Agreement

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1993 on Indo-Israel Cultural Agreement:

India and Israel signed a cultural agreement here today. It was signed by the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, and the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres. The agreement covers the fields of art, culture, education, sports, journalism, radio, television and cinema.

The agreement envisages promotion of development of cooperation between the two countries in arts and culture. Besides exchange of exhibitions, contacts are to be developed between national museums, national libraries, national archives and performing artists.

Development of contacts is to be encouraged in education through

exchange visits of academics, scholars and teachers of specialised institutions. The study of the language, literature, culture and history of each other has been provided for.

Under the agreement it is proposed to encourage cooperation in cinema and between radio, television and journalists of the two countries. Cooperation in sports will also be encouraged. Provision has been made for contacts between youth and non-governmental organisations for fostering a better mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.
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RAEL INDIA USA

Date : May 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Israel Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister calls on the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1993 on Israel Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister call on President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel, H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Warmly welcoming Mr. Peres, Dr. Sharma pointed out that the Jews were one of the first migrants to India and their centuries old settlements can be seen even today in cities like Cochin and Bombay. They prospered in India and have lived without suffering any discrimination. This was an accord with the millenia old ethos of religious tolerance which has prevailed in India, he said.

Mr. Peres said that with the establishment of diplomatic ties a renewed chapter of friendship and cooperation has opened between the two countries and added that India has always enjoyed the highest regard among the people of Israel. He recalled that the founder of the State of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion had, permanently on his desk, three photographs: that of Moses, Socrates and Mahtma Gandhi. India's freedom struggle was one of the greatest, examples, in recent times, of the victory of morality, Mr. Peres said. Paying tribute to India's record of secularism, he said

that India has shown to the world that democracy is not merely the right to be equal but also to be different.

During the half an hour meeting the two leaders discussed the possibility of enhancing economic cooperation between India and Israel, particularly in the field of agriculture, solar energy, health, and science and technology. The principled opposition of both countries to international terrorism also came up during the discussion.

Mr. Peres extended on behalf of the President of Israel, an invitation to Dr. Sharma to visit Israel. Thanking him, the President conveyed his greetings and felicitations to President Weizman, who has been elected to this office only recently.

RAEL INDIA USA

Date : May 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Israel Foreign Minister Calls on the Prime Minister

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1993 on Foreign Minister of Israel call on Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres, called on the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao this evening. The Prime Minister noted the opportunities that have emerged following the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. Mr. Peres expressed his appreciation for India's action in the establishment of diplomatic relations. He paid glowing tribute to Indian culture and civilisation. He also expressed his admiration for the way in which the Indian democracy functioned, the largest democracy in the world, gathering within itself so many diverse strands in a nation which had so much diversity within an overall unity.

The two leaders also discussed the changed international situation following the end of the cold war and the challenges and opportunities that this presented. The Prime Minister mentioned that the changes in the international political system had given an impetus to the peace process in West Asia and it was this that had resulted in India's establishment of diplomatic

relations with Israel since this allowed India
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to play a meaningful role in the peace process keeping in mind its traditional friendship with the Arab nations and its principled support for the Palestinian cause.

Various other possibilities of bilateral cooperation were discussed including in the areas of solar energy, agriculture, irrigation and research and development in area of science and technology. The question of academic exchanges was also discussed as a potential area of cooperation.

The two leaders also discussed the dangers posed by terrorism and the need for the developed nations to address this problem with determination. Mr. Peres mentioned that Israel itself was a melting pot of people of different origins and referred to the 50000 Israelis of Indian origin who are in Israel.

Earlier in the day, the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, also called on Mr. Peres. Discussions focussed mainly on the middle-east peace process. Mr. Peres stated that India's policy vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause and its traditional ties with the Arab nations would be actually very useful to the peace process in having a credible voice which would help in the search for a compromise.

RAEL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : May 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Indo-Japanese Agreement for Yen 700 Million

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1993 on Indo-Japanese Agreement for yen 700 million:

Japan will extend grant aid of Yen 700 million to India for import of fertilizer and for increasing the food production. This year's commitment is Yen 100 million more than normally provided each year.

An agreement to this effect was signed here today by the Finance Secretary Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the Japanese Ambassador

to India H.E. Mr. Shunji Kaboyashhi on behalf of their respective countries.

PAN INDIA

Date : May 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Almaty

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1993 on Banquet Speech by Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in Almaty on May 25, 1993 at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the President of Kazakhstan:

I am honoured to be the first Prime Minister of India to visit independent Kazakhstan. Independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, came to Almaty in 1955. And your first State visit abroad, Mr. President, was to India in February last year. The relationship bet-
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ween our two independent states thus builds upon a string of firsts that is an excellent augury for the future.

Ours is a world of rapid, sometimes unexpected, changes. Ties such as ours, based upon goodwill and understanding, provide an anchor in the uncertain currents of international affairs. Our mutually beneficial relationship provides substance and reassurance that we value and cherish.

Excellency, your nation has come a long way in overcoming the challenges inherited from its past. It has emerged as an independent, equal and valued partner in the comity of nations. Your efforts for promoting self-reliance and economic stabilization and sweep of the reform programme that continues under your able leadership have won you respect and admiration. Your record grain harvest in 1992 and your rapid strides made in scientific and technological fields have brought pride to your friends. India too has embarked upon wide-ranging economic reforms. We have earned successes in agriculture and industry. We look forward to being your partner in the economic and technological revolution that have harnessed the spirit of the man.

When you visited us last year, Mr. President, we discovered several new opportunities for cooperation in the economic, scientific and cultural fields. We discovered also that there existed on political issues a close similarity of views with regard to ways and means of securing global and regional peace. These assure an expanding and cooperative relationship between our states and a warm and sympathetic bond between our peoples.

Mr. President, India looks forward to collaboration with Kazakhstan in areas of hydrocarbons, mineral resources, agriculture, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals among others. Procurement of metals and materials will create the basis for expanding trade. We wish to emerge as leading partners in sharing skills and capabilities through joint ventures. We will encourage our enterprises in this direction. Our Joint Commission will shortly meet in New Delhi.

History has imprinted mutual empathy in the minds of our peoples. Our Cultural Exchange Programme will deepen people to people contact. We shall continue to offer openings to Kazakh artists and scholars in areas like Indian dance, music and linguistics. The visit of the distinguished President of the Supreme Soviet this December would deepen the interaction between our Parliamentarians. This is only appropriate between two large democracies of Asia.

Kazakhstan and India are multi-ethnic countries. Commitment to equal rights of all, free of discrimination on religious, ethnic or other grounds, is critically important. Secularism is the sheet-anchor of our unity and stability. The Constitution adopted under your wise leadership plans for Kazakhstan to develop as a secular Republic committed to political democratisation and economic decentralisation. Newly independent Kazakhstan has set an example worthy of its people and of emulation.

Excellency, we fully share the view, expressed in your address to the United Nations last October, that the right of self-determination should not be allowed to undermine the integrity of a country, nor separatism allowed to corrode its unity. This is an important principle in a world riven by centrifugal forces. Forces that do not follow the secular ideal have used religion as a tool against countries whose varied communities have worked harmoniously together for the common good. India, in particular, is combating a vicious form of terrorism instigated from across its border. It aims to destroy the morale of our people and destabilize the Government that they have elected. Our two countries share a common purpose in fighting such disruptive forces. We look forward to working with Kazakhstan in strengthening peace, harmony and the enlightened principles of state policy that promote all-round stability and development in our region and beyond.

Peace, harmony and cooperation demand that nations come together for mutual benefit rather than drift apart for unilateral gains. The process of regional confidence building must be carefully calibrated. Areas of controversy must be avoided. It is the principal concerns of the countries concerned that must be addressed. Over a period of time, we can forge regional confidence and cooperation. India is ever willing to play its part in such an effort. And we are certain Kazakhstan is too.

The warmth of your welcome for me, and for my delegation, testifies to the richness and vigour of our relationship. Every element known to Mandeleev is found within the soil of Kazakhstan. That, perhaps, reflects how you have steeled your mettle to address the challenges that independent nationhood have brought with it. In this, wherever possible, India stands ready to be friend and partner. May our relationship prove as varied and innovative as the Akhromerini, blending the quest and excitement of uncharted path with the assurance and gentleness of the tried and known.

Mr. President, my delegation is touched and gratified by your hospitality and we thank you for your friendship. Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to join me in a toast.

to the health and happiness of President Nazarbaev;

to the friendship and cooperation between India and Kazakhstan;

and to the progress and prosperity of the people of Kazakhstan.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ITALY

Date : May 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

KENYA

Address by Minister of State for Environment and Forest at UNEP at Nairobi

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on address by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of State for Environment and Forests in UNEP at Nairobi:

India has proposed the setting up of an Inter-Governmental Group on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation in the United Nations Environment Programme.

Addressing the 17th Session of the Governing Council of the UNEP at Nairobi today, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath said that the setting up of these two Groups is an urgent and pressing necessity for strengthening UNEP role in promoting international cooperation in the field of Environment and giving concrete shape to UNEP's mandate as envisaged by the UN General Assembly and the UNCED.

Shri Kamal Nath said that the people in the developed countries take the drinking water for granted, but not so the people in poorer countries. He pointed out that vast tracts of land are drying up all over the world and millions have no water at all. In the burgeoning urban areas, the problem of thirst is compounded with that of poor sanitation, leading to an endless circle of ill health, deprivation and environmental degradation.

Shri Kamal Nath proposed that sufficient budget provision be made for a study on aridity, soil erosion, salinity, waterlogging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia, home to one and a half billion people. He said that it will underline the need for a widened scope for the proposed Convention on the Prevention of Desertification, and provide extremely useful data for the deliberations which are about to start on this.

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Referring to the UNEP report on emerging environmental issues the Minister suggested the inclusion of hazardous waste management as an important issue. Very often innocent countries are threatened by the ill effects of hazardous substances generated by the irresponsibility of some. Human life everywhere is precious and equally valuable -- this is the premise that should govern our approach to this issue.

Shri Kamal Nath cautioned that no remedy for this planet's environmental ill Will succeed if it ignores the poverty and the inadequate capacities of the billions of People who inhabit the major part of this earth. No remedy will work if it does not seek to combat their poverty; to give them the capacity and the know-how for sustainable development, to help them help themselves. He said that poverty recognises no Environment. Increase in uncaring consumption of the earth's resources by the rich is another, and bigger, reason for this, for -- remarkably -- the rich also seem to recognize no Environment. Ours is not only an unfair international economic order, it is also an unsustainable economic order.

Shri Kamal Nath regretted that despite pious protestations of the world community at Rio, the harsh truth was that in the year since UNCED total emissions of noxious gases have gone up

contrasting starkly with total ODA which has gone down. We need a stable basis for enhanced contributions to the Environment Fund in the form of multi-year negotiated pledges. He urged countries with the capacity to contribute to substantially increase their contributions to the Fund. This is essential if all the UNCED expected UNEP to fulfil is to be done, and done well. Support for the Environment Fund must be seen as an investment in the future of our planet, he said.

Earlier, the Commonwealth Environment Ministers from 20 countries held a meeting and discussed the Indo-British Initiative on Environmental Issues announced last month. The Commonwealth Secretariat announced that a Commonwealth Consultative Group would be set up shortly to discuss the issues and translate the Initiative into a Commonwealth Initiative.

The Commonwealth Environment Ministers agreed to meet once again in New York before the first meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Shri Kamal Nath said that the Indo-British Initiative did not represent a statement of identity of views, nor was it a list of points of agreement and disagreement, but "it was a developed and a developing country looking out of the same window and describing the scene in their own words".

The meeting divided into two broad sessions -- one to consider CSD and related subjects and the other on UNEP related matters. The participants exchanged views to harmonise their approaches for the discussions that are beginning in the UNEP Governing Council.

NYA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Maldives Foreign Minister Calls on the External Affairs Minister

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1993 on Foreign Minister of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Fathulla Jameel call on Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The Foreign Minister of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Fathulla Jameel called on our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, today. The two discussed bilateral as well as international issues of

importance to both countries. The Maldivian Foreign Minister invited Mr. Dinesh Singh, to visit his country, an invitation which Mr. Dinesh Singh accepted with pleasure.

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LDIVES INDIA USA

Date : May 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Visit of Maldives Foreign Minister for Discussions on Trade and Tourism with Indian Leaders

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1993 on the visit of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives for discussion on Trade and Tourism Sectors:

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives H.E. Mr. Fathulla Jameel paid an official visit to India from May 17 to 21, 1993. He was accompanied on the visit by Mr. Mohammed Shihab, Director (External Resources) and Mr. Abdul Hameed Zakariyya, Deputy Director (Foreign Relations) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives.

2. In Bombay Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Jameel visited industrial establishments and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. He also had discussions with the top management of the Indian Oil Corporation, the State Bank of India and met with business leaders at a meeting organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations. The topics discussed during these engagements included Maldivian participation in Indian trade fairs especially to promote tourism in the Maldives, visits of Maldivian businessmen to India, export opportunities for Indian industry to the Maldives and the involvement of Indian industry in the tourism sector and post sea operations in the fisheries sector in the Maldives.

3. In New Delhi on 20th May Foreign Minister Jameel called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister; and met with the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for Surface Transport Shri Jagdish Tytler, the Minister of State for Commerce Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed and the Foreign Secretary.

4. His other engagements included a meeting with the

representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry, a visit to Rajghat to place a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi and a visit to the Planning Commission. Foreign Minister Jameel also called on Smt. Sonia Gandhi during his stay in Delhi.

5. The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed hosted a banquet in honour of His Excellency Mr. Jameel on the evening of 20th May, 1993.

6. Discussions during the visit covered bilateral and regional issues. There was an exchange of views on common political, economic, social, developmental and security concerns.. Bilateral cooperation covering the entire gamut of exchanges between the two countries in areas like infrastructural development, manpower resource development, health, communications, civil aviation, culture & fisheries, defence, trade and commerce were reviewed during the visit.

7. During the discussions there was a review of the progress of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital Project currently under construction at Male in the Maldives as an aid project of the Government of India. Proposed Indian assistance for a Vocational Training Centre in the Maldives was also discussed.

8. The Indian side expressed appreciation of the contribution of Maldives in SAARC on the issue of regional terrorism.

9. The Indian side conveyed its strong objections to the recent OIC resolution on Kashmir which constituted an unwarranted interference in India's internal affairs. The Maldivian side stressed that they did not regard the Kashmir issue as a religious issue but as a political dispute and were of the view that it should be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

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10. It was agreed to hold the next India-Maldives Joint Commission meeting at an early date. Mutually convenient dates are to be worked out through diplomatic channels.

11. The two sides agreed to explore ways of enhancing bilateral air and shipping links between India and Maldives with a view to promoting trade and tourism between the two countries.

12. Outstanding invitations for President Gayoom of the Maldives to visit India and for the Indian President to visit Maldives were also discussed. Dates for the two visits will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

LDIVES USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : May 20, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Yemen

The following is text of Statement issued by Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs on May 03, 1993 on visit of Permanent Under Secretary of Yemen Foreign Ministry:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that the Permanent Under Secretary of the Yemen Foreign Ministry, His Excellency, Mr. Ahmed Dhaifuhah Al-Qzaib has been on a visit to Delhi from April 30, 1993. He called on the Minister of State for Petroleum, Captain Satish Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit. He had detailed discussions with the Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Srinivasan which covered the OIC Conference in Karachi at which Mr. Dhaifullah had been the Yemen's representative, the situation in the Gulf, recent elections in Yemen and bilateral relations between Yemen and India. An agreement to set up a Joint Committee for economic technical cooperation was signed today by Mr. Dhaifullah and Mr. K. Srinivasan. It is expected that the Joint Committee will meet later this year.

MEN USA PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : May 03, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Consultative Committee of Parliament

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement on meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 04, 1993:

The Consultative Committee of Parliament of the Ministry of External Affairs met this morning. Members of Parliament enquired about implications of the resolution passed by the recent meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers in Karachi. They also asked for details of the testimony given by Mr. John Mallott, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary, at the Congressional Sub-committee on Asian Affairs.

Ministers of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and Shri Salman Khursheed, gave the members details of the resolutions passed in the OIC meeting on Kashmir and the Ayodhya incident and also informed the members of the corrective action taken by the Government of India. Government has already issued a formal statement rejecting the resolution and its

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recommendations. Government has also made contact with important Islamic countries through diplomatic channels conveying that this resolution is not conducive to good relations between India and the countries belonging to the OIC apart from being one sided. The members present urged that the Government should remain firm on important issues.

On Kashmir, they underlined that discussions with Pakistan could only be done bilaterally under the Simla Agreement. They also emphasized that there can be no compromise on India's basic position of Kashmir being an integral part of India

The Ministers of State also gave a detailed assessment of the testimony of Mr. John Mallott. Members of Parliament expressed the hope that in the context of the improving relationship between the United States and India, the US Government should ensure that if Pakistan wishes to discuss the Kashmir issue with India, it should be done bilaterally under the Simla Agreement. Members felt that Pakistan should not be allowed to use extraneous factors such as human rights issues to further its motivated intentions on Kashmir.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : May 04, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Nepal

The following is text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on the discussions of H.M. King of Nepal with Indian Ministers on May 07, 1993:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, Finance Minister, Home Minister and Commerce Minister, called on H.M. King of Nepal today. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, reiterated the close ties that exist between our two countries and discussed ways and means of strengthening these links further. They also briefly reviewed interntional developments. During the discussions of His Majesty, the King, with the Finance and Commerce Minister, both sides expressed happiness at the liberalised trade and transit regime, which came into effect from 1st April, 1993, and expressed the hope that the liberalised commercial and economic policies and consequent opportunities which have opened up both in India and Nepal will lead to further trade.

Ministers also laid emphasis on continuing the priority for development projects in Nepal.

PAL INDIA USA

Date : May 07, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bosnia-Herzegovina

The following is text of Official Spokesman's statement on Bosnia-Herzegovina in New Delhi on May 07, 1993:

Government is deeply distressed at the negative reaction of the Bosnian Serb Assembly to the Vance-Owen Peace Plan which had been endorsed by the UN and agreed to by the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at the recent conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina at Athens. Government urges the Bosnian Serbs to give up their recalcitrant and obstreperous attitude to the peace proposals and to bring an end to the sufierings caused to all communities by the ethnic and religious tensions generated by violent conflicts in different parts of former Yugoslavia. While urging all countries to exercise restraint and to avoid

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dangerous escalations, India objects to the grave provocations against the consensus of the international community by Bosnian Serbs. India stresses that the acceptance of the UN peace plan, which is the only basis presently available for a political solution to the present crisis, should be accepted by all concerned to ensure cessation of hostilities and forward movement towards establishing peace.

DIA GREECE USA YUGOSLAVIA

Date : May 07, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Tanzania

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1993 on the official talks between the Indian and the visiting Tanzanian delegation:

The Tanzanian delegation led by the President of Tanzania, H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi held official talks with the Indian delegation led by our Prime Minister at 11 O'clock this morning. Both sides stressed the importance of giving a concrete thrust to the strengthening of economic and commercial relations not only to further consolidate bilateral relations which were already active in many fields, but also because of a shared commitment to South-South Cooperation.

Both sides expressed the hope that the Joint Commission Meeting between the two countries would be held soon. Our Prime Minister expressed India's continued support or Tanzania's developmental activities. He gave an assessment of the internal developments in India focussing on the economic liberalisation programme which had led to reasonable satisfactory results in attracting foreign investments into India. He also spoke about regional development in India's neighbourhood particularly the recent SAARC Summit.

The Tanzanian President briefed the Indian delegation on the internal situation in his country especially in the area of their development plans. He also gave an assessment of the recent developments in South Africa. Both leaders re-affirmed their commitments to the ideals of the NonAligned Movement and the Commonwealth. Indian Prime Minister expressed his sympathy for loss of life and damage to property that resulted from the heavy

rains and floods in Tanzania recently and announced a contribution of medicines worth Rs. 5,00,000 as a humanitarian gesture.

The Tanzanian President underlined his desire for increased Indian investment in Tanzania in which the resident Indian community could also play an active role. There was much scope for cooperation in many areas of agriculture and industry.

In the course of discussions, specific projects were looked at including cooperation in plantation crops, in the field of agriculture and the immediate scope for Indian involvement in rehabilitating a large number of small industrial units, which were not performing optimally.

The delegation noted that an Indian team had just completed a report on specific areas of cooperation after visiting Tanzania.

NZANIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : May 11, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Eritrea

The following is text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 14, 1993 on the Government of India's decision to recognize the provisional Government of Eritrea:

The people of Eritrea have voted overwhelmingly for independence from Ethiopia. This was announced by the Commissioner of the Referendum Commission of Eritrea on 27th April, 1993. The referendum was held with the full support of the Government of Ethiopia under UN observation. The Government of India, while congratulating the people of Eritrea, extends recognition to the provisional Government of Eritrea and will establish diplomatic relations with Eritrea.

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ITREA INDIA ETHIOPIA

Date : May 14, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Belarussian

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on the meeting between the Belarussian Foreign Minister & Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed, on May 14, 1993:

The Belarussian Foreign Minister and our Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed met this morning. In the course of their discussions, they dwelt on disarmament. The Belarussian Foreign Minister explained that while they were a signatory to the NPT, they fully understood India's reasons for not signing the NPT in the context of India's concerns about political extremism in its neighbourhood and India's own national interests. He also expressed his country's total support for the action-plan on global disarmament that was presented to the United Nations by India.

Both the leaders expressed an identity of views on the question of democratisation of the UN system, a concept which Belarus supports being a founder-member of the United Nations.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : May 14, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Discussions between Israel Foreign Minister and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on the discussions between visiting Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, and our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia:

Our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia,

called on the Israeli Foreign Minister today. They discussed co-operation in the area of agriculture and in the area of science & technology. Mr. Peres mentioned that health could also be a potential area of co-operation. They dwelt upon the dangers posed by fundamentalism in the world at large. Mr. Peres emphasized that there should be much greater cultural contact between India and Israel and paid glowing tributes to artists such as Ravi Shankar & Zubin Mehta.

The Middle-East peace process was also discussed in detail.

RAEL USA INDIA

Date : May 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Israel Foreign Minister and External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1993 on the meeting between the visiting Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, and our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

Our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, met Mr. Shimon Peres today in the morning. Our Foreign Secretary and Ambassador of Israel were present. Shri Dinesh Singh welcomed Mr. Peres whose visit was the first official visit by an Israeli Foreign Minister to India and wished him a successful stay in India. While discussing the strengthening of bilateral relations Mr. Peres expressed the importance given by Israel to develop close ties with India.

The two Ministers also discussed the dangers posed by extremism to the two countries. Mr. Peres also gave an assessment on the progress of the Middle-East peace process.

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RAEL INDIA USA

Date : May 17, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Minister of State, Shri Salman Khursheed Calls on Foreign Minister of Maldives

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1993 on the talks between the visiting Foreign Minister of Maldives and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed:

Our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed called on the Foreign Minister of Maldives H.E. Mr. Fathulla Jameel on May 20, 1993. Both leaders expressed their satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral relations. The Maldivian Foreign Minister expressed his thanks to our Minister for India's assistance in constructing the Indira Gandhi Hospital and a Vocational Training Centre, which are being set up in Maldives. The two Ministers also discussed the recent OIC Foreign Ministers' conference in Karachi and the attempt of the host country to manipulate the conference and push its agenda on Kashmir.

LDIVES INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : May 20, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Somalia

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement on Indian participation in UNOSOM - II issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1993:

The Government of India have decided to join the international effort being mounted in Somalia in pursuance of United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 814 of 25th March, 1993. India's contribution to the effort will be a contingent of approximately one Brigade strength of the Indian Army, which will include independent units of para-medical personnel.

Date : May 20, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1993 on India's discussions with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. John Malott:

In response to a query on the visit of US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. John Malott, Official Spokesman stated that the Indian side had discussed a series of issues with Mr. Malott. He stressed that these ongoing consultations between the foreign offices of the two countries instituted a few years ago were useful to both sides. The issues discussed include matters of concern to us such as access to technology including dual use technology. The question of removal of trade barriers was also discussed.

In response to another query, he said that human rights was one of the issues that figured during the discussions. We basically conveyed our position that while India was always willing to discuss human rights issue with friendly countries, it would not like to be in a position of receiving either advice or exhortations from any country. Our position is that India's commitment to human rights is second to none. In fact, all these rights are guaranteed not only by the Constitution of India, but a variety of legislation has been passed on the subject of protection of people's rights particularly those belonging to the underprivileged sections of the community. The rule of law is very well established in India.

Some of the allegations made by human rights organisations, such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch, are really allegations pertaining to incidents which have occurred in very abnormal

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circumstances like in Kashmir, which is facing a proxy war as a result of activities by terrorists supported and armed by Pakistan. We pointed out that even in that context, we do not condone excess and take action whenever called for.

In response to another query, he stated that Government has commenced a dialogue with Amnesty International. The question of their visiting different parts of India in an institutional manner would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

A INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : May 20, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1993 on media reports in Pakistan alleging military build-up on the Indian side of the LOC:

Briefing the newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Government of India has been surprised to see a number of news items and articles in the Pakistani media in recent days alleging military buildup on the Indian side of the international border\LOC and resultant escalation of tension. There has been no induction of additional troops into Jammu & Kashmir, nor there has been any forward movement of Airforce elements anywhere along the international border in Jammu & Kashmir. The Pakistani military authorities have been re-assured about these twice during telephonic conversations between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan. The limited troop movement within J & K are all unit level exercises being carried out during the summer months. These are well away from the Line of Control. Such exercises are carried out as a routine by Indian as well a Pakistani troops. The Government of India is committed to the agreement between India and Pakistan on advance notice of military exercises and manoeuvres signed on 6th April, 1991.

KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 28, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Tunisia

The following is text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1993 on the visit of our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia to Tunisia:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia met Mr. Yaseer Arafat in Tunis on 26th May, 1993. He was accompanied by Foreign Secretary. The main purpose of this meeting was to brief Mr. Arafat and to put India's relations with Israel and our relations with Arab countries in its perspective. Arab League members briefed in New Delhi had been briefed earlier on the visit of Mr. Shimon Peres and Indo-Israeli relations. In the meeting with Mr. Arafat our Minister of State underlined the fact that our commitment to a peaceful and fair settlement of the Palestinian issue fulfilling the aspirations of the Palestinian people has not changed.

The policy issues connected with the upgrading of our relations with Israel were conveyed in detail by our MOS. Mr. Arafat appreciated our Prime Minister's gesture in sending our Minister of State as Special Envoy. He acknowledged that India could play a useful role in the Middle-East peace process.

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NISIA INDIA ISRAEL USA

Date : May 31, 1993

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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Prime Minister's Address at Investiture Ceremony of CBI

The following is text of address of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao on May 12, 1993 in New Delhi on Investiture ceremony of CBI:

Addressing the investiture ceremony of the Central Bureau of

Investigation after giving away the President's police medals, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said yesterday.

I am very happy to be in your midst this evening. This ceremony will be very important not only to those who are being awarded medals for their excellent work but also to the CBI as a whole. It is an occasion for honouring those of you who have given their best to the organisation as well as to the country, and also an occasion for reflecting on your achievements and for enabling you to chalk out definite programmes of action for improving your work further. I have great pleasure in personally congratulating all the awardees and I hope their example will enthuse others to keep the flag of your organisation flying high.

The role of the CBI as has been pointed out, has evolved over the years from an organisation set up primarily to investigate cases of bribery and corruption to one whose professional expertise is repeatedly called upon to investigate cases of complex or sensitive nature. And, that is how it should be. Any organisation does not take too much on itself in the beginning but as it grows, as its competence grows and as the Government's faith in its competence grows, and more and more is made over to the organisation, and this is a very good sign. Many cases of national importance or with international ramifications such as the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, cases of terrorism in Punjab, the stock scam and the demolition at Ayodhya are some very important cases that were entrusted to your organisation in the recent past. The Special Investigation Team set up for the Rajiv Gandhi case did a commendable job in identifying the culprits and filing chargesheets in the court in a reasonable time. The CBI is the only central agency with police powers for investigation and thus its role of investigating crimes of national and international importance can only grow in future.

The Director mentioned with legitimate pride that there is a continuous demand from the public, through their elected representatives, and even the courts, for entrusting more and more cases to the CBI. In fact he has specifically mentioned the observations of the Supreme Court that to "instil confidence in the public mind it may become necessary to ask the CBI to investigate a crime. It only shows the efficiency and the independence of the agency". This is some praise from the highest judicial authority of our country and I hope you will continue to maintain your standards to retain this confidence. I can assure you that the Government would continue to assist you, in the discharge of your duties and responsibilities.

Regrettably, white collar crime has emerged in our country. With the rapid development of technology, particularly information technology, such criminals will be able to play havoc with the system unless the agencies for crime control are constantly on the look out for the evolving crime patterns and are able to match the technological expertise that the criminals of this kind

have at their command. This is not happening as much as it should and we always find that our agencies are a little less equipped than the agencies that are facing them, with all kinds of gadgets available to them because they do not have to take anybody's sanction, there is no paper work, they just go and pick up
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whatever they want. And that is not so easy for you. So, there is always a hiatus, there is always a gap between their getting something and your being able to get something to match it. But we will have to bridge this gap, shorten this gap as far as possible and I think this is one of the tasks that we have to take up on priority. There would, no doubt, be many more such areas requiring upgradation and refinement of your professional skills and resources on a continuing basis. In such a context the need for training is obvious and I am happy to note that you have already commenced work on establishing a training academy at Ghaziabad. The Academy will have to be set up on modern lines and its management should be entrusted to men dedicated to the cause of human resource development. I am sure that the competence which your men will acquire when they pass through such an Academy will help them to leave an indelible stamp on the quality of your organisation's output.

The Director has made a few requests. He has taken care to couch these requests in broad terms leaving it to the better judgement of Government to take a final decision. And, I am sure these should not present too much difficulty. Government will look into these matters and do whatever is possible for the better functioning of the organisation. If the organisation does not have the wherewithal or the requirement to function better, then it is only means 'Pennywise and Pound-foolish'. We do not want these things to become a bottleneck in their work.

I understand that there is a move to reorganise your organisation on functional and geographical basis. This is a step in the right direction, as decentralisation and greater autonomy to field formations would cut down delays and make your operations more efficient. Restructuring of the organisation should help you to specialise in tackling different types of offences and crimes. I think there is no need for me to say anything further. I see that you have pruned the function as well that it fits exactly into my time schedule: and since I have to go back to Lok Sabha, I have taken care to see that I have the Minister of State who is not a Member of the Lok Sabha. She asked for a ticket, I refused and now I see how good it was to refuse a ticket of Lok Sabha to her. So, she will remain here I hope and I will take your leave. I have to go back to the House.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours in the task of combating crime and the sources of crime so that we have a peace-loving and law-abiding society in this country.

It has been the case for thousands of years but we have had aberrations now and then and we are right now passing through one of these aberrations. Let us hope that we will be soon finishing those aberrations, coming to the end of all those aberrations and commencing an area of normalcy and law-abiding attitudes on the part of the people. Once again, I thank you very much for the opportunity. Once again I congratulate the awardees on this occasion.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES

Exhibition of Raja Ravi Verma's Paintings - Prime Minister's Speech

The following is text of speech by Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao on May 18, 1993 at New Delhi on inauguration of an exhibition of paintings of Raja Rani Verma:

Inaugurating an exhibition of paintings by Raja Ravi Verma in the National Museum, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, said here yesterday.

"I am happy to have the privilege of inaugurating the exhibition of painting by Raja Ravi Verma. Raja Ravi Verma has become something of a legend in India art.

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He was born in the princely family of Travancore in 1848, attained great fame in his life-time and made a well-recognised and deep impact on the art of his time.

I remember that in our very early childhood, the first paintings I ever saw were Ravi Verma's paintings. One of the first paintings I faintly recall was of Krishna, the Bala Krishna, about whom Suradasa has written; exactly the same thing. I do not know whether he had read Suradasa. Just to point what exactly Suradasa has written, ek jeeti-jaagti tasveer aapke samne khadi ho jaati hai. This rare quality of absolutely realistic painting, absolutely, as if the person is standing there, sitting there, lying down. There is nothing which is left to imagination of the viewer. Everything is there.

This is how we were attracted to the art of painting in the beginning. If we had started with surrealism, I am sure we would never have known anything about painting at all except to say that anybody can paint it. This was an education to us. Small children, they know only how to draw all kinds of ugly things, but they did not know that a person could reproduce a picture which is so realistic, so realistic and so lifelike; it is a photograph. There is hardly any difference between this painting and the photograph. That is how we were initiated into the art of painting. It is good that we had that kind of grounding. Later on, of course, we went on into several forms and became more and more complex and more and more incomprehensible for ordinary mortals. But in any case, no one can forget Ravi Verma for having done this to a whole generation; it is not just one generation but maybe a series of generations during that time.

Ravi Verma's influence has been pervasive. For nearly a century, the Indian mind has seen Indian Gods and Goddesses as Ravi Verma depicted them. If any one wanted to know how Ramchandraji looked or Krishna looked or Damayanti looked ... particularly this Damayanti with this Hansduta is something which has caught the imagination of literally millions of people, millions of people, because they know the legend, they know the literature and those who have read the literature or heard the literature because this literature was available in small booklets at 4th standard, 6th standard, 7th standard level in our languages. It was available in very easy verse. I mean some of these classics have been written by several people at different levels of understanding and simplicity of the language. So, having read those things you look at these pictures, these paintings and then there is a link in your mind that this is how it was, this is how it must have been, this is how Damayanti might have looked and invariably all the female paintings that he has done are beautiful. So, that is one thing, the idea of beauty is something which he inculcates for the first time; the moment you look at the painting, the idea of beauty, the concept of beauty, the influence of a beautiful picture is immediately on you. So, this influence has been pervasive. For nearly a century, the Indian mind has seen Indian Gods and Goddesses as Ravi Verma depicted them. He gave them an immediate presence and association which is with us even today. Our images of the gods and mythological heroes who people our popular consciousness are as Ravi Verma and the many others who have derived inspiration from him, drew them.

One of the most significant factors about his paintings is you see his paintings in the smallest hut, in the most remote village. Now, this cannot be said of many other painters. No hut is devoid of at least one or two paintings of Ravi Verma. Any one who wants to have a painting first thinks of Ravi Verma and nobody else and it is quite an ironical thing that you find the paintings of huts in palaces, you have the paintings of palaces in huts. This is how maybe human taste thinks of something which it doesn't have. Probably this is human nature. But I can see

with exception that even in the smallest huts, at least in the area I came from, we have one or two paintings of Ravi Verma.
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Ravi Verma imbibed the influence and was a part of the cultural resurgence taking place in India at that time. He consciously tried to change the values of traditional art and to bring about a fusion between Indian traditions and the Western style of painting. He adapted Western techniques and tools for his own art and adapted them to the needs of Indian art. For instance when Ravi Verma started using the medium of oil, it was a medium unknown to Indian artists. We had of course other materials, very good materials, durable materials. Look at Ajanta, even today we do not know what the colours are made of, but then they have stood the test of time for thousands of years. But so far as painting is concerned, it is said that he started oil painting. Today oil as a medium in painting is taken for granted but a hundred years ago, it was an innovation adopted by Ravi Verma, which was of benefit to the entire community of Indian artists and art-lovers.

He shared and was a part of the popular inspiration of nationalism in India. Of course, he was born at a time when all great men were nationalists. The richest progeny of Mother India, of people who made the great patriots in whatever field they were working, that was after The Mutiny, after 1857 to the end of the century; you will have largest crop of patriots and great men in India. Think of any one and you will find that the birthday falls within that period, whether it is Mahatma Gandhi or Tilak, anyone, and that is why we are having a crop, we have had a crop of centenary celebrations during the last fifteen to twenty years.

His paintings were much admired and his association with the leading personalities of his time depicted nationalist fervour in new colours. Though travel from one corner of the country to another was not very easy. Raja Ravi Verma travelled and absorbed the living cultural traditions of different parts of India and brought about an integration through his work.

In 1893, ten paintings of Raja Ravi Verma were sent to represent Indian art at the international exhibition of the World Colombian Order held in Chicago. This was also the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's address to the Parliament of World Religions. You see how things coincide. Women of different regions, creeds and strata were the subject of Ravi Verma's paintings. In a sense the canvases represented more than just an individual's artistic vision. They were also symbols of a national identity, depicting Indian life in its abundant variety as well as the progress of the visual arts in India.

Indeed it would not be wrong to say that Ravi Verma's paintings towards the end of the 19th century have emerged as the first

important signifiers of modernity and nationalism on the Indian art scene. And his great success lies in the manner in which his work has captured the popular imagination of our country, as I have just tried to describe. Though the length and breadth of this country the more classical images of Indian Gods and Goddesses were replaced by the images this great innovator created. Indeed these paintings became the artistic inspiration of innumerable later version, replacing the traditional icons in the popular mind almost wholly.

I am happy to note that this is the first time since Raja Ravi Verma died that his works are being exhibited on this scale outside Kerala - I do not know for what reason; this could have been done much earlier, maybe, Mr. Karunakaran did not take much interest - giving people an opportunity to see the magnificence and breadth of his work. This has been possible because of the interest and support of the Chief Minister of Kerala. Shri K. Karunakaran and the State Government - as I said for the first time now; it is rather belated.

Art in India has always traveled as far and wide as ideas, pilgrims and seers. It should not remain confined or isolated in one museum or art gallery. I am sure all artists and lovers of art will welcome this presentation and his opportunity to get a closer view of Raja Ravi Verma's pantheon

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of gods and goddesses and mythic heroes and others. Shivaji for instance. This picture of Shivaji really brings out much more than a picture. This brings out valour, this brings out the dignity of the individual, this brings out a host of qualities which one associated with Shivaji, so it was not easy to paint this picture even by imagination. Even to imagine it was difficult because it is necessary, to paint this picture, to know the person, read about him, understand him and probably concentrate on all that one has read. I can clearly see that this picture is not like Damayanti, it is not like Vishnu or Lakshmi where whatever you want you can do. I mean, if one says that Damayanti looked like it, if some body says how do you know she looked like that; the answer is that how did you know that she did not look like that. But in the case of Shivaji it is something much more than observation, it is what is called 'Manan'; a lot of concentration is needed in this.

Well, I don't think that I should say anything more. I note that in recognition of the importance of this exhibition, the National Museum has for the first time, strayed beyond its chronological divide of 1857 and arranged an exhibition of a modern painter on such a magnificent scale.

I do not know why the National Museum has been so over careful about it. Probably they would be engulfed by requests of modern paintings; probably that is the reason. Any way it is not easy to

compare anyone with Ravi Verma. I think, in the case of Ravi Verma you are safe.

We not only have rich tradition of ancient and medieval art and literature, we have a rich tradition of modern art and literature. Seeing and appreciating Raja Ravi Verma's work we revisit and retrace one of the significant sources of modern art in India.

I complement all the organisers of this important, and pace-setting, art event. I wish them well. I have great pleasure in inaugurating the exhibition."

DIA USA MALDIVES COLOMBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Message by the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1993 to convey the message by Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif:

I welcome your restoration as Prime Minister of Pakistan by the Supreme Court. This is a notable assertion of the rule of law. We believe that democracy provides the most reliable basis for cooperation and friendship between our two countries.

I hope, together we will work towards establishing harmonious and tension-free relations.

Congratulations!

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
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KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : May 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Visit of Indian Industry Delegation to Russia

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1993 on visit of Indian Industry delegation to Russia:

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation to Russia from 6 to 12 May 1993, following up on President Yeltsin's landmark visit to India, has identified new opportunities for Russia-India trade and industrial partnership during their visit. The CII expects to add a new dimension to trade links between India and Russia and help to reverse the decline in trade in 1991 and 1992.

The Indian Industry delegation, led by Dr. J. J. Irani of the Tata Group, which has 100 companies, has had wide-ranging meetings and discussions with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Fund for Support to Economic Reforms, the Russian Commodity Stock Exchange, the Committee for Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Foreign Affairs Adviser to President Yeltsin at the Kremlin. The delegation also had individual meetings with a number of industrialists.

During and preceding President Yeltsin's visit to India, CII had met Mr. V. F. Shumeiko, First Deputy Prime Minister, and the delegates had the privilege of concluding their visit with detailed discussions with Mr. Shumeiko.

The Indian industrialists also met other Ministers of the Russian Government and heads of a number of major enterprises based in Moscow and elsewhere in the Russian Federation, at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India in Moscow.

The CII delegation consists of the Tata Group represented by Dr. J. J. Irani; the Godrej Group represented by Mr. J. N. Godrej; the largest motor car manufacturer and exporters, Maruti, represented by Mr. R. C. Bhargava; the Eicher Group represented by Mr. S. K. Bhargava; the NICCO Group represented by Dr. Abhijit Sen; the Sona Group represented by Dr. Surinder Kapur and the Director General of CII, Mr. Tarun Das.

Some of the new opportunities for business cooperation identified were management consultancy services from India to Russia for modernisation and reconstruction of Russian enterprises; training

of small and medium entrepreneurs using the Indian experience of over 40 years; export of motor cars to Russia; joint ventures in automobile components manufacture; construction of housing by Indian companies in Russia; participation by Indian companies in 'CARAVAN', the floating exhibition from the Tver Region to Iran and India; participation by Indian enterprises in the International Congress of Small and Medium Business in Moscow in June, special initiatives to be taken by Indian companies in different regions, such as Tver and Ivanova, whose representatives met the Indian delegation.

Other new opportunities included cooperation in the aviation sector, metallurgical industries, especially personal consumer products; fruit juices; diesel engines; light commercial vehicles; cables; chemicals; agro-industries; etc. The discussions showed that a wide variety of industries offered scope for trade and industrial joint ventures.

The CII delegation reached an understanding with the Russian Union of Indus
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trialists and Entrepreneurs to set up a Joint Working Group to finalise an agreement and work programme on cooperation. The Joint Group would be co-chaired by the Vice-President of the two organisations, namely, Mr. S. K. Bhargava from the Indian side and Mr. Kolmagorov from the Russian side. The Joint Working Group would set up an Information System for use by Russian and Indian enterprises, work together to promote helpful government policies for trade and investment and focus on developing joint ventures. The Indian side also expressed interest in using Russian expertise and technical experts in Indian companies.

In their discussions with the Committee for Trade, the CII team were able to list many consumer items or supply to Russia in keeping with the needs of the Russian market, e.g. shaving cream, fruit juices, tea, jewellery, textiles and garments, toothpaste, soaps, detergents, shaving blades, motor cars, cosmetic products etc. It was jointly agreed that there was considerable potential to increase trade in the consumer industry sector.

During discussions with the Fund for Support of Economic Reforms and the General Development of Civil Service Personnel Training a new dimension was added to cooperation possibilities in the areas of training of human resources, both in the civil services and in industry. Indian professional expertise and experience was offered to the Russian side. Such training would include training of small and medium entrepreneurs in management and marketing. CII and the Russian Fund for Support of Economic Reforms agreed to finalise an agreement and joint programme for cooperation in these and other areas of mutual interest with a view to facilitating direct contacts between Indian industries and their Russian counterparts in various regions.

As a result of the CII delegation's visit, a number of return visits are planned by Russian entrepreneurs in India. CII will also send a special delegation of small and medium entrepreneurs to Russia in June 1993. A new mechanism for exchange of information would be established and CII would organise visits by Indian industry to various regions in Russia where opportunities existed.

SSIA USA INDIA IRAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

SAARC

SAARC Technical Committee on Communications

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1993 on inauguration of SAARC Technical Committee on Communications:

The First Meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Communications was inaugurated in the capital by the Minister for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram. The 12th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in Dhaka endorsed the decision of the 17th Standing Committee meeting held in 1992 that the Technical Committees on Telecommunications and Postal Services be merged into a single Technical Committee on Communications. It was also decided that the responsibility of chairing the new Technical Committee on Communications will devolve on India for the next two years, January 1993 to December 1994. Accordingly, India is

hosting the First Meeting of the Technical Committee on May 24-25, 1993 here. The Sectoral responsibility within the Government of India for the Technical Committee on Communications would rest with the Department of Posts.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sukh Ram said that SAARC countries should evolve ways and means to keep abreast on developments in the communication's sector, so that the region did not lack behind the developed countries. He appealed to the countries to find jointly solutions to the problems of integrating new technology with the old ones in the most economical manner. He mentioned the impact of franchising STD\ISD public telephones in

India which improved the accessibility of the telephone services to the public at large and generated gainful employment for a large number of people throughout the country. He called for joint efforts for ushering in the information revolution in the region.

The Minister stressed the need for adequate preparation for meeting the challenges before the SAARC Countries with the advent of 21st Century. He said that India was paying special attention in regard to Digitalisation of the telecom network, extension of STD\ISD services even in rural areas, introduction of value added services as well as emphasis on modernisation of postal services, particularly in the areas of sorting and counter operations. Under the new liberalised policy of the Government, a series of economic reforms - fiscal, industrial and trade - had been undertaken, creating an economic environment in the country conducive to large scale investment. The entire telecom industry had been for setting up the manufacture of any teledelicensed, requiring no industrial licence com equipment, he added.

Shri S. K. Parthasarathy, Posts and Chairman of the Technical Committee; Shri G. T. Narayan, Adviser, Telecom Commission; Ms. Nima Ome, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu; and Shri D. B. Sehgal, Deputy Director General, DOT also spoke on the occasion.

The Technical Committee meeting is being attended by 22 delegates from all seven SAARC member countries. The two-day meeting will discuss among other things adoption of common standards for digital networks by various countries so as to facilitate establishment of SAARC regional networks; adoption of common standards for mobile services to facilitate intercountry reaming; concessional mail tariff for SAARC and measures for expeditious mail tranmission among SAARC countries.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM BANGLADESH USA RUSSIA NEPAL

Date : May 24, 1993

Volume No

1995

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Indo-Slovak Industrial Cooperation

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 13, 1993 on Indo-Slovak Industrial Cooperation:

Mr. J. Kubecka, Minister of Economy, Slovak Republic called on the Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi and discussed matters of bilateral interests here today.

Smt. Sahi said that the New Agreement on Trade, which the Slovak Minister will be signing, will usher in a new era of mutual benefit for the two countries.

The two leaders felt that there was further scope of industrial collaboration between the two countries. This would alone mark the opening of an era of cooperation
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in industrial sector between the two countries. Smt. Sahi expressed hope that the visit of the slovak Minister would show positive results in this direction.

Smt. Sahi mentioned that India had started in right earnest, the process of modernisation and globalisation of its economy and reiterated Government's commitment to the continuation of the process of reforms. Slovak's shift from centralised economy to market and radical reforms also figured in the discussions.

A INDIA

Date : May 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Co-operation Agreement between the South African Chamber of Business and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 05, 1993 on cooperation agreement between the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):

PREMABLE

Aware of the desirability of promoting international exchanges between their members

Conscious of the desirability of developing bilateral relations between South African and business undertakings in India

The South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will examine how to undertake their best endeavours directly and through their constituent Chambers,

* To promote relationships between businessmen of both countries interested in increasing trade exchanges

* To promote cooperation between the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

* To disseminate information on trade regulations and other matters of interest to the businessmen in South Africa and India

* To provide assistance to trade missions and individual businessmen visiting South Africa and India

* To explore joint-venture investment opportunities

* To promote the possibility of technology transfer, know-how and licensing agreements

To achieve these stated objectives:

The South Arican Chamber of Business (SACOB) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will examine how to develop a system of future cooperation through the creation of mutually agreed upon structures.

Signed at Johannesburg on 4th of May 1993 by DG, SACOB and leader of FICCI mission.

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UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : May 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Banquet Speech by President of India in honour of President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 10, 1993 on banquet speech by Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, President of India in honour of H.E. Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of

the United Republic of Tanzania on Monday, 10 May 1993:

Your Excellency, President of Tanzania Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi,
Madame Mwinyi, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and to the distinguished members of your delegation. Mr. President, we have had the pleasure of welcoming you here on an earlier occasion. For countries that are as close to each other as Tanzania and India, such visits are pleasurable opportunities for an exchange of ideas. I am confident that your present visit will further strengthen the already close relationship between our two countries.

The Indian sub-continent's links with Africa, and particularly East Africa, are many. Following our Independence in 1947, we strove in the comity of nations to confront and overcome colonialism elsewhere. Those were years of shared struggle of resurgent hope, of joint endeavour. Lasting links were forged between us in that tumultuous period and deep friendship generated, reflected in the closeness that India and Tanzania share today. India was the first country, in 1946, that raised its voice in the United Nations General Assembly against the abhorrent practice of Apartheid in South Africa. We have, since, witnessed the bastions of apartheid fall, one by one and it is now possible for us to expect to see the emergence of a democratic and united South Africa before long.

A significant number of people of Indian origin have adopted Tanzania as their home. We are very pleased that Tanzania has accepted them as full and equal citizens. We are happy that they are serving Tanzania well in various spheres of Tanzania's economic development. Tanzanian citizens of Indian origin along with a number of Indian nations, are an important link between India and Tanzania in further consolidating and enriching our relationship.

India has watched with interest Tanzania's progress towards multi-party democracy and its economic rehabilitation and liberalisation programmes in which you, personally, Your Excellency, have played an important role.

We have ourselves embarked on a process of economic reform and liberalisation. The measures instituted in this direction have evoked encouraging international response. Indo-Tanzanian economic cooperation stands also to benefit significantly. Between our two countries, we have tremendous resources, and we should effectively utilize the new possibilities open to us to expand and intensify cooperation for mutual benefit.

Excellency, over the last few years, the world has changed to an extraordinary degree. The end of the Cold War has generated new hopes and expectations amongst the nations of the world. We stand

today on the threshold of what could be a new era of positive change for the countries of the South. Developing countries, like India and Tanzania, must accelerate their efforts more fully to participate in the world economy. Cooperation between the countries of the South will remain a key
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determinant element in our ability to achieve meaningful economic progress.

The countries of the South owe an enormous debt to Mwalimu Nyerere whose strong voice on international, political and economic issues has always been listened to with great respect. The South Commission, under his Chairmanship, undertook commendable initiatives in drawing up a strategy for the development of the South and its interface with the countries of the North. The South Centre continues that tradition. It is for us to build upon these initiatives and bring them to fruition.

In the new world order today, democratization at the national level must also be reflected in democratization at the global level. This was an important theme at the Non-aligned Summit in Jakarta last year. Our goal is the creation of a new world order, an order which is just, equitable and democratic for the good of all humankind. India and Tanzania can make an invaluable contribution in this respect, working closely together, building further on the achievements registered thus far, and enlarging the horizons of friendship, cooperation and progress.

Excellencies, I once again express our great pleasure in having you with us. Your visit represents an important milestone in the history of Indo-Tanzanian relations. We hope that your stay, and that of your delegation, would be pleasant and fruitful.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast:

-- to the health, happiness and success of H.E. All Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Mrs. Mwinyi;

-- to the peace, progress and prosperity of the Tanzanian people; and

-- to abiding friendship between India and Tanzania.

NZANIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA INDONESIA

Date : May 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Lecture by the Vice President at the University of York in York

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1993 on the Annual Goodricke Lecture on "Democracy and the new world order" at the University of York in York:

Delivering the annual Goodricke lecture on "Democracy and the new world order" at the University of York in York this evening, the Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan, said that democracy cannot successfully function or survive in the modern world unless it is combined with a social purpose, humanitarian objectives and actual social work for betterment of people. The Vice-President added that the human conscience is still evolving and it will go on experimenting in social institutions and political and economic systems and the objective conditions in the world will change inevitably as time goes on. Elaborating on this, the Vice-President said that Karl Marx had predicted that communism would provide a classless society and people will become prosperous and monotonously happy which has not been the case. Shri K. R. Narayanan hoped that in the wake of the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe all those who believe in democracy will not make the mistake

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of creating and believing a dogma about the future of democracy.

2. The first problem that democracy faces today is that even after the collapse of Soviet Union and Communist System in Eastern Europe, 50.3% of the world population is still living under conditions where democracy does not exist as an active political and social arrangement. Quoting examples, he said that there have been instances where democracy was replaced by dictatorship or one party rule even in the developed world and this calls for constant vigil about the success and development of democracy in every country as the battle for a decent political system is never conclusively won. Elaborating further on challenges faced by democracy, Shri K. R. Narayanan said that democracy cannot afford to fend for any particular section or sections of population alone and has to cater to the needs of the entire population. Unemployment and high birth rates are other disturbing factors that confront democracy and this, inter alia, leads to deterioration in the condition of women and children. This is aggravated through the erosion of the family system which happens to be one of the pillars of democracy in the world.

3. Terming poverty as one of the major issues that faces viable

democracy, the Vice-President said that one billion people are living below the absolute poverty line and that despite an increase in prosperity the percentage of such people has gone up even in developed countries.

4. Referring to democracy in India, the Vice-President said that the fact that over eight hundred and fifty million people are living under a democratic system and that it has survived for over forty five years has not been realised properly. In spite of linguistic, religious and regional diversities, we have managed to carry on democracy in our country. Praising British Parliamentary democracy, from which India acquires ideas and model, the Vice-President said that we have today five hundred and twenty million people on electoral rolls in our country, the largest in any part of the world. The qualitative and quantitative change that has taken place in India under a Parliamentary system needs no elaboration. In this context, the Vice-President also referred to the passage of the Panchayati Raj legislation by the Indian Parliament recently and said that the roots of democracy already existed in our country from ancient times. Even Dr. Ambedkar who was an ardent rebel against the old Indian sociology and system, said that democracy is not a new idea to Indians and that at one time India was studded with republics. We are now becoming a participative democracy where more and more people are associated with democracy, added the Vice-President. He said that Harold Laski and Mahatma Gandhi had much earlier advocated democracy of a participative nature and the passage of the Panchayati Raj legislation in India, which gives considerable powers to these institutions at grass root level and ensures greater participation of women in these institutions has been a major step in that direction. The aim in India has been to continue the British type of Parliamentary system with the concepts of welfare, social justice and decentralisation of power.

5. Referring to prospects of measures for sustenance and development of democracy in the world, the Vice-President said that the state has a greater role to play in looking after services like health care, education and welfare of children and women. Democracy has come to be acknowledged as an ideology and a system of government occupying an unchallenged position in the world today and it has to address itself to many of the social and human problems that have arisen. No governance could be termed as good governance unless it attends to the human rights of women, children and other handicapped sections of society.

6. Quoting examples of Punjab and Assam, the Vice President said that we
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cannot tackle situations by force but through the democratic process which has been used as the therapy to bring about normalisation in these two States. Obtaining peoples' co-

operation in constructive activities of the State and the society coupled with decentralisations of power have been the main aims pursued in India and these could be relevant all over the world.

7. The lecture was jointly organised by the York University and a voluntary organisation "Save the Childrens Fund".

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : May 24, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Meeting of the Vice-President with British Leaders

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1993 on the meeting of the Vice-President with British leader:

The Vice-President of India, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, who is presently in the United Kingdom, was given a ceremonial reception at Heathrow Airport on Sunday, 23rd May, on his arrival from Edinburgh. He was met at the airport by Sir Donald Logan, the Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

On May 24, in the morning the Vice-President visited the British House of Commons accompanied by the Chairman of the Indo-UK Parliamentary Group, Mr. Toby Jessel. While at the House of Commons he met the Lord President of the Council and leader of the House, the Rt. Hon Antony Newton, MP.

In the afternoon, he delivered a lecture at the London School of Economics titled "Towards a new World Order". In the evening, the High Commissioner for India and Mrs. Singhvi hosted a reception for the Vice-President and Mrs. Narayanan at which a number of distinguished British and Indian guests were present.

During his meeting with the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, yesterday the two leaders had a useful exchange of views. Mr. Major applauded India's economic liberalisation programme and particularly expressed his admiration for the last Union budget. The vice-President gave details of our economic liberalisation policy and conveyed that there was a national consensus in that regard. They also discussed situation in India. Mr. Major

specifically asked to be informed about the law and order situation in India, particularly, in Bombay. Mr. Narayanan informed him that the situation was completely peaceful and tension-free and this was a tribute to the spirit of the people of Bombay. The two leaders also discussed the recent developments in South Asia.

Today the Vice President will meet Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace and thereafter a meeting will take place between him and the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Douglas Hurd. He will also speak at a lunch hosted by the High Commissioner for British and Indian journalists.

Earlier in the day, the Vice-President will participate in the luncheon given by the Indian High Commissioner in London to meet members of the Indo--UK Parliamentary Group.

During the visit, senior British leaders, including the Environment Secretary, Mr. Michael Howard, will call on the Vice-President.

The Lord Chancellor, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mackay of Clashfern, and Lady Mackay will host a dinner for the Vice-President on 25th May. Earlier in the day, a reception will be held by the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Michael Haseltine, in honour of the Vice-President.

The Vice-President is accompanied by his wife Mrs. Usha Narayanan, Mr. Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Mr. Prakash Ambedkar, MP and Mr. Murli Deora, MP.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : May 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Vice-President's Address to the Indo-UK Parliamentary Group

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1993 on Vice President's address to the Indo-UK Parliamentary group:

At a luncheon held today in India House, the Vice President, Shri K. R. Narayanan, had the occasion to meet and address the Indo-UK Parliamentary Group. In his statement, the Vice-President recalled the strong Indo-British ties that have always existed including that between the Parliaments of the two countries. These, he said, have now been given a strong economic content following the visit of Prime Minister John Major to India recently. He further described the democratic polity of India and its close links with Britain. India he said, was an open society and has used the democratic process as a therapy for its own unity, integrity and progress. He expressed the hope that with the on-going reforms and liberalisation process, India and UK would find new ways of cooperating with each other in diverse areas, be it social, political or economic. Over 50 Members of Parliament attended the luncheon and in their vote of thanks assured the Vice President that they looked forward to strengthening the close and friendly ties that exist between India and UK.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : May 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Cooperation between India and United Kingdom

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1993 on cooperation between India and United Kingdom:

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office called on the Vice-President, Mr. K. R. Narayanan today. The two dignitaries discussed the on-going cooperation between India and UK, especially in respect of projects relating to anti-poverty, rural development, health and family welfare and prevention in the spread of AIDS. Apart from governmental action on these fronts, they discussed ways and means of engaging and involving non-governmental organisations in these activities. The UK gives India pound 90 million in bilateral and pound 50 million in multilateral aid for the various developmental activities in a wide range of areas including environmental activities.

The Vice-President while appreciating economic cooperation

between the two countries, said that the significance of British aid is the impact it has on the poorer sections of the society. He described Government of India's efforts in areas relating to family planning, education for women and programmes relating to disabled persons. He further elaborated on the new reform and liberalisation process currently being undertaken by the Government. He referred to the recent visit of Prime Minister, John Major, which he described as path-breaking, which has led to several initiatives. Notably the new Indo-British Partnership Initiative and the Indo-British Environmental Initiative. He warmly welcomed the fact that Prime Minister Major had made personal efforts in bringing with him a large number of very important industrialists to India and the fact that during the visit, the Prime Minister had again mentioned his desire that such captains of industry would again visit India shortly.

Baroness Chalker while expressing satisfaction at the present level of collaboration between India and UK mentioned -162>

that the Government of UK was willing to make available additional resources and requested for advice on viable projects where these could be used profitably in this context, she also mentioned an additional project for increasing AIDS awareness and prevention which is expected to be taken up in West Bengal soon.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : May 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Banquet Speech by Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is text of banquet speech on May 23, 1993 on the visit of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to Uzbekistan:

Mr. President,

I recall with great pleasure meeting you in Delhi in August 1991, when you did us the honour of choosing India for your first official visit abroad as President. That visit laid the foundations for a stable dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship between our nations and peoples.

Over the ages, the ties between our two countries have enriched the lives of both our peoples. The silk route whose great cities lie in Uzbekistan brought trade and commerce in its path. The names of Al-Khoreymi, Al-Beruni, and Ulugh Beg punctuate the intellectual and cultural history of our association. An association that proves the wisdom of the English poet who remarked that "Asia is not going to be civilised after the methods of the West. There is too much of Asia and she is too old".

Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

During the last year and a half, thirteen Indo-Uzbek joint ventures have been launched. Our areas of collaboration now range across a diverse field from construction projects to the manufacture of soft drinks. Nearly 10,000 tourists visited India from Uzbekistan last year. The three hotels constructed by Indian companies have blended into the skyline of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara. Our joint commission on trade and economic cooperation will meet shortly and discuss further areas of cooperation.

In the space of a year, Uzbekistan has adopted legislation necessary for international business cooperation. India, too, is undertaking a vast and intensive programme of economic liberalization. The talents and energies of both our people are being channelled into productive effort. Opportunities for mutual beneficial cooperation between us are vast and favourable. Indian technology and expertise can work with your own to process your immense natural resources here. There are many other possibilities. Our officials should identify specific projects to be set up within a specific time frame our complementarities deserve and demand to be harnessed.

Excellency, distinguished guests,

Democracy and secularism are indispensable for the creation of stable and progressive states. You have enshrined these values in your constitution. These are similar to the ideals that we cherished during our long freedom struggle and which shaped the policies of independent India. History has time and again proven that the difficult path of building modern, secular polities based on consensual deci-

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sion-making is ultimately one of reward and fulfilment.

This continuous nurturing of democracy and a constantly renewed commitment to secularism and social justice. These are the bulwarks against sectarian tendencies that threaten the unity and integrity of nations.

Other dangers persist, terrorism and the related menace of

narcotics funded violence and crime, are problems that cross national borders which are being turned into mine-fields of ill-will and hostility. Our discussions today, Mr. President, underscored our perception that the processes of nation-building in both our countries faced similar threats. Close cooperation, mutual consultation and understanding will enable us to together stimulate the conscience and concern of the international community.

In the emergence of newly independent states into the comity of nations, we have a historic opportunity to reinvigorate inter states relations. The end of the cold war has offered vibrant opportunities to build a world without terror and pain. A world where warfare and penury are replaced by security and prosperity for all. We have before us the possibility of a new structure of international relationship which like the famed grapes pioneered in your institute of viticulture will prove resistant to the frost and chill of passing seasons.

It was an occasion of particular satisfaction for India to welcome Uzbekistan into the Non-aligned Movement as our discussions today have ample reconfirmed. We have a remarkable degree of similarity in perceptions and approaches to major international issues. We look forward to a continuous interaction with a long standing and trusted friend. This will allow our relationship to flourish bountiful as the harvests of the gentle cases in the Ferghana Vallez warm and lasting as the yield of karakul.

Mr. President, we learn how, many years ago, an Uzbek poet had written of the facility and ease with which your artistes and painters captured the world before them so much so that

The hand moves freely, friend of its master,

The brush but one of its fingers

So too, Mr. President, let us continue to chart the landscape of our friendship, securely and effortlessly, enabled by its proud heritage and emboldened by the promise of its future. Excellencies, distinguished guests, I invite you to raise your glasses in a toast:

- To the health and happiness of President Islam Karimov and Madame Karimova,

- To the growing friendship and cooperation between India and Uzbekistan,

- And to the progress and prosperity of the people of Uzbekistan.

Thank you.

Date : May 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Tashkent

The following is text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1993 of Banquet speech by prime minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in Tashkent:

For an Indian, being in Uzbekistan is an exhilarating experience. Memories are evoked that conjure up fascinating images from a history shared far away in time.

Our nations are linked as few other countries in the world are. We have emerged from the affinities of the past into the contemporary world rejuvenated by its traditional strengths. An excellent symbol of this combination of past and present is this beautiful city of Tashkent, a city poignant in Indian memory. I am touched by the way in which the memory of our
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late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri is cherished and preserved in its midst.

I know that graciousness and large-heartedness is typical of the people of Uzbekistan, and of your ancient civilisation. Vani and I recall our visit here eight years ago, when we were fortunate to traverse the roads of lyric and legend that led to Samarkand and Bukhara. Unfortunately, my office feels it is incumbent upon me not to partake again of pleasures savoured in the past, so I have foregone the privilege of visiting them again. But their memory endures. Indeed, in the phrase of Omar Khayyam,

"Each blade of grass upon which we walked

Had grown from hearts in friendship locked"

Mr. President, I recall with great pleasure meeting you in Delhi in August 1991, when you did us the honour of choosing India for your first official visit abroad as President. That visit laid the foundation for a stable dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship between our nations and peoples.

Over the ages, the ties between our two countries have enriched the lives of both our peoples. The Silk Route whose great cities lie in Uzbekistan brought trade and commerce in its path. The names of Al-Khorezmi, Al-Beruni, and Ulugh Beg punctuate the intellectual and cultural history of our association, an association that proves the wisdom of the English poet who remarked that "Asia is not going to be civilised after the methods of the West; there is too much of Asia and she is too old"!

During the last year and a half, thirteen Indo-Uzbek joint ventures have been launched. Our areas of collaboration now range across a diverse field from construction projects to the manufacture of soft drinks. Nearly 10,000 tourists visited India from Uzbekistan last year. The three hotels constructed by Indian companies have blended into the skyline of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara. Our joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation will meet shortly and discuss further areas of cooperation.

In the space of a year, Uzbekistan has adopted legislation necessary for international business cooperation. India, too, is undertaking a vast and intensive programme of economic liberalization. The talents and energies of both our peoples are being channeled into productive effort. Opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between us are vast and favourable. Indian technology and expertise can work with your own to process your immense natural resource here. There are many other possibilities. Our officials should identify specific projects to be set up within a specific time-frame. Our complementarities deserve and demand to be harnessed.

Democracy and secularism are indispensable for the creation of stable and progressive states. You have enshrined these values in your Constitution. These are similar to the ideals that we cherished during our long freedom struggle and which shaped the policies of independent India. History has time and again proven that the difficult path of building modern, secular polities based on consensual decision-making is ultimately one of reward and fulfilment.

Pluralistic societies continue to face threats, especially from religious fundamentalism and narrow ethnic chauvinism. These have to be met through the continuous nurturing of democracy, and a constantly renewed commitment to secularism and social justice. These are the bulwarks against sectarian tendencies that threaten the unity and integrity of nations.

Other dangers persist. Terrorism and the related menace of narcotics - funded

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violence and crime, are problems that cross national borders which are being turned into mine-fields of ill-will and hostility. Our discussions today, Mr. President, underscored our perception that the processes of nation-building in both our countries faced similar threats. Close cooperation, mutual consultation and understanding, will enable us together stimulate the conscience and concern of the international community.

In the emergence of newly independent states into the comity of nations, we have a historic opportunity to reinvigorate interstate relations. The end of the Cold War has offered vibrant opportunities to build a world without terror and pain, a world where warfare and penury are replaced by security and prosperity for all. We have before us the possibility of a new structure of international relationship which, like the famed grapes pioneered in your Institute of Viticulture, will prove resistant to the frost and chill of passing seasons.

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We learn how, many years ago, an Uzbek poet had written of the facility and ease with which our artists and painters captured the world before them so much so that

"The hand moves freely, friend of its master,

The brush but one of its fingers"

So too, Mr. President let us continue to chart the landscape of our friendship, securely and effortlessly, ennobled by its proud heritage, and emboldened by the promise of its future.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, I invite you to raise your glasses in a toast

- to the health and happiness of President Islam Karimov and Madame Karimova;

- to the growing friendship and cooperation between India and Uzbekistan;

- and to the progress and prosperity of the people of Uzbekistan.

Thank you.

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BEKISTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA GHANA

Date : May 24, 1993

June

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Date : Jun 01, 1993

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CHINA

India offers Iron Ore, Consultancy Services for Steel Sector in Shanghai

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1993 on India's offer for Iron Ore, consultancy services for steel sector in Shanghai:

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Commerce and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, met Mr. Wu Bangguo, Secretary of the Shanghai Committee of the Communist Party of China and Member of the Politburo in Shanghai last Friday and during discussions said that India could supply iron ore for Shanghai's Steel Industry as well as consultancy services for the sponge iron and steel sectors in Shanghai. Shri Mukherjee also stressed the possibility of joint development of iron ore mines in India for supply of raw material to the steel mills in Shanghai. Both sides agreed that apart from a closer interaction between the two Planning Commissions, frequent exchange of views would be beneficial in the area of expanding bilateral trade.

The Minister, who was recently on an official visit to China, had wide ranging discussions and agreement with Mr. Bangguo on the need for closer cooperation between the planning commissions of India and China since both countries are presently engaged in economic reforms and integrating active state intervention with a market economy. Mr. Wu Bangguo introduced the policies of the Shanghai government in granting preferential treatment to industrial units in the special economic zones in China in general and Shanghai in particular in order to attract foreign investment and at the same time to protect domestic industry; reform of the priority areas for Shanghai's economic development and the state enterprises in Shanghai; and development of township village enterprises. Mr. Wu Bangguo also introduced the development of securities market and metals exchange as well as a market for production materials, real estate and technology in Shanghai.

Mr. Wu Bangguo recalled his visit to India in 1992 and his meeting with Shri Mukherjee on that occasion. He also stated that trade contacts between Shanghai and India were already taking

place through exchange of trade delegations. During his visit, the Minister visited Pudong New Development Area and was hosted a banquet by the Chairman of Shanghai Planning Commission, Mr. Xu Kuangdi.

INA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jun 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1993 on India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question:

The Sixth Meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question and Foreign Secretary - Vice Foreign Minister level consultations were held in New Delhi on June 25 and 26, 1993. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan and the Indian delegation by Foreign Secretary, Shri J.N. Dixit.

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2. The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, called on the External Affairs Minister on June 26, 1993.

3. During the meeting of the Joint Working Group, the two sides continued their discussions aimed at arriving at a mutually acceptable settlement of the India-China boundary question. They also exchanged views on further measures to ensure peace and tranquillity in areas along the line of actual control between the two countries. They expressed their satisfaction at the manner in which the confidence building measures agreed upon at the previous meetings of the Joint Working Group were being implemented. They made progress in their discussions on other steps that could be taken by the two countries to enhance mutual confidence and ensure peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control. These measures include prior notification of military exercises, prevention of air intrusions and redeployment of forces along the line of actual control.

4. There was a detailed exchange of views on all aspects of relations between India and China. Both sides expressed their

satisfaction at the steady and perceptible improvement in bilateral ties.

5. The two sides agreed in principle to open an additional border trade point at Shipkila Pass. (This will be in addition to the existing border trade point at Lipulekh in the Middle Sector of the India-China boundary.) The modalities regarding the opening of the new trade point will be worked out shortly.

6. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

7. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in Beijing at a mutually convenient date.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Indo-EC Trade and Economic Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1993 on Indo-EC Trade and Economic Cooperation:

The Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Minister for Parliament Affairs and Water Resources, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, today held further discussions with the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Indo-EC Trade and Economic Cooperation, Multilateral Economic issues, SAARC and various political issues including India's Relations with its neighbours. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla emphasised that terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab had its origins and support from outside India's borders. He ruled out the scope for any international mediation on the Kashmir issue and stressed that the international community had endorsed the commitment by India and Pakistan in the Simla Agreement to resolve all differences bilaterally.

Members of the Indian delegation clarified India's firm commitment to secular democratic principles, and economic reforms to speed up growth and development of the country. They called for genuine economic cooperation from the developed world in support of this process of economic reform. They also pointed to the need for international cooperation to fight terrorism and

related crimes which were a hindrance to economic development. Members of the European Parliament explained the moves -168>

towards political and economic integration in Europe and confirmed that the E.C. would work for liberalised trade regimes and support economic development India and other developing countries. They also stressed the need for cooperation between democratic countries to contain dangers like fundamentalism the representative of the European Commission detailed aspects of the new cooperation agreement for partnership and development negotiated between India and the EC and noted that it laid the basis for a major upgradation of Indo-EC relations.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA FRANCE PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Human Resource Development Minister Shri Arjun Singh visits Paris to attend a meeting at UNESCO

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 07, 1993 on the visit to Paris to attend Human Resources Development Minister's meeting at the UNESCO:

Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resources Development, who is in Paris to attend a meeting at the UNESCO, met his French counterpart Jacques Toubon, French Minister for Culture on 2nd June, 1993. Human Resources Minister was accompanied by Shri C.V.Ranganathan, Ambassador and Smt. Nina Sibal, PR, PDIUNESCO. The two Ministers discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral cultural relations and the political situation in India. On the subject of bilateral relations the two Ministers approved the Indian proposal for a seminar of Indian and French intellectuals, to be held in two stages in India and France on the subject of "India and France in a changing world".

The French Minister for Culture, who is also Mayor of the 13th district of Paris had earlier approved the proposal for naming of a street in that district in Paris after Tagore. The two Ministers discussed this proposal and agreed that a formal ceremony for naming of the street could be held some time in October this year. India is offering a bust of Tagore to be installed in a garden adjoining to the street. Mr. Toubon thanked

India for the offer of this bust.

Human Resources Minister explained to Mr. Toubon the political situation in India specially in Punjab and Kashmir, and assistance to militants in these States by Pakistan. He mentioned the improvement in the situation in Punjab and the start of the political process there.

ANCE INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

FICCI Delegation visits France

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1993 on the visit of FICCI delegation to France:

A high-level delegation of 18 members led by Shri R. P. Goenka, Chairman CEAT LTD., industrialists representing the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) visited France from 3-4th June, 1993.

The specific mission of the delegation can be seen in the light of Prime Minister's message to industry leaders to visit important capitals to sensitise their counterparts
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of the economic policy changes introduced in India. The broad objectives of the mission were therefore to drive home the fact that, in view of the economic policy reforms and the innovative budget for 1993-94, India offers ideal opportunities for business and to project India as an internationally competitive manufacturing and trading base for French companies.

During their stay in France the delegation had several important meetings at apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry of France as well as with associations representing specific sectors and major companies. A comprehensive programme allowing for contacts with a wide representation of different economic groupings and business interests was prepared by the Embassy. A copy of the programme is enclosed herewith.

The first meeting of the delegation was held at FICCI's

counterpart organisation the Conseil National du Patronat Français (CNPFF). On the French side the meeting was chaired by Mr. Xavier Ortoli, President of the CNPFF International (past President of the European Commission and ex-Finance Minister of France). CEOs and representatives of some 15 French companies and industry associations attended the meeting. Following an overview of the economic reforms in India made Mr. Goenka, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Mr. S. Venkatarayanan - a member of the delegation - made a presentation of the financial sector reforms and its significance for foreign investors and financial institutions. Mr. Xavier Ortoli warmly praised the economic reforms in India and spoke of the potential this offered for French industry. He agreed that a high level delegation of French industrialists would visit India in the near future for the next JBC meeting and to concretise projects.

Another important forum for the delegation was provided by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the largest Chamber of Commerce in France with a membership of 275,000 and budget of FFr 4 billion). The meeting, chaired on the French side by the Vice-President of the Chamber Mr. Henri-Claude Sonolet and attended by a number of French industrialists and company representatives, fostered wide-ranging discussions.

A special meeting was also organised for the delegation with representatives of the French food processing industries under the aegis of ADEPTA, the National Association of food processing industries of France to explore the prospects of increasing collaboration between Indian and French companies in this sector. The meeting was well attended by French industrialists owning their own food processing units and was chaired by the President of ADEPTA, Mr. Yves Jacques. The presence of the head of the International Cooperation Department of French Ministry of Agriculture contributed to the significance and utility of the meeting. The Indian side made a presentation of the potentials of this sector in India and the importance attached to its development by the government and industry in India. Individual members of the Indian delegation indicated their areas of interest of technological collaboration and joint ventures with France in the agro-industries sector. The French side responded very positively to the appeal made by the Indian delegation to focus their attention on India as an important base for their activities. It was agreed that cooperation between CIFTI (Confederation of Indian Food Trade Industries) and ADEPTA should be strengthened so that they can together function as catalysts in bringing Indian and French partners together.

Among its other meetings the delegation also met the members of the Franco Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a special function organised in their honour where representatives of 35 French concerns interested in India were present. Select one-to-one meetings were organised for members of the delegation in their specific areas of interest. These included French trading

houses with whom discussions were conducted on the possibilities of
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sourcing of Indian products for sale to French and third-country markets in which the French have a traditional presence.

The Ambassador of India hosted a reception in honour of the delegation. The reception was attended by leading French industrialists and representatives of French government. A special working lunch was also hosted for the delegation by the Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The lunch was attended by as many as 40 leading representatives of Paris based companies. On the occasion Mr. Venkitaramanan gave a short talk on the positive changes in the economic situation in India after the introduction of the reforms. In addition, the delegation was also hosted by Mr. Pierre Bilger, CEO of GEC Alsthom, one of the leading companies in heavy equipment manufacture for the power and transportation industries. The dinner provided opportunity for detailed discussions on collaborations between Indian and French companies in the power sector.

The delegation's visit and meetings concretised the renewed interest in French industrial circles for doing business with India. The presentations made by senior members of the delegation and the effect of a direct interaction with influential sections of the French industry and government created the desired impact. At all meetings areas of potential collaboration were identified. These included power generation, food processing, agro-industry, pharmaceuticals and bulk drugs, bicycles etc. Emphasis was also attached to the need for greater collaboration in certain specific high-tech areas in which Indian industry requires French technology for mutual benefit.

ANCE INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jun 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

High Level Segment Meeting of ECOSOC in Geneva

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on High Level Segment meeting of ECOSOC in Geneva on Jun 28, 1993:

Mr. Chairman,

The World Summit for Social Development scheduled for 1995 will provide the international community with a major opportunity to focus our attention on issues which are of extreme importance to all of us and are a matter of survival for the developing countries. These are the fundamental concerns of social and economic development, of providing the basic needs of life like food, safe drinking water, shelter, health and education to all people on earth.

2. We have before us a very comprehensive draft report prepared by the Secretary General. This report has provided a theoretical underpinning to the core issues which have been identified by the General Assembly for deliberations at the World Summit - the issues of increasing productive employment, of alleviating and reducing poverty and of enhancing social integration.

3. These are fundamental issues which deserve the full attention of the international community and must remain at the top of the agenda before us. Their ramifications are both social and economic, as one cannot be separated from the other. Further, Mr. Chairman, these issues are closely interlinked and must be addressed as such. The unique opportunity provided by the World Summit to deal with these urgent issues must not be frittered away. It must

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result in the recognition of a global responsibility for addressing the problems of development and poverty and it must come out with revised resource allocations pinned to actionable, realistic programmes to remove hunger and poverty and to sustain equitable economic growth.

(ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, PARTICULARLY OF THE MORE DISADVANTAGED AND MARGINALISED GROUPS)

4. Mr. Chairman, most divisions in the world are caused by unequal development and lack of equal economic opportunities for all. Often, there are historical reasons for this but we are now concerned as to how quickly these inequalities can be reduced. Social conflicts and tensions can be reduced and social integration can be promoted if only societies all over the world recognise that they all owe it to one another to provide opportunity and assistance to all sections of society, specially those who are disadvantaged and marginalised.

5. It would also be necessary Mr. Chairman, while deliberating on this issue to keep in view the fact that social integration is an extremely complex and difficult process. Each country would have to view it in its particular socio-economic and cultural context and in the light of its historical experience. Appropriate policies and programmes would then have to be evolved within

those parameters.

6. India is a land of diversities. In many ways it is a microcosm of the world. Our society is plural, our State structure secular. This diversity strengthens us. We feel our experience can be of significant relevance to the world. For this reason we are very supportive of the decision to hold a World Social Summit in 1995 and my government would endeavour to participate in the preparatory process actively and meaningfully.

7. With particular reference to India as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society of approximately 900 million, its success in decentralized policy making and the promotion of socially marginalized groups, has been well recognised by the UN in its "Report on the World Social Situation, 1993". As mentioned in that report India is a country of immense cultural diversity having adherents of the six major world religions. Indian speak 14 major languages and each has a flourishing literature. The federal Constitution provides for considerable autonomy for the constituent units, designed to accommodate the diversities and guarantee minorities their cultural, religious and linguistic distinctiveness and also makes provisions for improving the economic, cultural and social conditions of the communities which had in the past been disadvantaged.

8. Significant progress has been made in integrating women into various aspects of development through legislation and administrative measures. The status of women has improved significantly in the last 20 years. We have made dedicated efforts towards realising the full potential of women through programmes designed to impart and develop skills among women through appropriate training and creating for them new economic opportunities. A National Perspective Plan 1988-2000 has been formulated to ensure economic development, equality and social justice for women. Last year, the National Commission for Women was set up to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, review the existing body of legislation and suggest amendments to them, wherever necessary. It has been empowered to look into complaints against violation of women's rights and also to take suo moto notice of instances of deprivation of rights of women and provide them legal and other help. The Commission monitors the implementation of all legislation enacted to protect the rights of women so that women are enabled to achieve equality in all spheres of life so as to become equal partners in the development of Indian Society and nation. This Commission has done some very good work already.

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10. The National Policy for Children adopted by us as far back as 1974 lays down that the nurture and solicitude of children is the responsibility of the State. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme being implemented in India since 1977-

78 which aims at the holistic development of the child is the largest such programme in the world. It provides an integrated package of services to 16 million children of the most deprived and vulnerable sections of society as well as 3 million expectant and nursing mothers. We have strengthened the content of this programme now by bringing into its focus the adolescent girl also. Highly significant results have been achieved in the area of reduction of Infant Mortality Rates in areas where the ICDS Programme is being implemented. Annually, the Governments at the Centre and States spend about 6 billion rupees on this programme.

11. A little less than a quarter of India's population consists of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who have for historical reasons been identified as socially disadvantaged. The Indian Constitution has ensured representation to them in the National and State legislatures and in Government and public sector employment so as to give them a significant place in the decision-making machinery of the State. Various programmes that bring them educational, employment and other economic opportunities have been designed for them resources have been earmarked for them and are being implemented to bring them on par with the rest of the society. The Indian Constitution has provided for a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to enforce the safeguards guaranteed to them by the Constitution and other laws.

12. The fundamental rights of the minorities of India are enshrined in our Constitution including the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions. While State policy ensures that there is no discrimination against minorities in any regard, a programme aimed at the educational and economic development of the minorities is also being implemented. Most significantly, a National Commission for the Minorities has been constituted by an Act of Parliament to safeguard the rights provided to the minorities in the Constitution and in the laws enacted by Parliament and the State legislatures. The Commission deals with a variety of issues including the socio-economic and educational development of the minorities.

13. While special mechanisms in the planning process have been evolved for earmarking resources for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, corporate financial and development institutions have been set up to specially cater to the self-employment and credit needs of these sections, women and minorities in several States of the country and at the Centre.

14. The Right to Development in our view is a fundamental and basic human right. It is obvious that a society that aims at promoting the rights of an individual, his dignity and freedom, cannot do so by providing disincentives for his economic wellbeing. Individual freedom cannot be divorced from freedom from want, and neither can be promoted at the cost of the other. Therefore, conditionalities attached to aid tend to impinge on

the sovereignty of States and not only transfer the decision-making process to outside agencies, but also politicize the system of aid. All this defeats the common objectives of all of us, namely, fighting want, hunger, disease and illiteracy that afflicted the poor in our societies.

15. All our societies confront growing problems resulting from drugs, street crime, trans-national crime, exploitation of immigrants, environmental degradation, refugee influx and economic migration. International cooperation is essential for tackling these challenges. However, we can succeed in this only through disinterested pragmatism, through the UN, in cooperation with the concerned governments.

16. It would be seen from the Indian experience I have touched upon that we need to move on two fronts while we deal with
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social integration, namely, interventions required to safeguard the legal and civic rights of the vulnerable and programme interventions providing for their socio-economic development for ultimately, it is only acquisition of skills like literacy and education and a full employment status that guarantee dignity and a sense of equality to human beings, which is what social integration ultimately means.

(ALLEVIATION AND REDUCTION OF POVERTY- ROLE OF GOVERNMENT, NGO'S AND AID AGENCIES)

17. The World Development Report 1992 has graphically described how the scourge of poverty, which ravages all countries, has shown tremendous tenacity. It is important, therefore, to prove that poverty is not an inevitable manifestation of the human condition. We believe that vigorous and sustained economic growth is an essential condition for poverty alleviation. But it has taken unconscionably long for the benefits of growth to trickle down and the problems of mass poverty have remained. The time has now come for us to address poverty as a specific issue and find solutions for its various manifestations such as hunger, illiteracy, disease, unemployment and absence of shelter.

18. The primary lesson of India's experience in its fight against poverty has been that the complexity of poverty defies any kind of a uniform solution. Leave alone a global answer to poverty, even within a country, no single formula or strategy would be relevant to all the regions or to the various communities that live in poverty. Area specific programmes and programmes sharply targetting the most vulnerable groups with genuine sensitivity to the gender issues are the only ones which have a chance of success.

19. In India, we have placed emphasis on programmes which directly address the problems of the poor, particularly the

poorest of the poor. The design of our programmes always includes earmarking of a share of the intended benefits in favour of the traditionally deprived sections and women. Employment generation aimed at increased incomes and creation of an extensive social infrastructure embracing nutrition, health, education and drinking water have informed our policies in addressing poverty. Our rural employment strategies for the poor are two pronged, based on self-employment and wage employment. Both aim at creating enduring assets, the latter in particular helps build socially and economically productive infrastructure such as primary health centres, primary schools, drinking water wells and irrigation structures. The central and cardinal test for measuring each of these programmes has been whether the expenditure results in self-sufficient, self-sustaining productive employment. In other words, successful poverty eradication programmes should be those which can exist and sustain themselves on their own momentum. Application of this principle to programmes should allay the fears of external aid giving agencies.

20. India believes in operating a strong Public Distribution System (PDS) or delivering of certain essential commodities to the people like cereals. The object is to fight inflation and protect wages. India has also drawn up a Nutrition Policy built around the ICDC, DDS and wage employment programmes.

21. In India the Government takes a lead role in dealing with poverty alleviation programmes. This lead role includes initiation of legislative measures like reforms in land tenure, decentralisation of political power to elected structures right down to the village level guaranteeing participation for women and the socially vulnerable groups and providing large financial outlays for anti-poverty programmes of the kind I have mentioned earlier. For generation of direct wage and self-employment alone as distinguished from wage employment resulting from general economic development, India has set apart Rs. 300 billion in its budget during the Eighth Five year Plan. At the same time, we fully realise that policy measures backed by legislation and massive financial outlays

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may have no meaning unless the people themselves are fully involved in the implementation of the programmes meant for them. We believe that the proof of all development is how self-reliant people ultimately become and stop looking to the Government for help. Therefore the concept of involving the people in finding solutions to their own problems, making them responsible for the designing and implementation of programmes intended for them and finally train them to manage their own programmes is now being developed as a strategy for all our anti-poverty efforts. This can be done only by organising and empowering the people. We have to help people build their own institutions and this can be done only by involving non-governmental organisations at the grass root level in organising the people and taking their assistance

in the building of people's institutions. In other words, the Government takes a lead role in providing resources, laying down macro objectives and strategies and the goals intended but it is not always necessary for it to implement the programmes at the field or ground level. Such implementation needs to be entrusted to non-governmental organisations to the maximum extent possible. In short, the Government should know where to stop and where to withdraw so that people come to be able to manage their own affairs. In India, efforts are on in involving the non-governmental organisations presently in a big way though it should be at a much higher level than what has been achieved so far. All our future strategies would lay emphasis on people's participation. The Panchayati Raj Act which we have just now enacted by amending our Constitution gives political power to the rural people but a social dimension by way of empowerment of the people will come only when the people are organised in the context of the socio-economic programmes that are meant for their own development.

22. This composite strategy should be seen as a commitment on our part by the developed countries and the international aid agencies at the Government level to eradication of poverty as well as our clear recognition of the significance of the role of non-governmental organisations. We would like to place this composite strategy before this august body for acceptance to encourage larger inflows of aid since most aid giving agencies rightly place reliance on the involvement of non-governmental agencies in implementation of Social Development programmes designed and developed by Governments.

23. External environment has an important bearing on national efforts at poverty eradication. The real resource base of developing countries has been shrinking rapidly due to several external factors, including heavy debt and service payments, falling terms of trade, declining direct foreign investment, lack of access of markets, reduced commercial and concessional resource flows. Countries in distress have had no option but to reduce social expenditures that have relevance for human development. National efforts at poverty eradication have been seriously handicapped. Where external environment is adverse, it accentuates poverty in developing countries and where benign, it help combat it. Efforts of developing countries have to be complemented by policies of developed countries in the areas of debt relief, trade, finance and technology transfer directed towards carrying the fruits of science and technology to the help of the poor. To give an example, in agriculture, if only some of our countries can have access to the right agricultural technology in the area of drought-resistant seeds and resources for rural water harvesting structures on a large scale, much of rural hunger and poverty would become a thing of the past. The introduction of new technologies, including bio-technology, promises benefits which could match those of the green revolution. It is important that the international community

facilitates the process of transfer of technology and resources on concessional and preferential terms to improve the situation in the areas of agriculture, ground water, health, nutrition, education, population and housing to assist governments in meeting the basic

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needs of the people of the developing countries.

24. The realization of the internationally agreed commitment of 7% of GNP, as official development assistance, strengthening of the resource base of the World Bank and the IMF, encouraging the flow of private capital and foreign direct investment are some of the longstanding demands of developing countries. Unfortunately, cuts in public expenditures and subsidies, increased unemployment and reduction in wage rates have been some of the concomitants of the structural adjustment programmes. Lending agencies must ensure that these adverse impacts are mitigated to the maximum extent possible so that reforms do not become counter productive in human terms. A rational and systematic approach at the domestic and international levels, including through the provision of credible and well-conceived social safety nets, is a *since qua non* for economic reforms and structural adjustments to be sustained. Mr. Chairman, let all of us be clear about one thing. If poverty as a core issue is not directly addressed in terms of resources and strategies that are humane, the reforms on which many countries are now embarked, would become politically un-sustainable and democracy itself could well become a casualty. Once that happens, there would be no human rights to talk of. I think that the developed countries and international aid giving agencies should at all times be alive to this basic truth.

25. The alleviation of poverty features prominently in Agenda 21. It is equally important in the forthcoming U.N. Conference on Population and Development. While, undoubtedly, the environmental stress caused by poverty is to be seen in the overall context of the stress caused by unsustainable life styles and consumption and production patterns, as well as demographic pressures, poverty does face local environmental stresses. The growth of mega cities, urban pollution and the strain on the social and economic infrastructure in urban areas is one highly visible manifestation of urban poverty. Of course, equally, it is the other side of rural poverty, manifested in migration to urban areas. Agenda 21 has Secretariat estimates of resource requirements. Programme areas in Chapter III of Agenda 21 requires 15 billion US dollars annually from the international community on grant and concessional terms. If the commitment to eradicate poverty is truly an internationally shared responsibility, some of these should be reflected in actual commitment of resources.

26. The U.N. system has a clear and unambiguous role in poverty alleviation. At the highest level, in its role as catalyst and as

the highest political forum for debate and understanding, the U.N. can facilitate cooperation and understanding between governments. Discussions on poverty have been at the forefront in the GA, in ECOSOC in UNCTAD and in the specialised agencies, including the international financial institutions. It is true that discussions have been fragmented and greater coordination of the systemwide efforts in this area is required. We hope that the Social Summit will be able to put in place an effective system for coordination. While ECOSOC provides a central inter-governmental forum, the need to discuss poverty on a more continuous basis calls for further innovations in the work of ECOSOC. At the field level too, greater coordination is required, not only between the U.N.'s funds and programmes, but also with the specialised agencies. A basic coordination is of course with the national governments, who design and execute the programmes and who can assure that there is no duplication, fragmentation or waste of effort.

(EXPANSION OF PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT)

27. Employment generation and economic growth are to be treated as mutually complementary rather than conflicting processes. Employment has to be generated in the process of economic growth and should at the same time contribute to acceleration of growth. In other words, employment, if it is to be gainful and sustainable must be productive in nature.

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28. Mr. Chairman, expansion of employment opportunities has been an important objective of development planning in India. Though there has been significant growth in employment over the years, the gains have been offset by a relatively higher growth of population and labour force. The problem is also made more complex by low productivity and low incomes of a large number of the employed. Our efforts therefore must focus on the creation of new jobs as well as on the augmentation of existing employment in terms of productivity and incomes through suitable technological, market and institutional interventions.

29. A high rate of output growth is necessary but not always a sufficient condition for high growth of employment. Employment generation potential can be enhanced if there is a large contribution from sectors having high employment content of output and production techniques which favour the use of labour are employed. It is necessary to identify areas in which the greatest employment generation potential exists in the years to come. Naturally this would vary from one economy to the other but yet there is a great possibility of commonalities emerging from this assessment.

30. In India, we have identified different patterns of agricultural development, development of the rural non-farm sector, small scale manufacturing, promotion of urban informal

sector, development of the rural infrastructure including housing and services as the basic areas for an employment oriented growth structure. Raising the productivity of the under-employed, or those employed at very low levels of earnings, is an important dimension of our strategy. Ways to do this include upgrading technologies for self-employment, improved access to credit and markets, providing supplementary work to the under-employed and seasonally unemployed etc. I have already placed before you briefly the content of the programmes that we have been implementing in India. I may add to this in passing a reference to a rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) that one of the States in India has been implementing with considerable success for several years now. I may also mention Mr. Chairman, that we use foodgrains procured by us as farm support operations as part wage in our rural employment programmes to provide real wages to the poor and to ensure a nutrition component in our wage policy.

31. The larger macro-economic changes being ushered in as a part of over-all reform, particularly the process of structural reform, will inevitably impact on the employment perspective. Structural changes need to be sensitive to protect those employed and whose jobs are at risk because of the reforms in the public sector. Suitable social safety net mechanisms need to be put in place so the social cost of adjustment cannot and should not be borne by the labour alone. Suitable re-deployment and re-absorption, inter-alia, through re-training and promotion of self employment and generous compensation, have to be part of the overall employment policy. We in India have set up a National Renewal Fund (NRF) for the purpose. Mechanisms of this kind need to be supported by external resources for, after all in the long-run, as developing economies get globally integrated, the resultant prosperity comes to be shared by the developed economies also.

32. A part of the employment problem arises from a mismatch between the employment opportunities and the skill-base of the job seekers. It is essential to orient educational and training systems towards employment generation by firstly improving their capabilities and secondly making them more flexible in their responses to the demands of the labour market in the short and medium terms. Opportunities need to be provided for upgradation of skills of the employed workers and also for the development of entrepreneurship for the actual and potential self-employed. Economic policies must create an environment in which there are increased opportunities for employment and self-employment. Female literacy and women's edu-

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cation, especially vocational education, require to be emphasised in this context. These enhance the status of women and have a direct impact on lowering birth rates, which in turn has an impact on available employment.

33. Mr. Chairman, having shared some of India's experiences in addressing the core issues which are before the high level segment of ECOSOC, I would like to stress the three fundamental concerns which should underline the preparatory work for the Summit. Firstly, in a fast changing international political, social and economic situation, countries have to genuinely cooperate with one another if they are to ensure collective benefit. Beneficial international economic cooperation remains a pillar of world growth.

34. Secondly, developing countries continue to have certain fundamental concerns. These have been spelt out in the basic blueprint for economic cooperation as contained in the Special Session Declaration, the International Development Strategy and Agenda 21. The task on hand is to draw up a collective programme of action. Discussions on an Agenda for Development scheduled for the Fortyeighth General Assembly would help in the process of collation.

35. Thirdly, the new agenda for international action which is being formulated, should not lead to new conditionalities in cooperation. Developing countries, as responsible and serious as any others, have their own development priorities and should not be expected to subject these to exigencies, fashioned or prescribed, from elsewhere.

36. The U.N. System has a conceptual, catalytic and operative role to perform in securing the objectives of the World Social Summit. Through dialogue and exchange of experiences, a broad understanding can be reached on the basis of the specificities and concerns of Member States. Through analysis and information, the U.N. can help national efforts at the conceptualization and planning stages. And finally, through its operational functions the, U.N can provide direct assistance in the core areas. The process of dialogue, consensus building and executive operation provide the entire range of U.N.'s activities. We hope that the Summit will end with a commitment by all concerned, whether governmental or non-governmental, as well as each of the components of the U.N. system, to contribute to the noble ideals of the U.N. Charter.

37. The Summit will coincide with the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. It will indeed be an appropriate occasion to take a significant step forward in the quest for the "promotion of social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". To facilitate that step forward, Mr. Chairman, India is willing to place all its experience and expertise at the disposal of the U.N. system so that by mutual exchange of thought specific strategies that are credible, workable and sustainable can be evolved keeping those human beings whose poverty we are endeavouring to alleviate in the short run and eradicate in the medium term, at the centre, so that a day may come when they would no more be poor and would be empowered to lead a life of

dignity in freedom. This quest should translate into a quest for the right of the poor to food, to work, to education, to health and to shelter. These are the rights that guarantee dignity to the human race. If these rights are absent to large populations, there can neither be employment nor reduction in poverty levels nor social integration nor stability. If these rights are not guaranteed to the poor and not recognised as fundamental to human existence, then Mr. Chairman, there can be no larger freedom that we are searching on their behalf. Can we move towards guaranteeing these rights to the poor as part of the U.N.'s charter?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
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ITZERLAND INDIA USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALDIVES

Date : Jun 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Speech by H.E. Mr. P. A. Sangma, Union Labour Minister at the 80th Session of the International Labour Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1993 on a speech by H.E. Mr. P. A. Sangma, Union Labour Minister at the 80th Session of the Indian Labour Conference, Geneva on June 2, 1993:

Mr. President, Vice-Presidents, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I extend to the President and the Vice-Presidents, warm felicitations on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, on their election. I also congratulate Mr. Michel Hansenne on his unanimous election as Director General of the ILO for another term. Mr. Hansenne's stewardship has provided a purposeful direction to the activities of this great Organisation and by electing him for another term, we would immensely benefit further from his guidance. I also welcome the new Member States who have recently joined the ILO fraternity.

I have read with considerable interest the report of the Director General on ILO activities for the year 1992. The efforts of the organisation in the areas of wider observance of international

labour standards, promoting employment and training, working conditions and environment, social security and technical cooperation are quite impressive.

For some time now, ILO has been having stagnant levels of budgets. We do appreciate the financial stringency faced by the ILO. The matter of concern however, is that staff costs account for about 70 percent of the budget. I know that the ILO does have plans for deferring appointments against identified staff positions. But tightening of belt and declaration of redundancies have serious limits. Positive solutions have to be sought - like mobilising more resources including extra budgetary support of a significantly high order. I do hope that innovations like formation of multi-disciplinary teams, national execution of projects and transfer of resources on a decentralised basis would lead to increased productivity, efficiency and economy in the ILO.

India has ratified thirty six ILO Conventions and have also enacted laws to implement them. Apart from submitting detailed statements before our Parliament, we have also conducted recently comprehensive review of the status of ratifications. We have always given the highest consideration for the instruments adopted in the ILO. These Conventions, whether ratified or not, provide guidelines in the formation of our social and labour policies and programmes.

An important item listed for deliberation is adoption of international labour standards for part time workers. In developing societies where unemployment and under-employment are of a high order, stringent labour protection could turn out to be counter productive. A delicate balance will have to be struck between labour protection for part time workers and economic worthwhileness for the employers to engage part time labour. In other words, the standards for part time work should be so designed as to make it an instrument of employment generation. In any case, for the present, we could rest content with making a recommendation on the subject.

Child labour is an universal phenomenon the world over, both in developed and developing countries. Every country is

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taking steps to resolve it taking into consideration its socio-economic conditions. We have to recognise that in many countries this is a deep rooted problem which can be eradicated only over a period of time. International institutions and specialised organisations must seek to persuade rather than coerce countries into taking requisite steps to resolve the problem. The Government of India is fully seized of the problem of child labour and is determined to take all necessary steps to eradicate it as soon as possible.

Apart from legislation to tackle the problem, India, by formulating a National Policy on Child Labour, has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach. The aim is to set out positive programmes for health, education and nutrition of children and all round integrated action on the part of international agencies, the Government and non-Government organisations. Parents should be educated on the need for children being sent for education instead of work. Employers also should come forward to contribute to weaning children away from the world of work. Wages should be statutorily regulated such that for the employers, employment of children would not be an economically attractive proposition. However, in the process of removing children from employment, we should not also lose sight of the need for continuing to impart vocational skills in them. Mere general education could be irrelevant to employment in adult life. In this context, we appreciate the support of Germany and Belgium.

Migration of labour populations is a phenomenon caused not merely by poverty but also by lack of balance in regional development. Workers tend to migrate from low wage areas to high wage areas. Migrations are also caused by demand for specific skills in certain areas. This situation of different causative factors brings in its wake, complex situations. The ILO programme on migrant workers need to be intensified - for taking stock, to study trends, to investigate into levels of labour protection and to suggest remedies.

In April, 1993, the ILO successfully conducted the 13th World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health in collaboration with the International Social Security Association and the National Safety Council of India. More than fifty countries participated and I am also sure that the deliberations of this Congress would form a meaningful back-drop for the discussions to be held on the proposed adoption of a Convention and Recommendation on Prevention of Industrial disasters.

The Director General's report on social insurance and social protection has been well timed. The report is indeed thought provoking. The suggestion to build social security policy into the overall framework of general development strategy, side by side with tailoring solutions to national contexts, is quite down-to-earth and realistic.

Mr. President, my country is passing through a critical phase of comprehensive economic reforms. The restrictions on investments have been dismantled; import-export regime liberalised; and monetary reforms introduced. In this process of structural adjustments, the workers do apprehend redundancies and retrenchments. Our Prime Minister is immensely aware of the need for reforms being carried out with a human face. We have created the National Renewal Fund with domestic and external funding. The resources from this fund are being used for training, retraining,

redeployment, liberal separation benefits and employment generation. We have also created under the Labour Minister, special triparties or six major industries. These bodies have advised meaningful measures to secure fair deal for labour in the process of adjustments. I would urge that the ILO lay special emphasis in evolving programmes for skill development and employment promotion and work interactively with other UN agencies and the World Bank.

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On the question of increased emphasis being placed on tripartism, all I can say is that tripartism in India has come to stay and is probably, second to none. I, myself, head nearly 50 tripartite committees at the Central Government level and we have ensured that tripartism is indeed the vehicle of the future.

I also thank the Director General for the Report on Apartheid in South Africa. As you are all aware India was the first country to inscribe the issue of Apartheid on the agenda of the United Nations and was influential in the imposition of sanctions against South Africa. The recent developments have given rise to the expectation of an early formation of an all representative interim Government in South Africa. The entire international community must extend its helping hand for an early realisation of a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

I take this opportunity to call upon all my colleagues who had come to Tehran this April, to treat the recommendation of the 13th Conference of Asian and Pacific Labour Ministers as a blueprint for future co-ordinated followup action on all the significant issues raised in the Conference.

We have been able to secure for ILO and ARTEP, office accommodation in one of the most prestigious locality in New Delhi. With such an infrastructure, a new multi-disciplinary team and a vast network of labour and management institutions spread in different parts of the country, I am sure ILO would use India as a vital base for its operations in the region.

I conclude, Mr. President, wishing all success for this 80th Session of the Conference.

DIA SWITZERLAND USA GERMANY BELGIUM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA
IRAN

Date : Jun 03, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNESCO

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1993 on UNESCO's decision to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary:

UNESCO has decided to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in a befitting manner. The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, complimented UNESCO on its decision during his call on the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor in Paris last night. The programmes for celebration were discussed including organisation of exhibitions and publication of special issues of Mahatma Gandhi's works in several languages, especially in new republics. Shri Arjun Singh also discussed with Mr. Mayor the preparations for the summit meeting on Education For All (EFA) in nine most populous developing countries to be hosted by India later this year.

Earlier, addressing the working group meeting preparatory to the summit, Shri Arjun Singh reaffirmed India's commitment to basic education.

Speaking about India's efforts for EFA Shri Arjun Singh said resources allocated to basic and adult education had been stepped up significantly. He noted the success of total literacy campaigns in achieving literacy through social mobilisations.
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Shri Arjun Singh said the multilateral agencies played a key role in placing EFA high on the international agenda. When the Heads of Government come together in New Delhi summit, it would be declaration of their commitment to provide personal leadership in the effort towards EFA, he said.

DIA FRANCE USA

Date : Jun 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

ITALY

First Meeting of the Indo-Italian Industrial Forum

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1993 on the address by Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh in Venice at the first meeting of the Indo-Italian Industrial Forum:

The Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh gave the keynote address today in Venice at the first meeting of the Indo-Italian Industrial Forum. This meeting was organised by the Indian Embassy in collaboration with CONFINDUSTRIA (Italian Confederation of Industries).

2. In his address, Union Finance Minister said that the world economy is being integrated at a very fast pace, thanks to modern technology and communications. It is also becoming clear that the peace and prosperity for all people in the world are achievable by the right use of technology and economic cooperation. "Trade is a very effective instrument for achieving this, as has been shown in history by this great city of Venice". He further added that both India and Italy have embarked on important changes in the economic structure and both can share experiences in this field. Despite a recession in most of the European economies, Italy was showing great dynamism recording the highest growth rate in 1993, he said.

3. Explaining the latest policies of the Government of India on liberalisation and attracting investments, the Union Finance Minister said that bureaucratic controls which lead to delays and corruption have been dismantled. He emphasised India's interest in getting foreign direct as well as foreign portfolio investments. He welcomed the Italian companies to participate in a big way in the Indian Engineering Trade Fair in 1995 where Italy would be the partner country.

4. The Italian Minister of Environment, Mr. Valdo Spini, spoke on the occasion on behalf of the Italian Government. He referred to the sectors identified for cooperation during the Joint Commission Meeting in Delhi in February 1993. He was deeply appreciative of the growing interaction between India and Italy in the cultural and economic fields and informed those present about the Exhibition of Indian Bronzes from National Museum, Delhi to be held in Florence later this month.

5. Dr. Umberto Agnelli, Vice Chairman of the FIT Group also spoke at the meeting. He remarked that while in Italy India was known for its ancient civilisation and culture, many people are not fully aware that it is a modern and vibrant economy which was being liberalised and is moving very fast towards high growth rates. Meetings such as this would, he said, help more Italian industries to understand the economic climate in India which, according to him, has the same business culture as Europe. He particularly referred to the

highly skilled human resources in India as well as the large middle class market. Sectors in infrastructure building such as energy and communications were particularly promising for Indo-Italian cooperation he added. During the question-Answer session that followed, industrialists from both sides interacted. The Union Finance Minister is accompanied by a team of leading Indian industrialists.

ALY USA INDIA PERU

Date : Jun 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japanese Grant Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1993 on Japanese assistance to India:

Grant assistance of Yen 1179.151 million equivalent to Rs. 34.00 crores has been extended to the Government of India by Japanese Government. This assistance includes grant of Yen 907 million for the import of simulators and Yen 272.151 million as Debt Relief Grant Aid.

The assistance of Yen 902 million is the Second Grant aid for the project which is to be used to upgrade and modernise the training equipment for Nautical and Marine Engineering education in the Lal Bahadur Shastri Nautical and Engineering College at Bombay. The project envisages the import of 3 simulators in two phases. In this first phase government of Japan extended grant aid of Yen 992 million on 22.6.1992 which was utilised for the import of one ship manoeuvring simulator.

The debt relief grant is extended to alleviate the financial burden of interest payments incurred on past loans from the Government of Japan in accordance with the UNCTAD Resolution of 1978. This is expected to contribute to the improvement of India's balance of payments. The amount will be utilised for the import of rolls, steel and alloys etc. from Japan.

The agreement was signed today on behalf of India by Mrs. Rama Murali, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs and on behalf of Japan by Mr. Z. Kaminaga,

Charge'd' Affairs ad interim of Japan to India.

PAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

KOREA

Indian Delegation visits Pyong Yang to attend Fourth Conference of Ministers of Information of Non-aligned Countries (COMINAC)

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 15, 1993 on Indian Delegation visit led by Mr. K. P. Singhdeo Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting to attend the Fourth Conference of Minister of State for Information of Non-aligned Countries (COMINAC) in Pyong Yang:

The Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Mr. K. P. Singhdeo, who is
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leading the Indian delegation at the Fourth Conference of Ministers of Information of Nonaligned Countries (COMINAC) in Pyong Yang being held from 15-18 June, 1993, today called on the President of Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Kim Il Sung, along with other Ministerial Heads of delegations.

In a separate conversation with our Minister, the DPRK President mentioned the great importance for the non-aligned countries to have their own agencies like the Press Trust of India.

Mr. K. P. Singhdeo later had meeting with his counterpart, the Chairman of the Information Committee of the DPRK, H.E. Mr. Kim Ki Ryong. They discussed the cooperation in the field of information bilaterally between the two countries as well as in the nonaligned context. Both of them agreed upon the importance of such cooperation. Both also expressed satisfaction at the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

At the first plenary session today, India was elected to the Bureau of the Conference with Mr. K. P. Singhdeo being elected as Rapporteur General.

REA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

KOREA

Speech by Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting at the COMINAC-IV

The following is text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 16, 1993 on speech by Mr. K. P. Singhdeo, Minister of State for information and Broadcasting at the 4th Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-aligned Countries (COMINAC-IV):

In his speech today at the 4th conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-IV), the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, stressed that the non-aligned movement has fresh challenges before it today. The unprecedented political changes over the last few years had vindicated the role of NAM in the last few decades. Today, unlike the old challenges of imperialism and colonialism, the challenge was that of reduction of poverty and of providing better socio-economic environment for the people of the south. He stressed that there is an urgent need to evolve a greater flow for information among the NAM and other developing countries, as the western media are interested in highlighting only our inadequacies. He called for the strengthening of the non-aligned news agencies pool and the broadcasting pool as well as for news exchange among the developing countries. Reliable and latest technologies should also be harnessed for this purpose.

The Minister proposed a special working group to interact with intelsat, inmarsat, as well as UNESCO and other organisations concerned for this purpose.

Referring to the globalisation of India's economy that is being undertaken in a big way under the able leadership of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, the minister called for greater priority for economic and commercial news. Environmental policy, ecology, science and technology were other important areas that should receive attention in information flow.

The minister pointed out the need to reverse the inequitable sharing of the global electronic magnetic spectrum and orbital satellite space.

He emphasised that India is the world's largest democracy and

democracy cannot reconcile to the situation where information is a commodity for only some privileged persons. "We want an open society where every citizen should have access to information". He mentioned the conscious decision of the Government to introduce competition in the state-owned electronic
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media by leasing out dedicated channels, and outlined the plans India had for separate channels for education, entertainment, sports, business, and current affairs. He also referred to the vibrant and free print media in India which articulates its opinions in a free and fearless manner.

The minister also offered to share India's considerable experience and expertise in the field of information, cinema, television and radio with other NAM member countries.

The minister requested the gathering not only to eliminate disinformation but to condemn any use of media to incite violence and encourage terrorism in other countries.

The minister spoke immediately after Indonesia, the first Speaker by virtue of its being the current chairman of the NAM. The speech received a special congratulatory reference by the chairman as well as leaders of many other delegations.

REA INDIA USA INDONESIA

Date : Jun 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Minister of State for Communications Shri Sukh Ram Visits Kuwait

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 09, 1993 on Minister of State for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram's visit to Kuwait:

The Indian Minister of State for Communications Shri Sukh Ram, presently on a 3-day official visit to Kuwait from 7 to 9 June 1993 at the invitation of the Kuwait Minister of Communications was received by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait in the morning. MOS(C) renewed the invitation to His Highness the Amir to visit India. While thanking the President for the invitation, His Highness the Amir

expressed his keen desire to visit India at an appropriate time.

2. MOS(C) apprised His Highness the Amir of the economic liberalisation underway in India under the leadership of the Indian Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and outlined various possibilities of enhanced mutual cooperation in economic and technological fields in general and in telecommunication sector in particular. Explaining at length the Indian experience in development and evaluation of various technologies in the field of communication he offered to share the know how gained in India in various fields as well as to train engineers from Kuwait. Emphasising the significance of economic content in strengthening bilateral relations, MOS (C) said India looked forward to Kuwaiti investments in India.

3. Reflecting on the age-old traditional friendship between India and Kuwait His Highness the Amir agreed with the Minister that mutual cooperation in the economic field between the two countries would go a long way in further strengthening of bilateral relations. His Highness the Amir apprised MOS (C) of the privatisation in various sectors taking place in Kuwait and observed that since the investments in Kuwait were in the hands of private sector it would be more fruitful to involve the private sector in various economic proposals.

4. A little later MOS (C) called on His Highness Sheika Saad Al Abdullah Al
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Salem Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait. Describing himself as a friend of India His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister warmly welcomed the Minister.

5. MOS(C) briefed His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of various developments and breakthroughs in the field of technology achieved by India and emphasised that India was ready to cooperate with Kuwait in every possible manner to strengthen the long standing friendly bilateral relations further. Commending people and Government of Kuwait for their remarkable efforts, he expressed his happiness at restoration of various services and activities to the pre-invasion level.

6. His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for their present policy of supporting Kuwait and its efforts in the UN Security Council and requested that the present friendly policy should continue. He also dwelt at length on the age-old friendship between the two countries and observed that there is lot of potential for bilateral cooperation between the two countries which should be of mutual benefit.

7. In their meetings both His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister appreciated the work and

contribution of the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) in restoration of telecommunication system in Kuwait. The Kuwait Minister of Communications His Excellency Mr. Habib J. Hayat expressed full faith and satisfaction in the TCIL and indicated that Kuwait would be happy to enhance the cooperation with the TCIL in future.

WAIT UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Jun 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

India and Mauritius Sign MOU for Agriculture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1993 on signing of a MOU for Agriculture by India and Mauritius:

India and Mauritius have signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of Agriculture.

The MOU was signed by the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Bal Ram Jakhar and the Mauritian Minister for Agriculture Hon. Madan Dullo in Port-loius, Mauritius on 3rd June 1993.

The MOU envisages collaboration between India and Mauritius in the field of horticulture, fisheries, tea and sugar. It also includes cooperation for the exchange of scientific information in the field of agriculture, veterinary service, technological assistance in agriculture and dairy farming.

Speaking on the occasion the Agriculture Minister assured the Government of Mauritius of India's help and cooperation for the economic development of Mauritius.

Earlier in the day Shri Bal Ram Jakhar laid the foundation stone of the building for the Remote Sensing Centre established in Port Louis with the assistance of the Indian Government under the Technical Assistance Programme. The Centre will provide geographical and climatic data in diverse fields and help planning in agriculture.

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URITIUS USA INDIA PERU

Date : Jun 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh Visits Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1993 on Human Resource Minister, Shri Arjun Singh's visit to Mauritius:

Shri Arjun Singh accompanied by his wife arrived in Mauritius early morning of June 7 and was received by Hon. Parsuraman, Minister of Education and Science, and the Indian High Commissioner. Talking to the Mauritius TV at the airport, Shri Arjun Singh assured India's continued support to Mauritius in the field of education. During a working session between the two delegations at the ministry of education, Shri Arjun Singh reiterated India's commitment for assistance to Mauritius in the field of education and science. He also declared that India would continue to provide scholarships and assist in getting admission in Indian universities to Mauritians. He also disclosed that Government of India have decided to assist in setting up the proposed Rajiv Gandhi Centre For Science Museum, and would contribute equipment and exhibits worth Indian Rs. 5 crores to that centre. He also disclosed that an expert would be visiting Mauritius to assess the requirement of exhibits of the proposed science centre. Shri and Shrimati Arjun Singh later paid a courtesy call on President, Cassam Uteem and Mrs. Uteem. The latter spoke about their recent visit to India and expressed their gratitude to government of India for making excellent arrangements during the visit. In the evening Shri and Smt. Arjun Singh attended a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner at India House where besides Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth and Lady Jugnauth, other important members of his cabinet like deputy prime minister, minister for external affairs were also invited.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Jun 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Indo-Mauritius Cultural Pact Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1993 on signing of Indo-Mauritius Cultural Pact:

India and Mauritius have signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1993-95. It was signed by the Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius, Shri Shyam Saran and Mr. I. Purang, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Art and Culture, Mauritius, in Port Louis today. The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh, the Mauritius Minister of Education and Science, Mr. A. Parsuraman and the Minister of Art and Culture, Mr. M. Choonee were present on the occasion.

The Cultural Exchange Programme envisages close cooperation between the two countries in education, art, culture, youth affairs and sports. It provides for scholarships for undergoing training in India, development of Indian studies and encouragement of oriental languages, Indian music and dance. Under the Pact India will assist in setting up a Children Activity Centre called 'Bal Bhavan'. Shri Arjun Singh also presented sets of Indian musical instruments to Cultural Centres in Mauritius.

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URITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Jun 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

NAURU

President Bernard Dowiyogo of Nauru visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 10, 1993 on President Bernard Dowiyogo of Nauru visit to India:

Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao called on President

Bernard Dowiyogo of Nauru this morning at Rashtrapati Bhavan. At the meeting, President Dowiyogo expressed his gratitude on the decision taken by India to purchase Nauru's shares from Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL), a joint venture between India and Nauru'. Referring to the friendly and cooperative relations between India and Nauru, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that cooperation and friendship that exists between India and Nauru will continue. After the meeting, an agreement for the "Termination of Participation" by Nauru in Paradeep Phosphates Limited was signed by President Dowiyogo in his capacity as Minister for Island Development and Industry of Nauru and Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers in the presence of the Prime Minister. Prime Minister then handed over a cheque for the first instalment amounting to Australian dollars 6.3 million to President Dowiyogo after the signnig ceremony.

Minister of State, Shri Salman Khursheed also called on President Dowiyogo at Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning where they discussed, inter-alia, bilateral ties and cooperation between India and Nauru.

President and Mrs. Dowiyogo will be calling on President and Mrs. Shanker Dayal Sharma later in the day following which the President and Mrs. Sharma will be hosting a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitaries.

URU INDIA USA AUSTRALIA

Date : Jun 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Burkina Faso Delegation visits India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1993 on the visit of the official delegation of Burkina Faso led by their President, H.E. Mr. Blaise Campaore:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Burkinabe delegation led by the President of Burkina Faso, H. E. Mr. Blaise Campaore held official talks with the official delegation led by our Prime Minister this morning at 11.00 o'clock.

Both the sides re-affirmed the close and friendly relationship which exists between the two countries. It was felt that in the spirit of South-South Cooperation, there is need to give a concrete thrust to the strengthening of economic and commercial relations to further consolidate bilateral relations. The two countries have agreed to cooperate in the fields of
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agriculture, textiles, geology, mining and transportation. It was also felt that the private sector should be encouraged to take more active interest in furthering commercial cooperation. It was also decided to set up a joint commission to enhance our cooperation in various sectors. On our side, the leader of the Joint Commission will be the Minister of Agriculture.

As a gesture of friendship and cooperation, the Government of India will be gifting for demonstration purposes a few manufactured items which are intended to help Burkina Faso's development programmes in the transport sector, the agricultural sector and some other areas. These items include the supply of drilling rigs, grinding mills, three-wheelers including the trading of local personnel. Indian experts will also visit Burkina Faso to provide technical support in a number of areas especially mining, textiles and irrigation. India will also make a feasibility study for setting up a multipurpose project for maintaining transport vehicles, agricultural implements and other similar machinery of common use.

The President of Burkina Faso thanked the Government of India for the symbolic gesture which was related to sectors to which they attached great importance. He also hoped that this would lead to enhanced commercial transactions and the setting up of joint ventures. President Campaore invited our Prime Minister to visit his country and the invitation was accepted by our Prime Minister.

RKINA FASO INDIA USA RUSSIA LATVIA

Date : Jun 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Elections in Cambodia

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 11, 1993 on election in Cambodia:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the successful conduct of elections in Cambodia last month represents the most important development since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords of 1991. Government of India have commended the dedication to peace and consistent work of all those involved in these elections, particularly, the UNTAC whose workers have faced considerable hostility and violence in the course of their mission so far. Above all, it is the people of Cambodia whose over-whelming participation in the elections has shown a clear preference to restoration of peace and democracy in their country. India appeals to all the parties concerned to build upon the results of these elections, and pave way for the fulfilment of the mandate given to UNTAC by the Paris Peace Accords. The sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Cambodian nation must be preserved. These are guaranteed in the Paris Peace Accords and the restoration of democracy in Cambodia would provide the best means towards those goals.

MBODIA INDIA FRANCE USA

Date : Jun 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh Foreign Minister's Visit to India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 12, 1993 on Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit to India:

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mr. A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman, called on our Prime Minister today morning. He had brought two communications from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. one was related to general issues including specialised agencies of the UN, and the other was a review of bilateral rela-
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tions which emphasised the ongoing positive trends in Indo-Bangla relations. Both sides agreed that they should be consolidated and pursued further particularly those dealing with all pending issues.

There was a general exchange of views on Chakma refugees and their return. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister assured the Prime Minister that Bangladesh has every intention to take them back and make arrangements for their return. Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao said that India would fully cooperate with Bangladesh in sending back the refugees.

Subsequently, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister called on the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh. Both Ministers discussed matters relating to SAARC as well as bilateral issues including sharing of water resources & economic relations between India and Bangladesh. Both Ministers agreed that the Joint Commission should be held soon between August and September. They also discussed the forthcoming UN Human Rights Commission Meeting in Vienna and agreed that the Indian and Bangladeshi delegations would work in close touch with each other.

INDIA BANGLADESH USA AUSTRIA

Date : Jun 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan High Commissioner's Press Release of June 18, 1993

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1993 regarding Pakistan High Commissioner's press release of June 18, 1993 :

Ministry of External Affairs has seen the Pakistan High Commissioner's press release of June 18, 1993 reproducing the text of a statement made by the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad containing unacceptable references to certain developments in India. The statement is tendentious, provocative and totally contrary to all diplomatic norms.

The Ministry has pointed out repeatedly that irrespective of Pakistani attempts at obfuscation and negativism, its complicity in the planning and execution of the bomb blasts in Bombay is a fact.

The statement by the Government of Pakistan denigrates by name a senior and respected Indian political leader. The dissemination of such a statement by the Pakistan High Commission in India is characteristic of the unacceptable and extreme language used by

the Pakistan High Commission in recent months to which the attention of the Pakistani authorities has been drawn time and again. Such conduct belies any expressions of friendship and cooperation from Islamabad, and is totally inconsistent with diplomatic propriety. The repetition of such language and personal attacks upon Indian leaders by the Pakistan High Commission will be regarded seriously by the Government of India.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Citation to Indian Major Participating in UNTAC

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1993 on citation to Indian Major participating in UNTAC:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Major Vinod Pillai of the Indian Army was among five officers from the international military contingent under UN to Cambodia who has been awarded "Commendation Card" for outstanding service to UNTAC. The UNTAC force commander Lt. General John -190>

Sanderson presented the citation to Major Pillai in an investiture ceremony on Saturday, June 12, 1993, in Phnom Penh. The citation inter alia notes "most noteworthy was his work in producing accurate and reliable security assessments which proved invaluable both to the UN and to the sector headquarter and his work for seeking an excellent rapport between all UNTAC components in the sector".

DIA CAMBODIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Czechoslovakia Foreign Minister Visits India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 21, 1993 on the meeting between the Czech Foreign Minister, Mr. Josef Zieleniec and our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

Mr. Josef Zieleniec, Minister of foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic called on Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister here today. The Czech Foreign Minister's visit to India is in the context of maintaining and further strengthening the traditionally close relations between the two countries. Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs was the first Asian Minister to visit Prague in February 1993 after the peaceful division of the country. He had invited the Czech Foreign Minister on behalf of the External Affairs Minister. Welcoming the Czech Foreign Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh expressed the view that the political and economic changes taking place in the Czech republic would lead to a further strengthening of our bilateral relations. The Foreign Minister is accompanied by an important business delegation, which would be meeting their counterparts represented in FICCI, ASSOCHAM and other bodies. Shri Dinesh Singh conveyed to the Czech Minister that this was an important initiative which must be encouraged.. He added that the Czech republic had an excellent business image in India and hence business opportunities on both sides must be exploited.

DIA NORWAY SLOVAKIA CZECH REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jun 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Visits India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 21, 1993 on the meeting between Sri Lankan Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia called

on the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe today at 4 p.m. The meeting lasted for about 30 minutes. The Prime Minister was assisted by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Deputy High Commissioner. Mr. Bhatia as accompanied by our High Commissioner and Joint Secretary (BSM). Shri R. L. Bhatia renewed to the Prime Minister India's deepest condolences at the assassination of President Premadasa and felicitated the Sri Lankan Government on the mature and steady manner in which it oversaw the transition. The Prime Minister briefed Shri Bhatia on the security and political situation in his country and spoke of the continuing efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to seek solutions of the ethnic issue. Both sides agree that bilateral relations were excellent between the two countries and there was a tremendous potential for further strengthening trade and technical cooperation as well as cooperation in the field of education. An early meeting of the joint commission was called for by both parties.

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DIA SRI LANKA USA

Date : Jun 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Meets Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement regarding the meeting between Sri Lankan Prime Minister and our Prime Minister issued in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1993:

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka today called on our Prime Minister. They met over lunch and covered various aspects of Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral relations. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister informed the Indian Prime Minister of recent developments in Sri Lanka. This is the first top level visit from Sri Lanka to India after President Wijetunge came to power. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister undertook the visit to establish personal contacts with our Prime Minister and exchange views on matters of bilateral interest. The discussion between the two leaders covered in particular bilateral, economic and other cooperation. Our Prime Minister conveyed to Sri Lankan Prime Minister that India fully favoured the strengthening of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders agreed that the bilateral Joint Commission should meet

early in order to identify further possibilities of such cooperation.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Meets External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1993 regarding meeting between External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister:

Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister for External Affairs called on Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka at Rashtrapati Bhavan here today. During the meeting, which lasted for 40 minutes, the two leaders reviewed Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral relations and expressed confidence regarding possibilities of their further growth in future.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister briefed Shri Dinesh Singh about political and security situation in Sri Lanka.. They also exchanged views about the process of decentralisation of power, in form of Panchayati Raj in India and Gram Raj in Sri Lanka, which have been underway in both countries. The two leaders also discussed various international issues, in particular, the changing role of United Nations.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Chinese Delegation Visits India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1993 on the meeting between the delegations of Joint Working Group (India and China) in the morning of June 25, 1993:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the two delegations met for about three hours this morning. The agenda for discussions on which discussions have started include:

A. A discussion on further confidence building measures relating to peace and tranquillity on the line of actual control.

B. General discussion on the boundary question, and
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C. Bilateral issues in the context of exchanges that have taken place between the two countries in the political and commercial areas.

The leader of the Chinese delegation will call on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh tomorrow morning.

Further discussions on a number of issues including the question of restructuring the United Nations, human rights and other regional and international issues will be held tomorrow.

DIA CHINA USA

Date : Jun 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

US Missile Attack on Baghdad

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's Statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1993 on the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad:

The Government of India is against state-sponsored terrorism. We are ourselves victims of state-sponsored terrorism from across the border in the west. We support action against state-sponsored terrorism. On the other hand, we are concerned about the

violation of national sovereignty. Such phenomena can affect peace and stability in the West Asian region, where assiduous efforts are on to further the peace process. We have sympathy for the people of Iraq and regret that the civilian population has suffered. We hope that all disputes will be settled peacefully without resort to force.

The Spokesman added that according to a report received from our mission in Baghdad, all Indian nationals are safe.

AQ USA INDIA

Date : Jun 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

PORTUGAL

First Meeting of India Portugal Joint Business Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1993 on a joint statement on first meeting of India-Portugal Joint Business Council Lisbon May 24, 1993:

The first meeting of India-Portuguese Joint Business Council was held on 24th May in Lisbon. The Indian Business Delegation was led by Mr. Surendra V. Dempo, Chairman, Indian Section, Indo-Portuguese Joint Business Council. The Portuguese Business Delegation was headed by Mr. Diogo M Tavares, Chairman, Portuguese Section, Portugal-India Joint Business Council. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Hardev Bhalla India's Ambassador to Portugal. The issues discussed at the meeting mainly included the following:

--Economic Situation in India and Portugal

--Indo-Portuguese Trade: Current Status and Future Prospectus

--Portuguese Investment in India: Current Status and Future Prospects

--Indian Investment in Portugal: Current Status and Future Prospects

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The Indian side pointed out that the economic policy reforms initiated by the Government in the last two years has started yielding results. The economy has been brought back on the sound track of growth and the GDP in real terms is expected to increase by 4.2 per cent against a rise of annually 1.2 per cent in the previous year. There has been improvement in India's foreign exchange reserves position. The overall price situation is well under control with the annual rate of inflation falling from 13.6 per cent in the 1991-92 to 6.7 per cent in 1992-93. The policy initiatives of government have also evoked good response from foreign investors. Total foreign investment proposals approved by the Government of India to \$ 1.3 billion in 1992 against an average of \$ 116 million in the preceding 10 years. The medium term outlook will be much better when the full impact of various policy measures will materialise.

The Portuguese side appreciated liberalisation policies of Government of India and hoped that further steps would be taken towards de-regulation. They pleaded for wide ranging reforms in areas like labour, fiscal and financial sectors. Equally important in their view would be to implement various policy measures expeditiously both at the Centre and the State levels so as to further enhance the level of economic cooperation between India and Portugal.

The Portuguese side said that their economy had undergone a significant transformation since it joined the EEC in 1986. The economy went through an unprecedented boom with an average annual growth of 4.2 per cent in real GDP during 1986-91 which was much higher than the EEC average. The economy had been liberalised and modernised and the unemployment at around 4% was among the lowest in the Community. However, in view of slow down in economic growth of European Community, Portuguese economy is unlikely to sustain any further high rate of growth achieved since its accession to the EEC. They pointed out that a sustained reduction of the inflation rate will continue to be the prime objective of economic policy.

Both Indian and Portuguese Sides admitted that the volume of trade between the two countries continued to be very small at \$ 55.5 million in 1991-92. India's share in Portuguese trade was much lower than shares of many other Asian countries. The bulk of the Portuguese trade remained with EEC countries. Both the sides, however, stressed the need for increasing total trade between the two countries. This would, however, necessitate diversification of the trade composition. The thrust areas for India's exports to Portugal could include.

- Marine Products
- Tea, coffee and spices
- Rice
- Raw hides and skins
- Leather articles

- Cotton
- Coated textiles
- Footwear
- Gems & Jewellery
- Vehicles & Parts

Both the Indian and the Portuguese sides noted that the trends in Portuguese investment in India and also Indo-Portuguese collaborations have not been encouraging at all. It was, therefore, stressed that efforts needed to be initiated from both the sides to improve the economic cooperation between the two countries. Some of the thrust areas identified for cooperation included the following:

- Tourism
 - Shipbuilding and ship repair
 - Fisheries
 - Clothing and textiles
 - Footwear
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- Telecommunications
- Pharmaceuticals
- Construction
- Consultancy Services

The Portuguese Side also invited the Indian investors to set up joint ventures in Portugal. They pointed out that labour cost was low in Portugal and EC funded incentives were available for investment in major export oriented manufacturing projects located in underdeveloped regions. By setting up production base in Portugal Indian companies could have greater access to the European market. Both sides also stressed the need for setting up joint ventures in Portugal's former African colonies.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the JBC would be held in India in 1994 on a mutually convenient date.

Sd/- Sd/-

Diogo M Tavares Surendra V Dempo
Chairman Chairman
Portuguese-Section Indian Section
Portugal-India JBC India -Portugal JBC

RTUGAL INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jun 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOUTH KOREA

South Korean Private Sector Show Interest for Investment in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 04, 1993 on South Korean Private Sector's interest for investment in India:

The Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler met Chairman of Korea Export-Import Bank, Chairman of Hyundai Group, Chairman of Samsung Group, President of Daewoo Group & Vice-Minister for Trade & Industry in Seoul today and yesterday and held wide ranging discussions to promote bilateral cooperation especially in Ship-building and Oil Platform sectors. The Korean Corporate leaders evinced keen interest to promote a greater business relationships & investments in India.

Shri Tytler also apprised them of the large-scale policy changes brought out in India during the last two years. The Korean side reacted positively to avail of the new opportunities created by the recent changes in economic policies.

Shri Tytler assured these industry leaders that business delegation from India would be following him to Korea to concretise the immense possibilities of bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

Shri Tytler is presently on a tour to South Korea to explore avenues of economic cooperation in Shipping sector.

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REA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Indo-Swedish Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1993 on Indo-Swedish agreement:

The Swedish Government has been supporting the Integrated Rural Water Supply, Health, Education, Environmental Sanitation and Guinea Worm Control Programme in the districts of Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur since 1985. SIDA has agreed to extend this Programme with an amount of SEK 12 million (US \$ 1.6 million Rs. 5.07 crores) for the period 1.1.93 to 31.12.95. This contribution as in the past will be routed through UNICEF who are assisting the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan in the implementation of the programme.

The objectives of this programme are to improve the quality of life and socio economic conditions in tribal areas with particular reference to women and children; to promote community involvement and self-reliance in the planning, implementation and maintenance of drinking water supply. The other objectives are to promote and sustain health behaviour change among the target population and to lower the incidence of water related diseases.

Agreement to this effect were signed here today between Dr. K. B. L. Mathur, Director in the Department of Economic Affairs and Mr. Leif Rensfeldt, Charge'd Affairs in the Swedish Embassy and between Ms. Christina Rehlen, Counsellor and Head SIDA and Ms. Eimi Watanabe, Representative India Country Office, UNICEF.

EDEN INDIA GUINEA USA

Date : Jun 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

UAE

The Sixth meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission held in Abu Dhabi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 08, 1993 on the Sixth meeting of the Indo-UAE joint commission held in Abu Dhabi:

The Sixth meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission was held in Abu Dhabi from June 6-8, 1993.

Mr. K Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Mohammed Khalifa bin Yousef Al Suwaidi, Director, Economic Relations and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the respective delegations.

The Joint Commission recognised the historic importance of the state visit to India in 1992 of His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and the instructions laid down regarding the directions of future cooperation between the UAE and India during his discussions with the Prime Minister of India. The Joint Commission noted that there had been substantial implementation of the relevant follow up action.

An Agreement to counter trafficking in Narcotic Drugs was initialled by the
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two sides. A Cultural Exchange Programme for 1993-95 has been initialled and will be signed shortly. Other agreements discussed were an Extradition Treaty and a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, which will require further technical examination. Both sides expressed their desire to conclude these agreements early. Both countries have completed the necessary procedures for ratification of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation.

The UAE was invited to send delegations to India for further discussion on the proposed establishment by the UAE in India of a hospital-cum-hotel project. Intensive discussions were also held on UAE investment in a refinery in India. Potential investors from the UAE were urged to make direct contacts with the relevant Indian parties concerned with concrete investment opportunities in the refinery, petrochemical, tourism and portfolio management sectors.

Both sides viewed with satisfaction the recent visit to the UAE of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and his invitation to the UAE Central Bank Governor to visit India to further develop closer ties in the banking sector. The UAE side stated that delegations from the federal Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the UAE and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry are expected to visit India shortly, as also a delegation from the UAE Health Ministry to make contacts in Indian pharmaceutical industry. The Agriculture Ministers of the two countries are to exchange visits on the basis of invitations from each other.

Both sides noted that the trade figures for 1991-1992, which are the latest available, show a significant increase in bilateral turnover.

India conveyed its intention to purchase oil from the UAE in enhanced quantity during 1993-94.

The UAE side conveyed interest in deepening cooperation in the industrial agricultural and planning fields. Proposals were made regarding provision of consultancy services, feasibility studies, technical assistance and training facilities. India agreed to

respond favourably to these suggestions.

Further cooperation in Posts and Telecommunications would be discussed between India and the GCC in a meeting to be held shortly.

Consular and Manpower questions were discussed in some detail, along with specific cases which require resolution. The UAE side expressed willingness to consider these issues sympathetically. Both sides agreed to strengthen the cooperation in matters raised through the channel of interpol.

The Seventh meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in New Delhi this following winter.

During discussions at the Foreign Ministry the invitation extended by the Government of India to His Highness Shaikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to make an official visit to India was renewed. An invitation for the next round of Foreign Office consultations at Delhi was also extended.

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ITED ARAB EMIRATES INDIA USA

Date : Jun 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

VIENNA

World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 16, 1993 on statement by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights, VIENNA June 14 to 25, 1993:

Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election as President of the World Conference on Human Rights on behalf of the Government and people of India. We are confident that the Conference will be fruitful under your wise guidance.

We are happy that the Conference is being held in Austria a country which is known for its commitment to the values of

democracy and social justice.

India's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights - political and civil as well as economic, social and cultural is unreserved and total. This commitment has evolved logically from the age-old ideals which have been the basis of our composite culture over the centuries. India's freedom struggle was inspired by the vision of a society committed to the ideal of human rights and human obligations. Decolonisation was a critical element in the assertion of human rights. Having attained independence we have been firm in our conviction that a representative democracy based on universal adult suffrage, a multi-party system and free and fair regular elections can be the only basis for the well-being of our people and for the enforcement of their basic human rights. This is precisely why the founders of Indian Republic endowed the country with all the relevant institutions to safeguard democracy, namely an independent judiciary, a parliamentary form of Government, a free Press and over and above all a commitment to the rule of law. These are the essential guarantors of human rights in our society. We have always recognized that effective implementation of fundamental human rights requires sustained and dedicated efforts to remove poverty and socio-economic disparities. Thus we firmly believe that both democracy and development are essential for the sustenance and nurturing of human rights of our people. We are willing to share our experience and learn from, the experience of other countries in this regard so that progress towards the full and effective implementation of human rights worldwide can be accelerated. It is in this spirit that we approach our tasks at this Conference.

We are meeting here in a Human Rights Conference 25 years after the first such conference was held in Tehran and 45 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration. We meet in a transformed world having passed through the hostilities of the Second World War, demise of colonialism and rigidities of the Cold War. We meet at a juncture when democracy and universal norms of human rights are no longer a matter of debate in terms of juxtaposed political ideology. We meet when the ideals of democracy and human rights are universally accepted aspirations and imperatives.

What then do we seek in our forthcoming deliberations? What are the hurdles that we should remove, the pitfalls that we should avoid in our common quest for ensuring human dignity and human wellbeing?

What we seek is the creation of universally acceptable non-discriminatory norms of human rights.

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What we seek is to arrive at an acceptable definition and description of civil political, economic, social and cultural

rights which should constitute the terms of reference for the political emancipation and social development of the international community.

What we seek is an international consensus on the manner in which all of us could create a global environment in which these rights cannot only be asserted but in which they are sustained and nurtured.

We seek the creation of an equilibrium between the requirements of political and civil liberties and rights on the one hand and the fulfilment of socioeconomic aspirations of the global community, a majority of whom belong to the developing world on the other. We believe that political and civil rights and the emphasis on economic and social rights should not be perceived in a juxtaposed perspective. We believe that respect for the first category of these rights creates the conditions for the fulfilment of the second category. There is a logical interdependence and inevitable symbiosis between the two. Any approach towards issues of human rights advocating competitive priorities between the political and economic, social and cultural rights is both illogical and impractical.

It is these perceptions, and this approach which have animated India's policies regarding human rights issues. The institutions which we fashioned to sustain ourselves as a plural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and secular polity had the over-arching objective of consolidating ourselves as a modern democracy. Apart from the political institutions which I mentioned earlier in my speech, we took measured steps in creating institutions to safeguard the well-being of and to ensure justice to our minorities and all the diverse sections of our society. The special commissions institutions that we have commissioned to protect the rights of minorities, women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with sub-ethnic distinct identities and the legislation that we have brought -into being over the years to ensure political and socio-economic justice to a society as diverse as ours are indicative of this process. We believe that our approach to the development of a cohesive polity, emphasising unity in diversity and seeking to promote social and economic development in the framework of an open society has important lessons for the evolution of all pluralistic societies.

While we take pride in being the largest practicing democracy amongst the developing countries, we are deeply conscious that our endeavours have faced hurdles.

Social and economic changes in a pluralistic society can at times be disruptive. Demographic and economic pressures can and have created pockets of alienation. Corrective action has been taken to tackle the causes of this alienation. Yet some divisive elements project this alienation in ethnic, religious and

secessionist terms. We have and we are facing the situation of our commitment to democracy and our territorial integrity being challenged by extremist violence. Where we as a people face the prospect of elements within our society who wish to impose their views by force instead of by democratic means, our response of necessity has to be and will remain firm. More so, when those who abandon the path of democratic reasoning are aided by intrusive and motivated external forces. The predicament against which we struggle is the predicament of a negation of democracy and violation of human rights. The struggle has complexities. In fighting these disruptive forces we accept that at times aberrations from democratic norms can take place. We have no intention of brushing these aspects of our existence under the carpet. We are conscious of these aberrations.. Despite the grave threat posed by certain disruptive forces to our national unity and cohesion, we are alert about avoiding the brutalization

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of our society. India's constitutional setup contains built in safeguards in this regard. We are engaged in structuring additional institutional safeguards to meet the situation. It is in this context that the Government of India recently introduced legislation for the creation of a National Human Right Commission with independent status and autonomous monitoring jurisdiction.. It is again in this context that we have provided and are providing greater access to human rights agencies to observe the situation in our country. It is to reaffirm the atmosphere of freedom and the commitment to political transparency that we have provided access to political leaders and legislators from different parts of the world to visit us and to judge for themselves the enormity and the complexity of the democratic experiment that India has undertaken. We are assiduously vigilant about our commitment to human rights. But we are, at the same time, equally firm that the slogans of human rights do not become an instrument in the hands of interested parties challenge our political cohesion of our territorial integrity While this is so we expect the international community to help us deal with externally inspired terrorism. We expect support and understanding when we try to deal with domestic discontent being encouraged to take the path of violence and secessionism. A predicament which I dare say is not particular to India alone but to many countries across the globe.

This is what we seek. Our hope is that the decisions and measures which would be adopted at this conference will serve these objectives.

To turn so what we should avoid for nurturing and upholding human rights, this does not need lengthy collaborations. Simply stated, our common endeavour should be to remove and resist the threats to human rights.. These are entrenched in terrorism, religious extremism, extraneously encouraged and sustained movements of separatism and secessionism, disrupting State structures, non-

democratic governments, and over and above all poverty and socio-economic injustice.

Whatever we do as individual countries or collectively as the members of the UN, the human rights movement must not be politicised, nor must it become an instrument for creating new barriers against the orderly functioning of plural democratic societies. We must respect diversities in the elements which constitute human rights in different societies while adhering to universally accepted norms. The effort should be to promote cooperation in implementing universal norms of human rights in the increasingly interdependent world we live in.

It is with this perception that we approach and evaluate the proposals which are to come up during this Conference for strengthening the UN's role in nurturing and sustaining human rights. We believe that the agencies and mechanisms of UN dealing with human rights should be strengthened. We believe that the terms of reference for this more effective role of the UN should be responsive to the aspirations and sensitivities of the member countries. We believe that if any new instruments and mechanisms are to be put in place, their role and their jurisdiction should be structured in a manner which should avoid duplication of responsibilities already entrusted to existing institutions. The role and jurisdiction of new entities, new arrangements should be non-intrusive and essentially aimed at the preservation and application of human rights devoid of extraneous political factors. Attaching conditions to development assistance related to human rights record of a nation can be counter productive. Above all, their jurisdiction and role should conform to the basic principles of the UN Charter.

I would like to conclude, Mr. President, by summing up the Indian viewpoint.

We unreservedly reaffirm, in accordance with the UN Charter, our faith in fundamental human rights;
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in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights; and the universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without dissinations of race, sex, language and religion.

We stress that Democracy and Development, including protection of the environment, are essential to the effective enjoyment of human rights,

We believe that these objectives can be achieved within the framework of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We feel that the need of the hour is a commonality of approach and unity of purpose aimed at developing a consensus to which this Conference should contribute in a very significant measure.

We are determined to continuously seek to further upgrade the quality of human rights implementation at the national level.

We are ready to join hands with all the nations represented at this Conference to do all that is necessary to create the appropriate international environment for the effective enforcement of human rights.

This conference has given an opportunity to shape a new consensus for the promotion of human rights. We shall fully cooperate with other nations in ensuring a successful outcome of our deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

STRIA INDIA USA IRAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

VIENNA

World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 17, 1993 on Right Of Reply by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Member of Indian Delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights in response to the statement of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the Leader of Pakistani Delegation on June 16, 1993:

We condemn the extraordinarily offensive intervention of the Leader of the Pakistani delegation in raising country specific issues. This is against all the rules and norms under which this Conference is required to function.

2. This is the only case where the delegation of one country has indulged in malicious, motivated and baseless allegations against another country participating in this Conference.

3. Mr. President, we are all assembled here to fashion the structural framework for upholding human rights at the global

level. We are assembled here not to indulge in the polemics of rationalising criminal acts of interference against a neighbouring country under the pretence of talking about human rights.

4. A country with an abysmal record of dealing with the human rights of various sections of its own people has no business to preach to a vibrant democracy like India on human rights, using the forum of the World Conference on Human Rights.

5. Pakistan has trained, armed and infiltrated thousands of mercenaries and terrorists into a neighbouring state, who have indulged in wanton killings, destroyed property, seeking to destroy the secular fabric of society.

6. A state like Pakistan -- a State supporter of terrorism -- trying to use
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slogans of human rights to further its narrow interests in encouraging secessionism in India will never be allowed to succeed.

7. Continued attempts at internationalising an issue, which has emerged as issue because of Pakistan's activities, will not be allowed to encroach on India's territorial integrity. Continued speeches at international conferences cannot disturb the status of Kashmir as an inseparable part of India.

8. Pakistan had launched 3 wars against India for Kashmir. When they did not succeed, they launched a new technique of Terrorism by taking boys across the border, training them by latest weapons and sending them back to terrorise the people who would not accept accession to Pakistan. They burnt schools, colleges, hospitals and government property. When this did not help in their endeavour to gain the Kashmiris, they invaded, attacked, brutalized, tortured, killed and raped women. Even this has not broken the will of the Kashmiris.

9. India has continuously sought friendship with Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement we are ready to talk on every issue. But Pakistan continues to indulge in terrorist activities and in violating the Human Rights of the Kashmiri people. India is a great and largest democracy in Asia and the principle of equality, secularism and democracy shall not be compromised or sacrificed. We have Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Buddhists and everyone enjoys equal rights of freedoms under our Constitution.

10. I was the Chief Minister of Kashmir when the first insurgency was started by Pakistan and attempts made to destroy peace in the State. The leader of the Pakistani delegation has spread lies and false propaganda only to mislead the people. India will never give in to Pakistan's designs to dismember her. Kashmir is an

integral part of India and no one can change the boundaries of the nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

STRIA INDIA USA PAKISTAN MALI

Date : Jun 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

VIENNA

World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 18, 1993 on a point of order issued by leader of Indian Delegation Dr. L. M. Singhvi on speech made by the leader of Pakistani Delegation Begum Nusrat Bhutto:

While Begum Nusrat Bhutto, the leader of Pakistani delegation, was speaking, at the Plenary of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 16th June, the Indian Delegation raised a point of order and was given the floor immediately. In his point of order Dr. L. M. Singhvi regretted that the Representative of Pakistan had made polemical and tendentious remarks about an integral part of India. Such remarks were irrelevant to the objectives of the deliberations of the World Conference, ran counter to the spirit of harmony and cooperation in which all States had agreed to work and would result only in vitiating the atmosphere. The conference had agreed that no country specific situation would be allowed at the conference. He also categorically rejected the Pakistani allegations and urged that the Representative of Pakistan cut short her statement. The Chairman (Austria) ruled that it had been agreed that references of a general nature would be allowed.

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STRIA INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Jun 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

India Offers Humanitarian Assistance to Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 03, 1993 on India's Humanitarian assistance to Yugoslavia:

Government of India, deeply distressed at the plight of the people affected by the ongoing conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, has decided to send Rs. 10 lakh worth of medicines to the relief operations being carried out there by the International Committee of Red Cross.

The medicines consist of items that are regularly distributed and needed by the ICRC, and are being sent through the Indian Red cross to the operational head quarters of the International Red Cross Committee in Zagreb, Croatia.

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GOSLAVIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CROATIA

Date : Jun 03, 1993

July

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AFGHANISTAN LEBANON UZBEKISTAN JAPAN PERU TURKEY

Date : Jul 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of Shri Balram Singh Yadava, Minister of State, Ministry of Mines to China

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 05, 1993 on the visit of Shri Balram Singh Yadava, Minister of State, Ministry of Mines to China:

Shri Balram Singh Yadava, Minister of State, Ministry of Mines, Government of India paid a visit to China from, June 28 - July 2, 1993 at -the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Mr. Zhu Xun, Minister of Geology and Mineral Resources Government of People's Republic of China. Shri Yadava lead a high level delegation which included Shri I. G. Jhingran, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shri S. N. Chaturvedi, Director General Geological Survey of India, Shri A. C. Wadhawan, CMD, Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and Shri R. K. Sharma, Secretary General, FIMI representing private sector interests.

India and China had signed an memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the field of geology and mineral resources in January this year. However, in light of the new situation which has arisen consequent to the recent liberalisation in the mining sector in India and continuing reforms in China. It was found necessary to expand the ambit of cooperation. Shri I. G. Jhingran, Secretary Mines and Vice Minister Zhang Wenyue, concluded their official level talks with an agreement on holding annual high level meetings to review progress of cooperation and explore possibilities offered by, new opportunities emerging. The important highlights of the agreed minutes signed by the two sides are the decision to set up joint venture's in each other countries as well as collaborate to set up joint ventures in third countries

The Indian Minister had extensive talks with his Chinese counterpart which helped to underscore the keen desire on both sides to cooperate closely in this area. Given the fact that both countries are rich in mineral resources. The official delegation

had included in their programme in China extended field visits to mines and mineral processing centres in China in order to get a better understanding of conditions prevailing here.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Jul 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

Visit of Permanent Secretary in the Cyprus Foreign Office to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 02, 1993 on the visit of Mr. Tasos Panayi, Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Office as Special Envoy of President Clerides of Cyprus:

Mr. Tasos Panayi as Permanent Secretary in the Cyprus Foreign Office, is
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visiting New Delhi today as Special Envoy of President Clerides. He called on External Affairs Minister and handed over a letter of invitation from President Clerides to Prime Minister to attend the Commonwealth Summit to be held in Cyprus from 21-25 October, 1993. Mr. Panayides also had a meeting with the Foreign Secretary at which issues related to the Commonwealth Summit as well as bilateral relations were discussed. Satisfaction was expressed at the close and cordial relations between the two countries and progress made intensifying economic and commercial relations. Mr. Panayides briefed the Foreign Secretary on status of efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue. The Foreign Secretary indicated India's continuing commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cyprus and expressed the hope that a lasting and viable settlement could be reached through the efforts of the UN Secretary General and taking into account the relevant resolutions adopted by UN Security Council.

PRUS USA INDIA

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

CYPRUS

Visit of Minister of Agriculture of India to Cyprus

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1993 on the visit of Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Balram Jhakar to Cyprus:

The Minister of Agriculture of India, Dr. Balram Jhakar was on an official visit to Cyprus from 8th to 11th July, 1993 at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture of Cyprus, Mr. Costas Petrides. Dr. Balram Jhakar was received at Larnaca Airport on 8th July by Mr. Costas Petrides.

On 9th July, Dr. Balram Jhakar laid wreaths on the statues of Mahatama Gandhi and Archbishop Makarios. He called on the President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Alexis Galanos, the Minister of Commerce, Mr. Stelios Killiaris and held official talks with his Cypriot counterpart Mr. Costas Petrides. The Agriculture Ministers of India and Cyprus also signed Work Plan for Cooperation in the Agricultural sector. The Work Plan provides for an exchange of information and agricultural interest with particular emphasis on the proper use of water, fertiliser and treated effluent. The Work Plan also provides for exchange of scientific material, equipment and germplasm and exchange of study visits.

PRUS USA INDIA

Date : Jul 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

FICCI

"Economic Reforms - Foreign Investment and NRI Response" Organised by FICCI

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 09, 1993 on the inaugural address by Shri R. L. Bhatia,

Minister of State, at the conference on "Economic Reforms Foreign Investment and NRI Response" organised by FICCI:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have gathered here today - the representatives of the industry, the academic world,

financial institutions, the NRI community and government - in a new environment. We have covered a long distance in the two years since July 1991, which was a watershed in economic policy making in India. The atmosphere is suffused with expectation, hope and a sense of dynamism. And, the crucial difference today is the changes in attitudes and perceptions in the various institutions that collectively shape the economic future of this country.

It is, indeed, heartening to note that our industry associations have swiftly moved from mainly articulating the industry concerns to playing the role of catalysts in making the economic reform programme effective in all its dimensions. It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you to this conference organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. I take this opportunity to commend the Chamber for organising a conference on an issue which is vital to the success of our reform programme.

The changes in the economic policy could not have come a moment sooner. The growing maturity of economy, our huge potential in terms of human and natural resources and our large market entitle us to believe that we should be a major player in the global economy. We have demonstrated our commitment to carry the reform process to its logical conclusion. And, we are proceeding with speed, but not in haste. The encouraging performance on the macro economic parameters bears out the essential correctness of our approach. Growth and investment depend as much on economic stability as on investment policies and regulations.

I am happy to note that the industry associations have joined hands with government in attracting foreign investments to India. We are all aware that policies are a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition. In a fiercely competitive market for investments, it is necessary to communicate to our overseas audience the new investment climate and opportunities in India. In this connection, I may mention the recent visit to USA by a delegation of this Chamber as an example of the kind of efforts required.

The Ministry of External Affairs has assumed an active role in promoting overseas investments in India. Our Embassies abroad accord high priority to projecting India as an attractive investment destination. Seminars and conferences are being

organised in all major cities in the world, which have served as effective fora for our policy planners, economists, industry representatives and financial experts to carry the message to our target audiences abroad. A wide range of publicity materials using print, electronic and audio-visual media have been developed. A number of our Embassies have started publishing economic newsletters in local and English languages. Visiting foreign business delegations are provided with assistance in having meetings with relevant institutions and ministries. A commendable feature of these efforts is the close cooperation between industry associations and the ministry.

Since the beginning of the reforms, foreign investment approvals have shown a quantum jump, from an average of about Rs. 2.5 billion a year to Rs. 39 billion in 1992. In 1993, the approvals amounted to Rs. 29 billion by May, NRIs as a group ranked fourth after USA, Switzerland and Japan in 1992.

A large number of well known international names are investing in India in a wide range of industries such as telecommunication, power, information technology, automobiles, industrial machinery, food processing, electrical equipment and chemicals.

Encouraging as the flow of foreign investments have been, I am sure that we all agree that it does not do justice to our potential. There are issues in the domain
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of policy which need to be addressed. However, we have reached a stage where we should focus more closely on procedures and on designing systems that make investments smooth and easy, from entry to project implementation. Doing the thing right is as important as doing the right thing.

In a federal polity, there are agencies at the central, state and local levels which deal with different aspects of investments. The industry associations should, with the benefit of their practical experience, suggest workable mechanisms to ensure that setting up a project, right upto commencement of operations, is smooth and quick. They should also suggest innovative methods for improving the quality and availability of infrastructure in the country.

Research is an important prerequisite to any promotional programme. We should carefully study the global investment climate, country-wise and industrywise investment flows, motives for investment and facilitating factors, perceptions of potential investors, the decision process of investors and the effective ways of reaching them. Informal gathering of ideas is no substitute for systematic research. The industry with its resources and expertise should play a leading role in this exercise.

Large foreign companies have the requisite resources to make considerable investments in scanning the environment and pre-investment world. But, medium and small units in industrialised countries are highly innovative and growth oriented. In many industries, these firms are highly competitive internationally. We have to devise ways of reaching out to them and assisting them in setting up business in India.

Indians settled abroad are our strong assets. The Chambers must strengthen the mechanisms for assisting them in setting up projects in India, for many of them have expressed the need for project advisory services including sourcing local partners. It is equally important to examine how we can enlist the cooperation of NRIs in our investment promotion efforts.

These are some pointers towards developing a sound and coordinated strategy for investment promotion programmes. I offer the unstinted support and cooperation of our Government and, in particular, of our Embassies abroad.

I thank you for the invitation to be here today and once again congratulate the Chamber for organising this conference. I hope that these events will become a regular forum for the exchange of views and ideas so that, together, we will work towards the realisation of the true meaning of the enduring objective of self reliance - not being self-contained but being self-sustaining and self-generating.

Thanking you.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU JAPAN SWITZERLAND

Date : Jul 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

HUMAN RIGHTS

Protection of Human Rights

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 17, 1993 on the protection of Human Rights in their widest form a bill for establishing a National Human Rights Commission was introduced in the last session of Parliament:

In keeping with Government of India's sustained commitment to the Pro-

tection of human rights in their widest form, a Bill for establishing a National Human Rights Commission was introduced in the last Session of Parliament.

2. Late last year, Government had invited a delegation of Amnesty International to India for discussions on a broad range of issues related to human rights. The Government had viewed this as the beginning of a constructive dialogue, which has been continued. Periodic inter-action has also continued with other organisations concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights.3. In furtherance of the earlier initiatives, Government has now decided to allow certain human rights organisations to visit India to see for themselves how human rights safeguards Operate in various parts of the country. The timings of such visits would be settled in consultation with the Government of India and the concerned State Governments. A dialogue with such organisations would be initiated in the coming days. Notwithstanding the serious difficulties created by the activities of externally aided terrorist groups in the border States, Government shall take all practical steps to promote a fuller understanding of human rights issues.

DIA USA

Date : Jul 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Visit of President of India to Hungary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1993 on the speech by the President of the Republic of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at the banquet hosted by the President of Hungary His Excellency Mr. Arpad Goncz at Budapest:

Your Excellency President Goncz, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We are deeply touched by your gracious words of welcome and the warmth of the sentiments which you have expressed about my country.

It is, for us, a great privilege to be in this beautiful city on

the banks of the Danube, and to see for ourselves the fresh flame of freedom which you, President Góncz personally, and many of the distinguished guests present here have helped to rekindle. To the world outside, the indomitable Magyar spirit is well known and has infused your history, marked by heroic struggles to preserve your national identity. Figures like Ferenc Rákóczi Lajos Kossuth and Sándor Petőfi have been an inspiration not just for the Hungarian People but for all those who have fought for independence the world over. So too are the countless and unsung heroes of 1956.

Hungary of today, I believe, has transcended the phase of establishing itself as a national state. It is engaged in the equally difficult task of nation-building and in meeting the challenges of the rising expectations--be it social, economic, or political - of its people. We in India understand the enormity of the task facing your nation, being engaged in a similar exercise ourselves. What has aroused our admiration is that the profound changes are being undertaken in your country with the consent and involvement of the people. History has demonstrated repeatedly that

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only that achievement endures which is acceptable to the people and represents their democratic aspirations. The people of India are one with the Hungarian people in their espousal of the democratic spirit and their commitment to the democratic system of governance.

Your Excellency, in the aftermath of the elections in your country in 1990, the first Indian delegation which was sent to Budapest was a delegation of our parliamentarians. We wished to emphasise the importance we attach to parliamentary institutions which are the bedrock of democracy. Equally important, we wished to welcome Hungary back to the community of democratic nations.

A great heritage of friendship and cooperation provides the backdrop for relations between India and Hungary. I need hardly remind you of the unique role which your foremost intellectual explorer Károly Csoma played in building bridges between our people. Our foremost poet, Rabindranath Tagore is perhaps as well known in Hungary as in India itself. There have been worthy successors to this tradition: Abanindranath Tagore, Ervin Baktay, Sass and Elizabeth Brunner, to name but a few.

In today's world, the efforts of such ambassadors of culture have been supplemented by interaction between our people in a variety of different fields. Our bilateral relations have in recent times been a mixture of opportunities and challenges. India is one of Hungary's major trade partners in the developing world. We have an important relationship in the field of military technology. Our institutions and scholars have growing contact in the fields of science and technology, health, culture and different branches

of academic research. The receptivity of our peoples to each other has been demonstrated evocatively very recently by the "Days of Indian Culture" in Hungary. Both our governments are conscious of the need to foster this spirit of cooperation. Your visit to India in 1991, Mr. President, and mine now bear ample testimony to the importance which our countries attach to strengthening our relations.

Increasingly, thinkers and leaders around the world are recognising the importance of a genuinely interdependent world and of our common future as citizens of one planet. Fewer and fewer think it realistic for any country - big or small - to care only for itself and its people. The prosperity of one is linked to the prosperity of all.

In India, we have a direct responsibility of improving the living standards of one-sixth of mankind. Four decades after gaining our independence, we have chosen not to rest on our laurels but to find ways and means of increasing economic growth while ensuring socio-economic justice. India has embarked on a major policy of liberalising the economy which is indicative of our belief that the world outside has as much to contribute to our welfare as we to theirs. In that context, we have followed with interest the process of economic changes in Hungary. I am confident that the policies embarked upon by our two countries will yield visible dividends in the near future.

Change through a democratic system, while slow, is nevertheless regarded as the most acceptable in the history of man. Where India is concerned, the uniqueness of our endeavour lies not just in the magnitude of our goal but in the diversity of the people participating in it. We regard the different streams of intellectual thought and culture, tradition, language, literature, customs and social mores in India as vital to the building of a strong composite pluralistic nation. Our endeavour has been to modernise our society to secure material well-being for our people in harmony with the positive aspects of our traditional values and the need to assimilate new ideas and insights thrown up by the ever widening horizons of human knowledge.

India and Hungary are countries which share basic human values, and have worked together in different forums to meet such challenges. I am confident that our cooperation, both bilateral and on

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international issues, would only grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

Twenty years ago, Your Excellency, I visited Hungary and had the privilege of planting a sapling in Balatonfüred next to the memorial to Rabindranath Tagore. Just as the tree has struck deep

roots and grown so many branches, so too has our relationship developed. I hope that our visit has contributed to the strengthening of our historical friendship and I ask you, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join me in proposing a toast:

-- to the health and long life of His Excellency President Arpad Goncz and Mrs. Goncz;

-- to the ever growing tree of friendship between the peoples of India and Hungary.

NGARY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas with the Iranian Government

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1993 on the signing of an MOU with the Iranian Government by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Captain Satish Sharma:

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Captain Satish Sharma, signed an MOU with the Iranian Government on July 7, 1993 on further bilateral cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbons. The MOU provides for setting up of a team of experts of the two countries who will meet in Delhi to study the feasibility of setting up a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India. This feasibility study is to be completed and submitted for further consideration of the two Governments latest by November 1993. As per the terms of the MOU, a delegation from National Iranian Oil Corporation (NIOC) will visit India to discuss additional Indian imports of Iranian crude. The MOU also provides for utilization of the R & D facilities of IPCL and EIL (Engineers India Limited) for joint development by the two countries of speciality equipments and process technology. Further discussions will be held regarding setting up of a joint venture fertilizer plant in Qeshin island in which the Indian side has indicated its interest.

Two other MOUs were signed between NIOC & ONGC and NIOC & EIL

aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation between them.
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AN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jul 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Visit of Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar to Israel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1993 on the official visit of Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar to Israel:

Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar who is on a 4-day official visit to Israel called on President Ezer Weizman this morning (7.7.93). During the course of this 30-minute meeting, the two leaders had wide ranging discussions including a review of the evolving bilateral relations. Dr. Jakhar also met the Speaker of Israeli Knesset (Parliament) Shevach Weiss and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres apart from having detailed and fruitful discussions with his counterpart on matters relating to agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Jakhar is the first Cabinet Minister from India to be visiting Israel and was accorded warm and cordial reception on arrival there 3 days ago. His programme included extensive field visits to green houses, fruit and vegetable plantations, seed farms, floriculture, sheep farms and drip irrigation projects as well as leading academic and research institutions in the country.

A number of specific proposals for joint business ventures involving technology transfer to India and research projects are under consideration, both at government-to-government level and in the private sector.

RAEL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Jul 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Trasit Visit of President of Kazakhstan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1993 on the meeting of the Kazakhstan President Mr. N. Nazarbaev, with the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The Kazakhstan President, Mr. N. Nazarbaev, who transitted through Delhi today, met the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, in the course of his halt in Delhi. The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's residence and lasted for about a hour. The two leaders discussed various areas of India-Kazakhstan relations, especially in the areas of economic, scientific and technical cooperation. They also discussed the possibilities of direct airlink between the two countries. Both felt that other initiatives such as exchanges of scientists and students should also be looked at.

The leaders also discussed the situation in their respective regions. They reiterated their commitment to secular ideals. The Kazakhstan President agreed with the Prime Minister on the need to combat the dangers of fundamentalism and extremism.
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Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the state of India-Kazakhstan bilateral relations, and the action being taken on the ground to promote cooperation in specific areas.

They noted that the India-Kazakhstan Joint Commission meeting would commence on the morning of 21st July 1993, where the details of cooperation in different areas would be tied up.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Visit of Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 21, 1993 on the visit of Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan:

Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, called on Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao this afternoon. The Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister reviewed the progress made in today's Joint Commission talks and informed Prime Minister that the discussions were going very well. He stated that Kazakhstan would like to cooperate with India in areas such as space and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy also. In particular, he invited India's participation in the Baikanur cosmodrome.

The Deputy Prime Minister also thanked our Prime Minister for the two credit lines of US \$ 10 million each extended by India. With regard to Prime Minister's earlier offer to assist with technical training in India, the Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that this was being pursued vigorously in the Joint Commission including the possible setting up of an Indo-Kazakh technical college in Kazakhstan. Prime Minister welcomed the progress that was being made in the Joint Commission in concrete terms and emphasised that there was excellent scope for cooperation between the two countries. He said he was happy that the Joint Commission was off to a good start and hoped that the results would form a spring-board for further cooperation in different areas.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA ITALY

Date : Jul 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

KAZAKHSTAN

Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 21, 1993 on the plenary session of the Indo-Kazakh joint Commission meeting

The plenary session of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission meeting commenced this morning. The Co-Chairman were Shri Balram Jakhar, Minister of Agriculture, on the Indian side, and Mr. G. A.

Abilsyitov, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Science and New Technologies, on the Kazakh side.

The Joint Commission is meeting on the specific directive following the meeting between Prime Minister and President Nazarbaev in May 1993. The decision was taken in view of the mutually shared desire to accelerate the pace of economic cooperation between the two countries. Both our leaders share the view that India can play a role in the process of modernisation of Kazakh economy, training of Kazakh cadres and collaborating in a large number of diversified areas - for example, hydrocarbons, mineral resources, agriculture, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals etc. The Joint Commission will also address the question of overcoming procedural bottlenecks. The Government of India has extended two credit lines of 10 million dollars each of which will help to generate project investment and promote trading. The Joint Commission will function through sub-committees which will develop more intensive collaboration in various sectors of economy and

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shall meet in the intervening period between the two sessions of the Joint Commission.

This being the very first meeting of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission, we have considerable expectations from it. The Members of the delegation are also interacting with Indian businessmen and business organisations during their stay here.

At today's session, the Joint Commission discussed cooperation in different fields including petrol and hydrocarbons, training of Kazakh cadres in India, cooperation in education as well as in the areas of commerce, including the credits offered by India. Interest was also shown in cooperation in agricultural research and in science and technology.

Four sub-committees were formed which commenced their meetings this afternoon. These were sub-committees on trade and commerce, including industrial collaboration, agriculture, science and technology, and hydrocarbons. Parallel with the meeting of the Joint Commission and sub-committees, members of the Kazakh delegation are also having interaction with leading Indian businessmen. The Joint Commission continues tomorrow 22 July and concludes in the afternoon of 23rd July.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jul 21, 1993

Volume No

KAZAKHSTAN

First Session of Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 23, 1993 on the first session of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission.:

The first session of the Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission held its concluding session today afternoon in New Delhi under the Co-Chairmanship of Dr. Balram Jakhar, the Indian Agriculture Minister and Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Science and New Technologies, Kazakhstan. During the course of the last three days, the Joint Commission met in its four sub-committees on agriculture, trade and industrial collaboration, science and technology and petroleum. The members of the delegation also interacted individually with concerned ministries as well as businessmen. At the end of the session, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed which covers specific areas of cooperation in several sectors including agriculture, hydrocarbons, railways, science and technology construction, tourism, aviation, technical cooperation, health, ecology and environment, trade and commerce and joint ventures. The discussions covered the utilization of two lines of credit of 10 million dollars each which have been extended to Kazhakistan.

During the course of his stay, Mr. Abisyitov called on Prime Minister External Affairs Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed and other dignitaries. In the concluding session of the Joint Commission, the Agriculture Minister as well as the Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister expressed great satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions and expressed the hope that the just concluded Memorandum of Understanding will serve as a blue-print for cooperation for economic and technological cooperation between our two countries and thereby strengthen our already close relations.

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ZAKHSTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 23, 1993

Volume No

LATVIA

Trade Agreement and M.O.U. on Banking and Counter Trade between India and Latvia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 02, 1993 regarding agreement on trade and economic cooperation between India and Latvia:

India and Latvia have signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. The agreement was signed in Riga on June 25, 1993 by Shri B. P. Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India and Ms. Jana Zara, Division Director, International Trade Agreements and Economic Organisations, Latvian Ministry of Foreign Trade. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the two countries on banking and counter trade.

This was the first ever visit of the Indian delegation to Latvia. The agreement envisages mutual trade on hard currency basis with provision for counter trade and mutual Most Favoured Nation treatment.

TVIA INDIA

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

Visit of Minister of State Shri Salman Khursheed to Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 26, 1993 on the 3 day official visit of Minister of State Shri Salman Khursheed to Maldives:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed arrived in Maldives, on July 24 on a 3-day official visit. His visit coincided with the Independence Day of Maldives on July 26. During his stay, the MOS held discussions with a number of Ministers on bilateral, regional and global issues of interest to both countries. The important dignitaries he met included the Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Ahmed Zaki, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Fathulla Jameel, Education Minister, Mr. Abdulla Hameed, Justice Minister, Mohammad Rasheed Ibrahim and Deputy Health

Minister, Dr. Abdul Sattar Yoosuf.

The MOS was received by the President of Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, on July 25. They briefly reviewed the progress made on the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital project, which is expected to be ready by end October, 1993 and will be handed over to Maldivian authorities on November 19, 1993, the birth day of the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The Hospital being constructed in Male is a gift from the Government of India.

Another important project will be launched from July 26 when the foundation stone of Maldives Institute of Technical Education will be laid by the President of Maldives. This project is being executed by HMT Limited

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and plans to provide technical training in eight disciplines.

They also discussed potential future collaboration in the spheres of environment and ecological protection, distance education at college level and maintenance and proper display of archival records.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Fathulla Jameel hosted a banquet in honour of Shri Khursheed. Both the Ministers spoke of the very friendly relations between the two countries. Mr. Jameel mentioned that the visit, planned to coincide with the Maldives Independence Day celebrations, is indicative of the close relations between the two countries.

The MOS attended a reception hosted by the President of Maldives on the eve of the country's Independence Day. The Indian High Commissioner and the Indian community separately hosted a lunch and a reception respectively in honour of the MOS on July 24. In his address to the Indian community, MOS talked about India's achievements during the last two years, especially on the economic front in the wake of economic liberalization.

LDIVES INDIA USA

Date : Jul 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Visit of Vice-President of India to Morocco

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

on Jul 02, 1993 on the visit of Vice-President of India Dr. K. R. Narayanan and Mrs. Narayanan to Morocco:

Vice President of India Mr. K. R. Narayanan accompanied by Mrs. Narayanan arrived in Rabat on 30 June 1993 on a State visit. This is the first high-level State visit from India to Morocco. He was received on arrival by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and the Prime Minister of Morocco, H.E. Mohammed Karim LAMRANI. Speaking to the Press on arrival, the Vice President said that this was his first visit to Morocco and that he was delighted to be here. He was particularly appreciative of the presence of His Royal Highness and the Prime Minister of Morocco. Tracing the background to Indo-Moroccan relations he said that both countries have a relationship that dates back several centuries. Morocco had played an important role in interpreting India to the Western world. Re-ferring to recent Parliamentary elections that have taken place in Morocco, the Vice President stated that like Morocco, India too was a democracy where people of different religion and faiths lived in harmony. In this sence, he felt India and Morocco had a lot of things in common.

2. The Vice President expressed India's appreciation at the progress achieved by Morocco in both social and economic spheres under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco. Under the King's leadership, Morocco had emerged as a country of peace and stability in the region. In particular, Morocco had exercised a moderate and sobering influence on events in the region.

3. The Vice President looked forward to meeting King Hassan of Morocco as also other dignitaries, intellectuals, Parliamentarians and academicians of Morocco during his stay here. He expressed the hope that his visit will lead to a further strengthening and consolidation of Indo-Morocco
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relations in all spheres in general, and the economic and commercial spheres in particular.

4. The Vice President on his visit to Morocco is accompanied by Mr. Eduardo

Faleiro, Minister of State for Chemicals and Ferrtilizers, and Members of Parliament Mr. Rafique Alam, Mr. B. K. Handique and Mr. Ghulam Rasool Mattoo.

ROCCO INDIA

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Visit of Vice President of India to Morocco

The following is the text of a press release issued on Jul 05, 1993 in New Delhi - Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan called on King Hostun-II of Morocco on July 2, 1993:

Vice President K. R. Narayanan called on King Hastun II of Morocco today (2 July) for 40 minutes. Crown Prince and second son of King were present as also Moroccan Foreign Minister. On India side, Minister of State Eduardo Faleiro was also present.

2. The King said Morocco had been looking forward to a high level visit from India for a long time. Relations had been good since independence, and he recalled his relationship with Pandit Nehru. King said both Morocco and India had now obligations arising from their geostrategic locations. He looked forward to strengthening deeper bilateral cooperation not purely in commercial areas but also in technology and technical fields. He referred to India and Morocco as old nations and said that imagination and innovation was a quality of old nations. India was a country with a large population and several religions. Like a human body there was fever from time to time but harmony was still there. Tolerance was a quality among ancient civilisations and the criterion of democracy was tolerance above any other factor.

3. Vice President referred to India and Morocco as pillars of stability. India despite problems was stable and democratic and desired closer cooperation with Morocco. Morocco had combined modern and old traditions and we had similar approach. He reciprocated Morocco's desire for greater cooperation at the United Nations and multilateral forums and the need to keep the material state in healthy conditions in order to fight religious problems. He extended invitations to the King and Crown Prince to visit India, which were accepted with pleasure.

4. Other subjects covered were Central Asia, Europe specially Bosnia, UN Security Council and OIC and financing from international organisations like the IMF.

ROCCO INDIA USA

Date : Jul 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Visit of Vice-President of India to Morocco

The following is the text of a press release issued on Jul 02, 1993 in New Delhi:

The Vice President of India called on the Prime Minister of Morocco at 6.00 p.m. today accompanied by the Indian Ambassador Shri Shiv Kumar. Following this meeting which lasted half an hour, the Vice President and the Moroccan Prime Minister led their respective delegations for formal talks. The Vice President was assisted by the Indian Ambassador, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Eduardo Faliero, and Shri B. K. Handique, Shri Rafique Alam and Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto, Members of Parliament.

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2. In his introductory remarks the Moroccan Prime Minister gave attention to the fact that respect for India and Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi was manifested by one of the biggest streets in Casablanca being named after Mahatma Gandhi. The Vice President indicated that this fact would be highly appreciated by the Indian people. The Prime Minister went on to claim that gradualism in approach and dedication to democracy had enabled both Morocco and India to avoid the dangers and pitfalls faced by several other countries. The geo-political situation of both countries imposed great responsibilities. The visit of the Moroccan Foreign Minister in 1992, the visit of the Moroccan Commerce Minister in 1991 and the current visit of the Vice President indicated the willingness of both sides to strengthen their bilateral relations. There was need to encourage the private sector in order to enhance commercial exchanges which had however risen rapidly in recent years.

3. The Vice President in reply referred to the recent elections in Morocco as a strong democratic links between the two countries. Attachment to religious values and democracy and economic liberalism made Morocco a model for the developing world. He referred to Morocco as a gateway between the East and West in the economic sense. In the context of liberalisation in both countries, a new filip should be given to the agreements already enforced between the countries and exporters must endeavour to be highly competitive. The Vice President gave an expose of liberalisation policies in India which he described as a success. He referred to the threat of terrorism nurtured from abroad in the states of Punjab and Kashmir and explained the efforts of the Prime Minister to Mobilise political forces to

contain fundamentalism, (both Hindu and Muslim) in India. In this context he emphasised India's desire to strengthen relations with the Arab and Islam world in which Morocco occupied the very important position.

4. The Moroccan Prime Minister Mohd. Lamrani conveyed his congratulations to India on its liberalisation policies and hoped for India's success in overcoming its problems including fundamentalism. He noted that the objectives and policies of both countries were similar.

5. Minister of State Faliero invited his counterpart the Minister of Energy and Mines to visit India and emphasised the need for phosphates and phosphoric acid exporters from Morocco to be competitive in the new liberalised situation.

6. The Minister of External Trade Abu Ayob stressed his readiness to have a joint commission meeting as early as possible. There was an information gap relating to Indian export potential in the Moroccan market which needed to be corrected. Delegations and exhibitions were necessary. He identified engineering goods, green tea and tobacco and tourism as possible areas for future cooperation.

7. Energy and Mines Minister MDAGHRI stressed the need for an imaginative approach to market phosphate. He was ready to examine import of power generation equipment and to cooperate in renewable energy fields.

8. The Moroccan Prime Minister agreed to lend Moroccan Government support to the Indian-Morocco Business Promotion Meeting to be held in October in Casablanca. He described Vice President's visit has added a new dynamism in the economic, political and cultural fields and said Morocco was ready to give open expression to this new cooperation.

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ROCCO INDIA USA

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

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MOROCCO

Visit of Vice President of India to Morocco

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 05, 1993 - Foreign Minister of Morocco Dr. Abdel Latif Fijali called on the Vice President on July 2, 1993:

The Foreign Minister of Morocco Dr. Abdel Latif Fijali called on the Vice President today (2 July) at 1200 noon. He reiterated Morocco's strong desire to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries in all spheres. He was of the view that the bilateral cooperation between India and Morocco should fully reflect the principles of South-South Cooperation, to which both countries attach great importance. The Vice President said that two or three important areas for cooperation should be identified and pragmatic action should be taken for implementation of cooperation. Both sides stressed the need for information about each other's capabilities, business promotion activities, greater interaction amongst private sector of the two countries etc.

2. The Vice President and the Foreign Minister also exchanged views on major regional and international issues including developments in North Africa, Arab Maghreb Union, Middle East Peace Talks, Bosnia etc.

3. The Vice President outlined to the Moroccan Minister India's policy on the Kashmir issue and its willingness to solve the problem peacefully through bilateral negotiations with Pakistan. He explained that Pakistan was trying to internationalise the issue in violation of the Simla agreement. The Vice President emphasised that the only major problem at present in Kashmir is the support to terrorism in Kashmir coming from Pakistan. On the issue of various anti-Indian OIC resolutions, the Moroccan side assured to take into account India's sensitivities on these issues when they are discussed in a forum like OIC.

4. Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, met his counterpart in the Foreign Office and discussed issues of common interests and ways and means to provide further substance to the Indo-Moroccan relations in the context of liberalisation measures adopted by the two countries. It was decided that the Indo-Moroccan Joint Committee would be upgraded to a Joint Commission and its next meeting will be held in India very shortly. A first-ever Indo-Moroccan Business Promotion meeting will be held in Morocco in October this year to bring entrepreneurs, businessmen and industrialists together. India and Morocco have agreed to consult each other in the UN and other international fora on issues of common concern to them.

ROCCO INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Jul 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Foreign Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and the former Finance Minister and current Treasurer of the Ruling Party of Malaysia UMPO, Mr. Tun Daim Zainuddin

The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on Jul 02, 1993 regarding the meeting between External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and the former Finance Minister and current Treasurer of the ruling party of
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Malaysia, UMPO, Mr. Tun Daim Zainuddin:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the former Finance Minister and current Treasurer of the ruling party in Malaysia, UMNO, Mr. Tun Daim Zainuddin, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh this morning (July 2, 1993). They discussed the need for strengthening Indo-Malaysian bilateral cooperation especially commercial and economic relations, particularly, the joint ventures. They also discussed the forthcoming G-15 Summit and the need to intensify direct trade among the countries of the South.

LAYSIA USA

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Secretary General of the SAARC and External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh

Following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 02, 1993 on the meeting between the Secretary General of the SAARC, Mr. I. H. Zaki and our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Secretary General of SAARC, Mr. I.H. Zaki called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today (July 2, 1993). He

briefed our Minister on the activities of SAARC and sought India's support for implementation of SAPTA, poverty alleviation programmes and programmes connected with children's welfare. He expressed the view that after the Dhaka Summit the SAARC activities have been progressing satisfactorily. He mentioned that international circles were taking note of regional cooperation programmes in South Asia. The External Affairs Minister emphasized the great importance of proceeding with SAPTA and also confirmed that India would provide all possible assistance in the 3 areas mentioned by the Secretary General. He also commended the Secretary General and the Secretariat for actively following up on Summit decisions.

Statement on Cambodia

Following is the Official Spokesman's statement on July 6, 1993 on the developments in Cambodia after the May, 1993 elections:

The Government of India have noted with satisfaction that the historic popular mandate of the May 1993 elections in Cambodia has been accepted by all the parties in a cooperative spirit. India welcomes the early gains of the peaceful political process there, in particular, the formation of the National Provisional Government supported by the newly elected constituent assembly. His Royal Highness Mr. Sihanouk is to be heartily felicitated for the outcome of his sincere efforts to bring peace, democracy and unity to Cambodia and the rallying of the Cambodian people under his wise statesmanship and guidance. We are confident that the National Provisional Government in Cambodia under its co-president's prince Ranariddha and Mr. Hun Sen will work hand-in-hand with the UN peace mission for the implementation of the remaining tasks set by the Paris Peace Accord. We wish them every success.

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DIA BANGLADESH CAMBODIA UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE

Date : Jul 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Director General of the South Africa Foreign Office and Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs

Following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 06, 1993

on the meeting between the Director General of the South African Foreign Office Mr. L. H. Evans and our Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit:

The Director General of the South African Foreign Office, Mr. L. H. Evans met our Foreign Secretary today. He briefed our Foreign Secretary on the present state of the negotiations in progress in South Africa and the difficulties that still remain before the various parties involved can agree firmly on the methodology and the time-table towards the goal of a democratic South Africa. India's contacts with South Africa have been evolving in tandem with the changes taking place in that country in recent years, particularly the commencement of negotiations towards the attainment of democracy with the total abolition of apartheid and also keeping in mind our commitments under the Commonwealth mandate. An Indian Cultural Centre has already been established. Seretary (East) of our Ministry, Mr. Salman Haider visited South Africa in January this year.

Mr Evans who arrived today (July 6) is leaving tomorrow (July 7).

UTH AFRICA USA INDIA

Date : Jul 06, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Clinton's Recent Announcement Extending the US Moratorium on Nuclear Test

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 06, 1993 on President Clinton's recent announcement extending the US moratorium on nuclear test:

President Clinton's recent announcement extending the US moratorium on nuclear testing to 30th September, 1994 and placing priority to commencing negotiations towards a multilateral Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a welcome development.

Since 1954, India has consistently called for cessation of nuclear weapon texting and a discontinuance of production and stockpilling of nuclear weapons with a view to giving a positive impetus for nuclear disarmament. in 1988, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi whill addressing the third Special Session of the UN General Assembly Devoted to Disarmement, called for a moratorium on testing of all nuclear weapons and initiation of negotiations

for Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

A Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would go a long way in arresting the nuclear arms race and bringing to an end the development of more lethal warheads. We hope that all nuclear weapon states will respond positively to President Clinton's announcement and multilateral negotiations for an effective and verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which has long been a goal of the international disarmament community, can now be undertaken in a purposeful manner.

The START-II agreement signed between the US and Russia at the beginning of this year, and now the possibility of beginning negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty demonstrates that it is possible to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament. We believe that movement towards such an objective would be facilitated if in future all nuclear weapon states could also agree to a universal freeze on future development and deployment of nuclear weapons. We also urge all nuclear weapon states to simul

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taneously commence negotiations for an agreement to prohibit the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

We shall continue to work together with other like-minded countries towards establishing a cooperative world order based on truly non-discriminatory nonproliferation and disarmament with the objective of establishing a nuclear weapons free world.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Jul 06, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Donation of Medicines to the Republic of Ukraine

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement on Jul 13, 1993 on donation of medicines to the Republic of Ukraine:

Government of India has in the past contributed humanitarian assistance for the relief of those affected by the Chernobyl accident. In view of the continuing requirement of medicines for the treatment of children affected by the Chernobyl accident, Government of India has decided to make a donation of medicines

to the Government of Ukraine to be used for the treatment of children affected by that accident. Rs. 5 million is to be made available for this purpose. This amount would be used by the Government of Ukraine to purchase medicines identified by it from India. This token gesture is a reflection of the goodwill and friendship that characterises relations between India and Ukraine.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Jul 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Special Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Member Countries in Islamabad

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement on Jul 13, 1993 on the Special Ministerial Meeting of the OIC member countries in Islamabad on July 12 and 13:

We are surprised to learn that the communique issued after the Special Ministerial Meeting of the OIC on Bosnia-Herzegovina held in Islamabad on July 12 & 13 has made references to Kashmir. Immediately on receiving the news, we contacted a number of representatives of the OIC member countries which participated in the Special Ministerial Meeting. These friendly countries have indicated to us that the communique's references to Kashmir were discussed at the special meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina and were imposed on them at the last minute as a Pakistani proposal. They did not wish to raise a controversy over this at the forum of the OIC meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina, but they have clarified to us that they, on their part, do not question the territorial integrity of India or concur with advocacies for the dismemberment of any state under the guise of concepts of human rights or self-determination. Pakistan has once again patently attempted to involve other Islamic countries in its acts of subterfuge in blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of India. Pakistan's conduct is in contravention of the spirit of Simla Agreement under which India and Pakistan are committed to resolve their differences through bilateral negotiations. Though India has high respect for OIC member countries and has friendly relations with them, it is regrettable that the Secretary General of the OIC made a statement at this meeting which was in its approach on Kashmir partisan and attempted to project his views as the view of the OIC. In any case, the Government of the people

of India find his views untenable and unacceptable.
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KISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Jul 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

US Decision to put Pakistan off the list of States Sponsoring Terrorism

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement on Jul 15, 1993 on the US decision to put Pakistan off the list of states sponsoring terrorism:

In response to a query on the US decision of putting Pakistan off the list of states sponsoring terrorism in other countries, the Official Spokesman stated that we find it very strange that this statement has been made inspite of incontrovertible evidence that has been given time and again clearly establishing that Pakistan is a state that sponsors terrorism. The statements of the US Government itself on this subject are based on their own information which confirm this. It seems to be obvious, therefore, that this particular decision was based not on objective facts, but on other policy considerations.

KISTAN USA

Date : Jul 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Russian Federation's Inability to fulfil Obligations of ISRO-Glavkosmos Contract of 1991

The following is the statement by the Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Jul 17, 1993 on the Russian Federation's

inability to fulfil obligations of ISRO-Glavkosmos Contract of 1991:

Reports have appeared in the media over the last few days regarding discussions between the Government of United States and Russia and between Russia and India about the difficulties being faced by the Russian Federation in implementing the ISRO-Glavkosmos Contract of January 1991, involving transfer of cryogenic engines and related technologies.

2. The Chief of the Directorate of International Scientific and Technical Cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs handed over a paper to the Indian Ambassador in Moscow on the evening of the 16th of July in which the Russian Government has stated that "in the context of unforeseen circumstances, Glavkosmos finds itself in a situation of not being able to fulfil further its obligations regarding the transfer of technology and production equipment under the Agreement of January 1991."

3. According to this paper, the situation has arisen as a result of the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation regarding improvement of control of exports from Russia of materials, equipment and technology used for making rocket engines. The paper given to the Indian Ambassador invokes the force majeure clause of the January 1991 Agreement as the basis of Glavkosmos resiling from its contractual obligations. The Russian side, however, has expressed its readiness to hold further consultations with India in this matter to deal with the consequences of the Russian decision.

4. The Government of India regrets the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation as conveyed to the Indian Ambassador in Moscow.

5. The cryogenic engines and related technology that were to be supplied to India in terms of the ISRO-Glavkosmos contract of January 1991, are meant exclusively for India's civilian space programme. Besides, the contract in question contains adequate assurances that the engine technology would be used only for civilian purposes and would not be diverted or transferred to third countries.

6. While the Government of India may have discussions with the Russian Government to deal with the problems arising out of the Russian decision regarding the Glavkosmos not fulfilling its contractual obligations, it is affirmed that the Govern

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ment of India will not allow any set-back to India's space technology and space programme nor would the Government of India allow the programme to be negatively affected in any manner. Government are fully committed to achieving selfreliance in the fields of high technology, particularly in areas like space which

have a major bearing on our economic and social development programmes. While India remains willing to cooperate with other countries in the space sector for mutual benefit, India will continue to develop the required technologies indigenously.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Jul 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan of India

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 19, 1993 regarding the call by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan H.E. Mr. Hedayat Amin Arsala on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Hedayat Amin Arsala who is on a visit to India, today called on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh at South Block.

During the meeting, which lasted for 40 minutes, a detailed exchange of views took place on recent developments in Afghanistan. Shri Dinesh Singh expressed the hope that the conditions in Afghanistan would stabilise soon. He said India has consistently stood for a united, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan free from all external interference.

The two sides also reviewed the prospects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission. Shri Dinesh Singh informed Mr. Arsala the government's decision to reopen the Indian Embassy in Kabul shortly.

Mr. Arsala stressed that the Afghan government look forward to close cooperation with India in the spirit of the historical friendly ties between the two countries.

GHANISTAN INDIA

Date : Jul 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

kazhakistan

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 22, 1993 on the meetings of Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, Dy. P. M. of Kazakhstan with EAM and MOS (SK):

The Dy. Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. G. A. Abilsyitov, who is co-chairing the Indo-Kazhakistan Joint Commission meeting, had a meeting today with our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. They expressed satisfaction that the on-going discussions in the Joint Commission meeting were progressing well. The Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister stressed the importance given by his side topromoting exchanges with India in the fields of education in general and technical training in particular. External Affairs Minister and the Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister also agreed to accelerate cooperation in the areas of civil aviation and science and technology. Mr. Abilsyitov reiterated his country's interest in cooperation in space, in particular Indian involvement in the cosmodrome in Kazhakistan.

Mr. Abilsyitov expressed his country's keenness to set up an India-Kazhakistan technical institute in his country, where Indian experts would provide training to Kazakh cadres.

External Affairs Minister was assisted at the meeting by MOS (SK) and our Ambassador to Kazhakistan, Shri Kam
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lesh Sharma. On their side, the Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by his Deputy Education Minister and their Ambassador-designate to India.

Mr. Abilsyitov also had a separate meeting with our MOS(SK) Shri Salman Khursheed. At this meeting, the Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister made a request for Kazakh trainees to be trained in India under India's ITEC programme. The two Ministers also discussed the possibility of establishing a joint venture data-bank to help businessmen on both sides and to act as a catalyst for the setting up of joint ventures.

A INDIA ITALY

Date : Jul 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 23, 1993 on the apprehension of a Pakistani High Commission official by the Policy while receiving sensitive documents:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mohammad Riaz, an official of the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi was apprehended today (July 23) by the police while receiving sensitive documents from a local contact. Riaz has been with the Pakistani High Commission in Delhi since 17th March 1988. He came to the notice of our security agencies because of his activities in trying to set up a clandestine ring of contacts in India and especially because of attempts to cultivate people in the armed forces. He has been thus under watch for a considerable time since earlier investigations had also revealed that he was an officer of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan. Acting on information received, members of the Delhi Police kept a watch this morning in a nursery located in Mahavir Vanasthali Park near the petrol station at Sardar Patel Marg. Riaz arrived in a Pakistan High Commission car No. 89 CD 18, walked into the nursery, met his contact and was seen exchanging some documents. The police personnel challenged him. Riaz tried to escape, but was apprehended along with the documents at the petrol station. (He ran from the nursery to the petrol station and was nabbed there). This happened at 1015 hours this morning. He was brought to the police station at Chanakya Puri at 1030 hours.

At 1100 hours, the Pakistani High Commission was informed and asked to collect him. A detailed medical examination was also conducted before he was handed over. A First Secretary from Pakistani High Commission arrived at the police station and signed the documents needed in order to take charge of Riaz. Subsequently, a Counsellor of the Pakistani High Commission disputed the action taken by his Mission's First Secretary, raised various objections about the procedure of taking his official back into the High Commission's charge, but eventually removed him at 1410 hours. The documents which Riaz had with him when he was held related to the movement, deployment and some other details of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

The involvement of Pakistani High Commission's officials in espionage activities is, of course, nothing new. This instance, where a Pakistani High Commission official was caught red-handed indulging in subversive activities on Indian soil confirms that such activities on their part are continuing, although, this is totally unacceptable by every norm of diplomatic conduct.
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KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Lebanon

The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on Jul 27, 1993 on escalation of fighting in South Lebanon:

The Government of India deplores the escalation of violence across the IsraelLebanon border with attacks by Israel on Lebanon and rocket attacks across the border from Lebanon against Israel. These escalations, which have led to considerable loss of lives already, are not conducive to creating the climate of peace and confidence necessary for the resumption of the peace process on a positive note. India calls on the concerned parties to be mindful of the serious consequences of their actions and desist from provocations from South Lebanon and the inadmissible use of force by Israel across international borders.

BANON INDIA ISRAEL PERU USA

Date : Jul 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on Jul 29, 1993 on the conclusion of the first session of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Commission, and the call by Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. T. M. Miryakubov on our President, Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma today (July 29, 1993):

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, in his concluding remarks at the first session of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission said that it was marked by a high degree of personal warmth and understanding. This reflected the strong desire of both sides to concretise the traditionally close ties between them. The decisions that have been taken at the Joint Commission would act as a blueprint for action in specific areas of cooperation. EAM highlighted the importance of the subjects that have been covered in the Joint Commission discussions which in particular focussed on the agreement to vigorously pursue increase of bilateral trade, the utilisation of Indian credits, setting up of joint ventures and transfer of technology, air services, banking, tourism, telecommunication links, agriculture and proposal for setting up of Indo-Uzbekistan Technology Centre for promoting cooperation in science & technology. He concluded by saying that the work done by the Joint Commission would form the appropriate ground-work prior to the visit of President Karimov to India, which would take place later.

In the meeting of the Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Commission, our External Affairs Minister was assisted by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed and other Ministers present were, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Gulam Nabi Azad, Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam and Minister of State for Tourism, Ms. Sukhbans Kaur. Five Agreements were signed.

1. Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology (Signed on our side by Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam, and on their side by Chairman of the State Committee for Science & Technology, Mr. N. R. Yusupbekov)

2. Agreement in the field of tourism was signed by Shri Gulam Nabi Azad and their Deputy Prime Minister

3. Agreement on avoidance of double taxation (External Affairs Minister on our side and their Deputy Prime Minister)

4. Protocol of cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries (External Affairs Minister on our side and Deputy Prime Minister on their side).

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5. Memorandum of Understanding on the conclusion of the first

session of the Joint Commission (External Affairs Minister on our side and Deputy Prime Minister on their side)

In his call on our President today, the Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister referred to the traditionally warm relations with India. He mentioned that his country gave great importance to developing economic relations with India and also to increasing cooperation in the area of science and technology which itself was important for economic development. He saw vast scope for cooperation with India and referred to the detailed discussions held in the Joint Commission. He also conveyed President Karimov's good wishes to our President. Our President concurred, that the development of cooperation in the economic field and science and technology assume great importance in today's world. He reciprocated President Karimov's good wishes and said that he looked forward to meeting him on his visit to India.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jul 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Lebanon

The following is the Official Spokesman's Statement on Jul 29, 1993 in response to a query on escalated fighting in Lebanon:

In response to a query on escalated fighting in Lebanon, the Official Spokesman stated that India repeats its call for a cessation of violence. It has noted that the Lebanese-Israel border is not in dispute and calls upon Israel to stop its attacks on Lebanon, so that the large number of displaced persons can return to their homes in peace.

BANON INDIA ISRAEL

Date : Jul 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman in response to a query on Jul 30, 1993 regarding reported statement of the Pakistan High Commissioner:

In response to a query on the reported statement of the Pakistani High Commissioner, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, that Indo-Pak relations are at their lowest ebb, the Official Spokesman stated that we find it a strange phenomenon that the Ambassador is talking so gleefully about relations being at their lowest ebb. An Ambassador's task is universally understood to be to smooth over things and to create conditions for improvement of relations.

In response to another query, the Spokesman mentioned that India certainly wants the best of relations with Pakistan, and considers this very important. But this is very difficult to achieve until Pakistan ceases aiding and abetting terrorism on Indian soil.

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KISTAN INDIA

Date : Jul 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Joint Indo-Japanese Mountaineering Expedition to Mount Aqtash

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1993:

The Government of India today rejected a protest registered by the Government of Pakistan regarding a joint Indo-Japanese mountaineering expedition to Mount Aqtash, which is located south-west of the Karakoram Pass. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, while rejecting the protest, pointed out that this area was an integral part of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir and that India had regularly been sending mountaineering expeditions there in the past.

KISTAN JAPAN INDIA

Date : Jul 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

PERU

Visit of Shri Salman Haider, Secretary, in the Ministry of External Affairs to Lima

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1993 on the visit of Shri Salman Haider, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi to Lima:

Shri Salman Haider, Secretary, in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, visited Lima for the second meeting under the official level political consultation mechanism between Peru and India, which took place at the Ministry of External Affairs Relations on 13 July. Shri Haider accompanied by the Ambassador of India, was received by the Minister for External Relations and the Vice Minister of International Policy-Secretary General of the Ministry of External Relations. He also called on the Vice Minister of Economy.

The official talks were held in an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding during which various international issues of mutual interest and those relating to bilateral relations including cooperation in economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields, were discussed.

The next meeting under the consultation mechanism will take place in New Delhi on a date to be mutually agreed upon.

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RU INDIA USA

Date : Jul 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The following is the text of a press release issued at New Delhi on Jul 23, 1993 regarding summary of the key-note address by Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs, on the occasion of the Seminar on "Trade, Technical and Economic Cooperation between India and Sub-Saharan Africa held on July 23, 1993:

While inaugurating the seminar on Trade, Technical and Economic cooperation between India and Sub-Saharan Africa on 23rd July, 1993 organised by Federation of Indian Export organisations in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce, Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid stressed the need for evolving an optimal strategy for trade promotion. Commending India's recent export performance as indicated by a 29 percent increase in exports Mr. Khurshid said that while this constituted a healthy beginning, we should make maximum efforts to further improve upon our achievements in this regard. He pointed out that despite various constraints, India was on the verge of a nascent economic miracle. The very fact that India was able to restrict its inflation to six per cent, speaks for itself. The Minister added that major changes are slowly but surely taking place in the economy and the ripple effects of such positive changes are bound to be felt in all spheres of the economy. He expressed confidence that if the present pace of progress (in the wake of the ongoing economic reforms) were to be maintained India's economy should register significant progress and soon reach a plateau: sustained efforts will have to be made to continue with this pace thereafter.

The Minister stressed the importance for a radical reorientation of the conventional role of Indian diplomats. Indian diplomats would have to function more as economic ambassadors. He stressed the need for redoubled efforts to promote trade and economic links with countries of Latin America, Central Asia, ASEAN etc. Referring to sceptics who feel that India's emergence in the export market has come too late, the Minister affirmed that India has made its presence at the right time and would soon be making its mark in the world economy.

Referring to Africa, Mr. Khurshid added that India was familiar with the problems of African countries, i.e. shortage of foreign exchange, drought, shortages of food. Shortage of skilled manpower, brain drain etc. However, despite such factors Shri Khurshid said that there is considerable scope for meaningful cooperation between India and Africa. He pointed out, for instance, that while there is an abundance of cocoa in many countries of Africa, these countries are not in a position to process them so as to generate export revenue. India could help several African countries in setting up confectionaries and export processed cocoa products. He exhorted Indian businessmen

to be more imaginative and innovative in their approach in doing business with Africa and to understand the need for a resourceful and multi-dimensional orientation in this regard.

Calling for a more concerted and systematic drive in our efforts to promote
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closer economic links with Africa, the Minister stressed the need for Indian exporters to look into all aspects of promoting our trade, including, inter alia, the prospects and possibilities afforded by various regional trade groupings in the continent like PTA and the proposed common customs' union.

He assured Indian exporters of the wholehearted support and cooperation of the Government of India in their efforts to promote closer economic links with Africa. Apart from trade, Minister said that stress should be given on assistance to African nations in their overall developmental efforts.

DIA USA

Date : Jul 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Visit of President of India to Turkey

The following is the text of a press release issued at New Delhi on Jul 16, 1993 on the speech by the President of the Republic of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at the banquet hosted by the President of Turkey His Excellency Mr. Suleyman Demirel at Ankara on Friday, July 16, 1993:

Your Excellency President Suleyman Demirel, Madame Demirel, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be the first President of India to visit Turkey and I wish to express my profound gratitude for the warm welcome so graciously accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in Ankara.

From the dawn of time, this beautiful land of mountain ranges, high plateaux and fertile river valleys has been the great bridge between the East and the West. The rivers which nurtured the

great civilisations of the fertile crescent, the Euphrates and the Tigris, both rise in the mountains of Eastern Anatolia. Here in Turkey, we stand upon the bridge over which the intellectual, spiritual and material wealth of the East reached the West; the very same bridge that facilitated the flow of thought and technology of the occident to the orient.

The traditional friendship between our countries was reflected in the medical mission which a renowned Indian freedom fighter, Dr. M. A. Ansari, led to Turkey in 1912 during the Balkan wars. In a letter to Smt. Indira Gandhi, who was then 15 years old, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru recounted how the news of Ataturk's victory at the Battle of Afum Qarahisar in August 1992 was joyously received by Indian freedom fighters:

"Many of us were in the Lucknow district jail then. We celebrated the Turkish triumph by decorating our prison barrack with such odds and ends as we could gather and there was even an attempt at illumination in the evening".

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru admired the courage and vision of Ataturk and his role in liberating and modernising your country. A resolution passed by the Indian National Congress at a Special Session in Delhi in 1923, congratulated Kamal Pasha on his victorious leadership and hailed it as the "Sure presage of the freedom of all the Nations of the East".

Ankara, the capital of Turkey is a living symbol of Ataturk's hopes for the future. It is, therefore, quite natural for us to be imbued with a deep sense of
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history as we meet here today irresistibly inspired to strengthen our bonds of friendship.

Excellency, India and Turkey are both founded on the principle of secularism and democracy. Every Indian citizen enjoys the same rights and freedoms regardless of his religious beliefs. We also show equal respect to all religions. This is so deeply rooted in our ethos that our secularism has been able to withstand all attacks on it. Our democratic institutions and way of life too have become firmly established. Externally-inspired terrorism and violence continue to trouble us but have been met by a reiteration of faith in our deeply-held national values. We greatly appreciate the condolences offered by Turkey to the victims of terrorism in Bombay and your condemnation of violence and terrorism in all its forms.

Momentous changes have taken place in the world following the end of the cold war removing the ideological underpinnings of conflict between competing blocs but these have not made the world free of conflict. The Gulf war, the continuing strife in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Nagorno-Karabakh and Somalia, and the

bloodletting in Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia are grim reminders that the post cold war era is not without suffering and tribulation. Ideological rivalries have faded giving rise to antagonisms across traditional fault lines in human society. The forces of religious extremism, bigotry and sub-nationalism have emerged as potent challenges in today's world. On the economic side, the world trading system is in the process of painful transition with the forces of free trade pitted against increasing protectionism. Simultaneously, long-deferred global problems, including environment protection, depletion of resources, terrorism and drug trafficking have demanded greater attention and require concerted remedial action.

Our two countries must work together to face the new challenges which confront the world today.

Excellency, your geo-politically strategic region has been troubled by conflict and Turkey can veritably be called an island of sability in an otherwise turbulent area. Your country has also played a significant role in the Balkans and the Caucasus. Excellency, we are following with great interest the efforts which you and the Greek leadership are putting into promoting a breakthrough in relations between your two countries. We wish you success in your quest for peace and friendship. Your efforts to persuade the Central Asian Republics to emulate you in the establishment of a secular, democratic and self-reliant market economy oriented model are praiseworthy and we wish you success in your endeavour to bring development and progress to this region. India's relations with Central Asian Republics are rooted in history and culture and we are happy that there is mutual interest in consolidating these ties. As our objectives are similar we look forward to cooperating with you for the benefit of the entire region.

Excellency, Turkey and India had signed a Treaty of Friendship in 1951 and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had visited your beautiful country in 1960. It was 26 years after this landmark visit that the then Turkish Prime Minister, the late President Turgut Ozal visited India in 1986. We must now maintain this new momentum of high-level visits between India and Turkey which will lead to the strengthening of our bilateral cooperation. We believe that there is tremendous scope for its expansion between our two countries in wide-ranging spheres. Allow me, therefore, to express the hope that we shall have the pleasure of welcoming Your Excellency and Madame Demirel in India.

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May I request you to join me in:

-The health and happiness of Your Excellency and Madame Demirel;

-To the prosperity and well being of the people of Turkey;

-And to greater and deeper friendship between Turkey and India.

RKEY INDIA USA MALI SOMALIA AFGHANISTAN ANGOLA CAMBODIA

Date : Jul 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

President of India's Visit to Turkey

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 17, 1993 on the speech by the President of the Republic of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at the Departure from Esenboga Airport, Ankara on July 17, 1993:

Mr. President, Madame Demirel, Excellencies, Ladeis and Gentlemen,

I wish to express sincere thanks on behalf of Mrs. Sharma, my delegation and on my own behalf for the warm hospitality and deep affection with which we were received in Ankara. You made us feel very welcome and we will always cherish the memories of our visit.

The sincerity with which our interaction was conducted is reflective of the desire of both our countries to build further on the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between us. As our relationship is based on shared values and common objectives, I am confident that the understanding and mutual respect between us will be ever-increasing.

Mr. President, I thank you once again for your warm welcome and gracious hospitality, and before proceeding to Istanbul would like to take this opportunity to wish you and Madame Demirel the best of health and many more successful years in the service of your nation.

RKEY INDIA USA

Date : Jul 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Bilateral Trade Between India and Turkey

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 20, 1993 regarding President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's address to Members of the Turkish Business Community in Istanbul on July 19, 1993:

Addressing the Members of the Turkish Business Community in Istanbul on July 19, 1993, President Shankar Dayal Sharma expressed hope that the volume of bilateral trade between India and Turkey could be multiplied in quantitative terms. The volume of bilateral trade which was as low as 25 million dollars a year in the early 80s, has now reached \$140 million in the 1990s. Referring to the Indian economic progress and the major programme of economic reforms launched by the Government of India, he emphasized that India is integrating into the global economy. He mentioned that India's GDP was estimated to have grown over 4% during 1992-93, the fiscal deficit declined by 5%, while the inflation rate came down from over 17% in 1991 to about 6% now. With increase in export earnings, India's foreign exchange reserves have become comfortable. At the same time, approvals of foreign investment proposals have re-

corded a phenomenal increase. He said that with both India & Turkey having vibrant international economies, the two countries should cooperate not only bilaterally, but in third countries also.

RKEY INDIA USA

Date : Jul 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

UKRAINE

President's Banquet Speech in Kiev

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1993 of the speech by the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the President of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Leonid M. Kravchuk in Kiev on July 13, 1993:

Your Excellency, President Kravchuk and Mrs. Kravchuk,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be in Kiev this evening in this capital city of a great and historical land. On behalf of myself and my wife and of the delegation, I wish to express my sincere thanks to you, Excellency, and to your colleagues for the hospitality that has been extended to us. Kiev is renowned for its cultural and spiritual heritage. As for its physical beauty, these are perhaps best expressed by the words of your great poet Taras Shevchenko:

"Tell me how beyond that mountain, Crimson sunsets glow and fade
How the rainbow dips for water In the Dniپر for away
How the poplars tall and slender Throw their leafy branches wide"
(Shevchenko. The Princess)

I had indeed felt a strong urge to visit Ukraine and to see for myself the famed beauty of the sunsets and poplar trees that the poet described so eloquently. My small regret is that I have not come in time to see the chestnuts in bloom, but otherwise Kiev is as beautiful as anyone can imagine. In accepting your invitation, Excellency, I had therefore no hesitation.

It is a little more than a year since we had the pleasure of welcoming you and your colleagues in our midst. That was indeed a landmark in relations between our two peoples. It is all the more important therefore for our two countries to continue to build upon the understandings and agreements reached during your visit as well as at subsequent high level contacts. We have observed with interest the emergence of Ukraine as an independent Republic and the growing aspirations of the Ukrainian people for democracy and development of its institutions. Freedom is essential because it gives the strength to build a prosperous society.

The passage of the Cold War is an event that both our countries and our peoples can rejoice in. The unnatural division based on ideologies or military pacts was something that the Non-aligned Movement rejected as unacceptable from the very beginning. The end of East-West confrontation and the establishment of democracy has ushered in a new era in the world. Nonetheless, it is equally clear that the world still faces new challenges to which we have to address ourselves.

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First and foremost, we are concerned to ensure that overcoming past, divisions leads to a more cooperative relationship between

countries on the basis of equality and mutual interest. The world is poised on the edge of a revolution in technology and economic management and it would be a historic failing if the benefits of these achievements were not shared equally and without discrimination. India is committed to this view and is adopting new measures aimed at changing the economic structures to facilitate freer economic cooperation. We have embarked upon a combination of economic reforms and liberalisation policies, confident that we will be able to face the challenges of poverty and inequality.

Excellency, our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, stated to our Constituent Assembly on the eve of our independence that "Peace is said to be indivisible so is Prosperity, and so also is Disaster, in this one world which can no longer be split into isolated fragments". It is imperative that we all recognise the interdependent nature of our world today and accept that it is in the interests of every country to promote the welfare and prosperity of other countries in this rapidly shrinking globe of ours.

We are following with interest Ukrain's own search for a new balance in politics and economics and are happy to share with our friends, within our limitations, our resources or experience. The peoples of India wish you well and look forward to continue stability and growth of the Ukrainian economy.

The post-Cold War world has also thrown up the challenge and opportunity of establishing a more democratic global order. Whether at the United Nations, or at any of the international economic organisations, or indeed on the question of disarmament, India remains a crusader against discrimination in any form. India has all along stood for general and complete disarmament. We have also put forward a concrete programme of action in order to eliminate, within a fixed period of time, all nuclear weapons in the world.

The world has, in recent past, witnessed the rise of intolerance religious or ethnic or racial with its accompanying violence. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "violence cannot be destroyed by counter violence. Mankind has to get out of violence only through non-violence". Even as we welcome the emergence of new freedom in different parts of the world, we have to recognise and reiterate our faith in non-violence and our commitment to enlarging the ambit of peace, understanding and cooperation between man and man and nation and nation. We have to guard against the propensity of those elements who seek to exploit a system based on the rights of human beings and individual freedom to secure their narrow ends. In our neighbourhood, we are witnessing extremist beliefs which are encouraging terrorism and are a challenge to the stability of our region, as also to the secular basis of Indian polity. I am confident that the Indian ethos, which has developed over centuries, will overcome this challenge and demonstrate the

enduring strength of our moderate, secular tolerant society.

We are aware that Ukraine, a multiethnic and multilingual society, faces challenges as well which can be overcome only through accommodation and coexistence. Ukraine has been blessed by nature with a rich soil, fair climate and talented people. Your past achievements in industry, science and technology, art and culture are impressive and the future holds an equally great promise.

We wish to assure you that, in India, you have a friend. Knowing however the spirit of your people and the optimism with which they look upon the world, I am confident that your troubles are only temporary and very soon Ukraine will take its place among the great nations of the world.

Two great nations, India and Ukraine, have much to contribute to the world,
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both individually and together Lord Buddha had said, "the only real victory is one in which all are equally victorious and there is defeat for no one". Our friendships, mutual understanding and cooperation have great potential in this regard. Our relations have developed satisfactorily since Your Excellency's visit last year and we are happy to note the growing exchanges in all fields -- political, economic, cultural and others -- that are drawing our people closer together. India is committed to further promoting close understanding with Ukraine and it gives us genuine pleasure that this sentiment is fully reciprocated in Ukraine. This is a very encouraging base to build upon and I invite everyone present here to work together to realise that promise and potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen. May I request you to join me in a toast:

To the health of His Excellency, President and Mrs. Kravchuk,

To the health of all the distinguished guests present here,

To Indo-Ukrainian friendship; and

To the people of Ukraine.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA PERU

Date : Jul 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

UKRAINE

Speech by the President of the Republic of India at the Luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Ukraine at Kiev

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 14, 1993 of the speech by the President of the Republic of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma at the Luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Ukraine His Excellency Mr. Leonid Danilovich Kuchma at Kiev on July 14, 1993:

Your Excellency Mr. Kuchma, Distinguished colleagues,

I am happy once again to have had the pleasure of your company this afternoon. We have had a very useful and pleasant exchange of views on a wide range of issues. I am impressed by your resolute efforts towards building a better future for the people of Ukraine and, at the same time, in striving for closer Indo Ukrainian relations for the well-being of the peoples of our two countries and indeed for the good of all. We know you as a good friend of India and greatly appreciate your views and opinions expressed this afternoon which reiterate your continued interest in building our bilateral relations.

We in India greatly value bilateral industrial cooperation for the development of the critical sectors of our economy. With Your Excellency's support we look forward to more active exchanges in this regard.

We also realise the very challenging nature of the tasks facing the Ukrainian society and the Ukrainian economy in particular.

Four decades after independence, we have succeeded in building the strength and the range of our economy and its technological base. We have initiated and undertaken important measures to enable India to participate more fully in the world economy.

We stand ready to share such of our experiences and capacities as may be useful to Ukraine. Please be assured that you can count on the goodwill and understanding of the Indian people to provide assistance to the best of our ability. We have been partners of long-standing and we are determined to build further on this time-tested relationship.

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May I now request you all to join me in proposing a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. Kuchma and his colleagues and to evergrowing Indo-Ukrainian friendship.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Jul 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

UKRAINE

Speech by the President of the Republic of India at the Banquet in Honour of the President of Ukraine at Kiev

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 14, 1993 of the speech by the President of the Republic of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at the banquet in honour of the President of Ukraine His Excellency Mr. Leonid M. Kravchuk at Kiev on July 14, 1993:

Your Excellency President Kravchuk, Mrs. Kravchuk, Distinguished Guests,

As I near the end of my stay in Kiev, this occasion allows me the opportunity to express briefly my impressions and sentiments formed over the last two days. From the time I set foot in Ukraine, I have been greeted with warmth and affection by you personally Your Excellency, by your colleagues and by the people of Ukraine. The expressions of friendship received from all quarters are indicative of a desire to expand and develop our relations. I assure you that this sentiment is more than reciprocated by India.

We have had a very pleasant stay in your beautiful Capital. The discussions with your Excellency and meetings with members of your Government have been valuable. I would also like to express my appreciation for the honour accorded to me by the University of Kiev. As I leave tomorrow for Odessa, I would like to assure Your Excellency that it would be with the pleasantest of memories.

Let me now propose a toast to the health of His Excellency President Kravchuk and Mrs. Kravchuk and to IndoUkrainian friendship.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Jul 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

UKRAINE

Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma on Ukraine T.V.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1993 on address by the President of The Republic of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma on Ukraine T.V. on July 15, 1993:

Dear friends, As I depart from your historical capital Kiev to Odessa, to see more of your country and its people, I take this opportunity to share with you my impressions and feelings. These last two days have afforded me an opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with Ukraine, and its leaders and to get a feel of the land and the people. I leave Kiev with a sense of fulfilment of having made a contribution to the friendly relations between our countries. We have been touched by the hospitality that has been extended to us and I thank the Government and the people of Ukraine for the warmth of their welcome. As the first Indian President to visit independent Ukraine, I convey my greetings and wish you well in your efforts at setting up a democratic, pluralistic republic.

Many of you have been to India. Many more, I know, wish to visit us. To those who have been to my country and contributed to building our infrastructure, our steel industry, our power generation industry, I wish to express my appreciation. You are our valued friends here who know India can interpret her to the people of Ukraine.

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India has followed with understanding and sympathy the efforts of the people of Ukraine to build a better future. To the best of our ability we are ready to make our contribution to Ukraine's development. Entrepreneurship and management have been our traditional strengths and we would be glad to share them with our friends. I see considerable potential in our relations and look forward to seeing a more active interaction in diverse sectors between our countries. While consolidating the existing fields of cooperation it is important to explore new avenues as well: frontiers of science and technology, information, electronics, to name a few. I am confident that our therefore incumbent on us to voice our concerns to the international community and participate in giving a proper direction to global politics. We bear the responsibility today of defining the essential contours of the future -- a future our children and our children's children will inherit.

I have long admired Ukraine and the many talents of its people.

Though India and Ukraine are distant, the oceans and seas link rather than separate our peoples. Our cultures are both rooted in land, villages and in the tilling of soil.

My visits and discussions with your leaders and other people have convinced me that a great future awaits your country. The present difficulties are temporary, connected with the challenging task of creating a new state. I can state from personal experience that in the task of nation-building the inner determination and resolution of a people are their greatest strength.

Your famous writer, Ivan Franko expressed it thus;

"Not from God will we garner that Kingdom,

Not from Saints in the sky will it
come,

Our own reason will guide us, and freedom through our resolute
work will be won".

(From To The Comrades From Prison)

I wish every success and happiness to my Ukrainian friends. India will rejoice in your future prosperity.

Thank you.

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Jul 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Call on Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1993:

The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. T. H. Miryakubov called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan, today, along with other members of his delegation.

Mr. Miryakubov, who is currently on a visit to India in

connection with the Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Commission meeting, had wide ranging discussions with the President on matters of bilateral and regional interest. He told the President that Uzbekistan considers India as one of its important economic partners. Both the leaders expressed the view that there is a great scope for intensifying economic co
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operation between India and Uzbekistan.

Mr. Miryakubov presented to the President a traditional Uzbekistani dress as mark of love and affection of the people of Uzbekistan for the people of India.

The meeting lasted for about half an hour.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 29, 1993

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1995

UZBEKISTAN

Agreement with Uzbekistan for Avoidance of Double Taxation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1993:

A new Agreement for avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital between India and Uzbekistan was signed here today.

The agreement provides for reduced rate of taxation in specified areas which will encourage mutual flow of investment and technology between the two countries. The Agreement contains provisions for solving the problems of the tax payer in the other country through mutual agreement procedure. It also provides for exchange of information between the tax authorities of the two countries for the prevention of fraud or evasion of taxes covered by the treaty. It is expected that the Agreement will go a long way in increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. T. M. Miryakubov, Deputy prime Minister on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan.

This agreement will have effect in India from April 1, 1993 while in Uzbekistan from January 1, 1993, on completion of procedural formalities.

BEKISTAN INDIA MALI

Date : Jul 29, 1993

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1995

UZBEKISTAN

Indo-Uzbek Agreement on Tourism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 29, 1993:

India and Uzbekistan signed here today an Agreement on Tourism which, among other things, provide for exploring the possibilities of joint collaboration for investment in tourism sector. To achieve this purpose, it was agreed to exchange expertise and publicise investment incentives available and the touristic characteristics of each of the two countries.

The Agreement was signed by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation on behalf of India and by H.E. Mr. T. M. Miryakubov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan on behalf of his country.

The Agreement, valid initially for five years and automatically renewable for a successive five years period is expected to help in furthering the ties between the two countries. It will also help in augmentation of tourist traffic from India to Uzbekistan and vice versa.

It was agreed that both the countries shall explore the possibilities of cooperation in building, establishment and management of hotels and other tourist establishments for which the possibilities of joint ventures shall be explored.

A Joint Committee comprising of the representatives of tourism industry from both the sides and the Government officials will review the progress of tourism development between the two countries from time to time.

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Date : Jul 29, 1993

August

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AFGHANISTAN

Exchange of messages of felicitations between Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and Afghan Prime Minister on the occasion of the Independence Day and the National Day of the two countries

Following is the text of messages of felicitations exchanged between our Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Afghan Prime Minister H.E. Eng. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on the occasion of the Independence Day and the National Day of the two countries on Aug 12, 1993:

Your Excellency,

I have the pleasure to express to Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulation on the occasion of the forty-sixth anniversary of the Independence Day of Great India.

I have the firm conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation, thus far existing between India and Afghanistan, will be further expanded in the interest of the people of the two countries.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency good health and more success.

Sincerely yours,

Eng. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar,
The Prime Minister of
Afghanistan
Kabul

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to extend my felicitations on the 74th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Afghanistan.

India has always stood for a sovereign, independent, non-aligned and united Afghanistan. We remain firm in this commitment and attach great importance to the maintenance of Afghanistan's stability, unity and territorial integrity. We remain prepared to do whatever we can to contribute towards this objective. I take

this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency our abiding interest in sustaining and nurturing our traditionally close and friendly relations with Afghanistan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.V. Narasimha Rao
Prime Minister of India
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GHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 12, 1993

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1995

BANGLADESH

Progress on South Asia Preferential Trading Arrangement

Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 12, 1993 on the progress on South Asia preferential trading arrangement:

The member countries of SAARC signed the framework agreement for the establishment of a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement at Dhaka in April 1993. The Agreement, which will enter into force thirty days after the SAARC Secretariat notified that all Contracting States have completed the formalities, provides for the establishment of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation among Contracting States through exchange of concessions. In accordance with the agreement, Contracting States have now to take the next step of negotiating tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis. This was stated by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

BANGLADESH INDIA MALI USA

Date : Aug 12, 1993

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

Meeting between Mr. Jean Michel Monod, Asia Director of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs

Following is the text of the press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 25, 1993, on the meeting held between Mr. Jean Michel Monod, Asia Director of ICRC and Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs:

Mr. Jean Michel Monod, Asia Director of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) had a meeting today with Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. During their meeting, Mr. Srinivasan informed Mr. Monod that India would continue to reject any attempts by Pakistan to internationalise bilateral issues using the guise of subjects such as human rights. He also mentioned that when dealing with humanitarian causes in general whether being handled by UN bodies or by organisations such as the ICRC, any action taken should be subject to the consent of the countries concerned.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Aug 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

UNESCO's International Literacy Prizes for 1993 to the Indian National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (INFUCA)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1993 regarding the awarding of UNESCO's International Literacy Prize for 1993 to the Indian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (INFUCA):

The Prestigious NOMA Prize, one of the three International Literacy Prizes awarded by UNESCO annually, has been awarded for 1993 to the Indian National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (INFUCA).

The Prize has been offered since 1980 by Mr. Shoichi Noma, a Japanese publisher, now deceased, who at that time was President of a Tokyo publishing house. The Prize which is awarded annually on International Literacy Day, September 8, was given to INFUCA for having focussed on literacy education activities on raising awareness among under-privileged groups, in particular, the Koragas of Southern India.

The Prize will be awarded during a celebration of the International Literacy Day in New Delhi expected to be presided over by our President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Talkatora Gardens on September 8, 1993.

Further, in one of the Honourable mentions attached to the NOMA Prize, Bhavnagar Jilla Saksharta Samiti has been mentioned for having planned, monitored and executed the total literacy campaigns in Bhavnagar District.

DIA USA JAPAN

Date : Aug 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

JORDAN

Award of First Order of Istiqlal to Prof. M.G.K. Menon by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan

Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1993 on the conferment of Award of First order of Istiqlal to Prof. M.G.K. Menon by his Majesty King Hussein of Jordan:

Professor M.G.K. Menon, FRS, Member of Parliament and President, International Council of Scientific Unions, Paris was on a visit to Jordan from 12th to 15th August 1993. He had extensive discussions with the Prime Minister Dr. Majali and other Ministers of the Cabinet, particularly the Minister of Planning. He paid an extended visit to the University of Jordan. During the course of his visit Prof. Menon had an audience with his Majesty King Hussein. At the end of their discussions his Majesty conferred on Prof. Menon the First Order of Istiqlal (Independence), in recognition of Prof. Menon's contribution to science and international affairs.

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RDAN USA INDIA FRANCE

Date : Aug 18, 1993

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1995

KUWAIT

Labour Dispute between the Indian Workers and M/s. Nibras Stevedoring and Cleaning Company of Kuwait

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1993 regarding the labour dispute involving the Indian workers and M/S Nibras Stevedoring and Cleaning Company of Kuwait:

The Ministry's attention has been drawn to the press report regarding a labour dispute involving Indian workers and M/S Nibras Stevedoring and Cleanin Company.

As soon as the dispute was brought to the notice of Indian Embassy in Kuwait, the matter was taken up with the Government of Kuwait. On Thursday, 19 August, the Ministry had also taken it up with Embassy of Kuwait in New Delhi.

The dispute was resolved as a result of positive and helpful intervention by the Government of Kuwait. We have been informed that the employer has dropped all charges against workers and six workers who had been arrested have been released. The workers who had completed their contract will be returning to India at the cost of their employers.

WAIT INDIA USA

Date : Aug 23, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Developments on Afghanistan-Tajikistan border

The following is the text of the statement issued by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Aug 02, 1993 on developments on Afghan-Tajik border:

We are distressed to learn about the developments on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region resulting in heavy loss of human lives and large scale destruction. We have friendly feelings for the peoples of both Afghanistan and Tajikistan with whom we have enjoyed close relations traditionally.

We call upon all parties to exercise maximum restraint, to avoid further bloodshed and to resolve differences peacefully through negotiations. We reaffirm the principle of non-violability of international borders and express our deep concern over the growing challenge posed by trans-border activities directed against the integrity of neighbouring States in the region.

GHANISTAN TAJIKISTAN INDIA

Date : Aug 02, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Emergency food relief to Nepal

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 03, 1993 on Emergency Food Relief to Nepal:

India will provide 10,000 tons of rice as emergency food relief to assist Nepal in coping with the devastation caused by the recent floods. Our Government has been discussing with His Majesty's Government of Nepal as to what their immediate needs were following the floods which, according to Nepal, are the worst in the last century.

Nepal had indicated that emergency food aid was the immediate need. The value of the rice being provided is a little over two million US dollars.

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PAL INDIA USA

Date : Aug 03, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

U.S.A.

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 05, 1993 on press reports about charges against two US companies alleging violation of US Export Control Regulations in their exports to DRDL, Hyderabad:

Government have seen press reports about charges brought against two American companies by the US Government alleging that the companies violated US Export Control Regulations in exporting certain items to the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in Hyderabad.

The transactions between DRDL and the US companies resulted from contracts concluded in 1987 after following standard Government of India tendering and contract appraisal procedures.

We understand that the implementation of these contracts was effected by the US companies keeping in view the prevailing US Export Control Regulations.

We also understand that the US companies intend to contest the charges and we have no reason to believe that the US companies did not comply with applicable US Export Control Regulations.

A INDIA

Date : Aug 05, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of ANC Delegation to India

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

issued in New Delhi on Aug 17, 1993 on the visit of the ANC Delegation to New Delhi:

A high-level delegation from the ANC is visiting India. They arrived here on the 14th of August and will be leaving day after tomorrow. The delegation is led by Mr. Thomas Nkobi, the Treasurer General of the ANC and a member of the National Executive Committee. The other members of the delegation are Mr. Yusuf Cachalia. He is among one of the heroes against apartheid. His brother Maulvi Cachalia was once a representative of the ANC in New Delhi, and is now living in Surat.

The delegation has been sent by the President of the ANC Mr. Nelson Mandela to brief the Government of India on development in South Africa especially on the current situation with regard to the talks on the Constitution. Mr. Nkobi met our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed yesterday (August 16, 1993). This morning he had a meeting with the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, and in the evening, he has a meeting with our Prime Minister. Mr. Nkobi assured the External Affairs Minister that inspite of efforts to disrupt the talks that are being made by some groups, the talks will continue towards a successful conclusion. He expressed the hope that an agreement on setting up of a Transitional Executive Council (an interim structure that will be formed before elections) will come about soon.

Mr. Nkobi also mentioned that the ANC felt that it should be possible to lift trade sanctions within the next two weeks. He stressed that they would then like to see a full-fledged Indian Embassy in South Africa. Dwelling on developments within South Africa, Mr. Nkobi underlined the excellent cooperation between the South Africans of Indian origin and the black population. The oppressed people of South Africa had forged a unity that would be maintained in the future. He said that the Indian business community should be

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ready to move and pursue trading opportunities as soon as sanctions were lifted. He welcomed the setting up of our Cultural Centre and also stated ANC's desire to expand its representations in New Delhi so that there could be more exchanges in political and other areas. He thanked India for all the assistance that this country had provided right from the beginning of the struggle against the apartheid. In the immediate future, he mentioned that a priority area for them would be to seek Indian assistance for increased educational facilities for their people.

The External Affairs Minister thanked Mr. Nkobi for his detailed briefing. He mentioned that wide publicity would be given to motivate the Indian businessmen to develop trade with South Africa as soon as sanctions have been lifted. He also promised that India would continue to make available whatever facilities

it could within its resources in the education as well as other fields.

DIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Aug 17, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs

Following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1993 on the meeting of the Consultative Committee on August 18, 1993:

The Meeting of the Consultative Committee for External Affairs was held this morning from 9 to 10 A.M. It was chaired by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, and he was assisted by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed. The members present were Mohammad Yunus, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, G.G. Swell, Chitta Basu, B. N. Pandey, M. M. Jacob, L. B. Rawal, Mr. S. Potdhoke, R. K. Varma, Inderjit, I. K. Gujral, G. Swaminathan and Aslam Sher Khan.

The subject of discussion at the meeting was "Relations with China". On the central border question, in response to a query about the Indian Government's commitment made to the people of India, External Affairs Minister stated that he could categorically mention that there was no intention of giving up the slightest bit of Indian territory. The attempt was to try to attain peace and tranquillity along the border and then to go in for a proper delineation of the border. This did not mean giving up any territory. He recalled Jawaharlal Nehru's statement that the border between the two countries was known historically and practically and the question was one of formalisation. He underlined that the whole process would be assisted by the over all improvement of relations. One of the members expressed concern over the problems we may face in the North East with the increasing Chinese involvement in Myanmar. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed mentioned in response that successful cooperation has been established with Myanmar for more effective patrolling of the border areas. Most members agreed that the agreement between India and China to increase border trade was a step in the right direction. External Affairs Minister mentioned that a proopsal for yet another opening for

border trade was being considered.

In response to a member's question as to why India was not associated with the forthcoming meeting on Asia's security organised by ASEAN countries, although China was, Foreign Secretary clarified that the Asian Security meet focussed on the Pacific - rim countries and not on South Asia. External Affairs Minister also mentioned our sectoral dialogue with ASEAN and clarified that cooperation with these countries was on the upswing. He also clarified that on security matters India was keen on bilateral and multilateral discussions with the countries around us without thinking in terms of

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closed regional security groupings. As an example, he referred to the joint defence exercises held on an ad hoc basis with some countries in the Gulf, so that our defence forces could gain more experience of different conditions.

In response to a member's suggestion that the Chinese success in mobilising foreign investment should be studied by us in greater depth, Shri Dinesh Singh agreed but added that we should remember that our political systems vary. He agreed that a parliamentary delegation could visit China to focus on this subject. There was a query on the possibility of cooperating with China in developing cryogenic engines following the backing out of Russia from their agreement with India. Shri Dinesh Singh explained that while China was not a member of the MTCR, it had publicly mentioned that it would adhere to its provisions and hence similar problems could be faced with China also.

One member present mentioned that the question of arms sales including missiles sales by China to Pakistan could be raised with the Chinese side in the course of the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed confirmed, in response to a question, that cultural exchanges with China were being expanded and a Festival of India was also being planned.

DIA USA CHINA MALI RUSSIA PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1993 on an article on Kuwait compensation claims in The Times of India on August 19, 1993:

There were some errors in the frontpage article about the Kuwait compensation claims which appeared in The Times of India today (August 19).

Firstly, there has been no delay on part of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as insinuated or implied in the article. On the contrary, no deadline has yet been reached for any category of claims and MEA is confident that it will be able to submit all the claims received by it well within the respective deadlines.

Secondly, 99% of the claims from 'A' to 'E' category have been sent to the United Nations Compensation Committee (UNCC) in Geneva already. This is a far better record than most other developing countries which have large claims. The implication that India has lagged behind other developing countries is totally false.

Thirdly, there is no certainty regarding the timing or the amounts which will be paid as compensation in any category. It is well-known that the UN Compensation Fund lacks the resources to make adequate payments at this time and it cannot be foreseen when adequate resources will be available. It is to be noted that the evaluation and mode of payment of claims is entirely the prerogative of the UN Compensation Committee.

India is not a member of the governing council of UNCC. However, India has made representations to the governing council from time to time and will continue to do so in the interests of Indian claimants. The amounts and timings of payments which may be made to Indian claimants as mentioned in the article, are purely speculative.

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DIA KUWAIT USA SWITZERLAND

Date : Aug 19, 1993

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1993 on reaction to statement of Pakistan's Acting Foreign Minister Mr. Abdul Sattar in the Pakistan Senate on August 26, 1993:

We have taken note of the statement made by the Acting Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Abdul Sattar, in the Pakistan Senate on August 26, 1993. Whatever right have been the compulsions of Mr. Abdul Sattar to indulge in such strident rhetoric on Indo-Pak relations, we would have hoped that these were issues best left to the elected representatives of people of Pakistan to reflect on. We find it both ridiculous and unacceptable that Mr. Abdul Sattar, who is recognised for his incorrigibly negative stance towards India has misused the high office that he is holding ad interim to make such a personal attack on our Prime Minister. It is ironic, to say the least, that Mr. Abdul Sattar who was the Pakistan Foreign Office's instrumentality in carrying out horrendous brutalities on the people of the former East Pakistan, is waxing so eloquently about human rights.

The only remaining issue pertaining to Kashmir is the vacation of the territory illegally occupied by Pakistan through force and aggression. The present situation in J & K is none other than the direct consequence of Pakistan's sustained and extensive support to terrorism and subversion. Pakistan has become a sanctuary and springboard for terrorists, subversives and armed mercenaries.

If Mr. Abdul Sattar's statement is an example of the public statements through which Pakistan wishes to convey its professed desire for normalisation of relations with India, it will be pointless to expect Pakistan to abandon its habitually negative approach and to cooperate in working towards tension-free and good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

KISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : Aug 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Queries on delay in sending troops to Somalia and U.S.Sanctions on China and Pakistan

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Aug 27, 1993 on queries on 'delay in sending troops to Somalia' and 'US sanctions on China and Pakistan'.

In response to a query on whether there has been a delay in sending Indian troops to Somalia, the Official Spokesman stated that there had been no delay. The troop movement and transport arrangement had to be sorted out with the U.N. We have been in close touch with them. These arrangements have now been put in place. The first advance party leaves on 28th August, 1993. After that, batches will regularly move out every week until the full brigade strength has been reached.

In response to another query on the sanctions imposed by the US against China and Pakistan, he said that we are aware of the sales of the missile parts and missile technology from China to Pakistan. We are also aware of Pakistan's missile development programme. As far as the sanctions are concerned, we have no further comment because it pertains to those three countries.
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LI SOMALIA USA CHINA PAKISTAN INDIA LATVIA

Date : Aug 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

PHILIPPINES

Philippines Agriculture Minister Calls on the President

Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 05, 1993 on the Philippines Agriculture Minister's call on the President:

The Agriculture Minister of Philippines, H.E. Mr. Reberto Sebastian called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan, today.

Mr. Sebastian conveyed to the President warm greetings and good wishes from the President of Philippines. He said that his country was keen in cooperating with India in various agricultural and allied fields like fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairy farming and Horticulture etc.

Dr. Sharma said that there was great scope for cooperation between the two countries in these fields. He said that Indian scientists have made significant achievements in these fields as is evident from the successful Green Revolution and Operation Flood Programmes. India will be happy to share its expertise in these fields with Philippines, he said.

The meeting lasted for about half an hour.

ILIPPINES INDIA USA

Date : Aug 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Syrian Consultancy Contract for Afreen -Dam Project for WAPCOS

Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 12, 1993 regarding the consultancy contract signed by WAPCOS, India with the Syrian Government for providing consultancy services for the Afreen-Dam Project:

Water and Power Consultancy Services Limited (WAPCOS) India has been awarded consultancy contract for the Afreen-Dam project. The contract valued at USD 3.9 lakhs was signed on 9th August by Mr. R. Rajappa, Managing Director, WAPCOS and the Director General, Ministry of Irrigation of the Syrian Government. The contract was won against stiff competition from European Companies and provides for consultancy and supervisory services from WAPCOS.

This is the second consultancy contract won by India. Earlier in January 1992 M/s M. N. Dastur and company was awarded a USD 7.2 million contract for provision of consultancy services to the Al-Zara Iron and Steel Complex.

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RIA INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Aug 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Shooting of Gurmukh Singh, Indian National in New York by Pakistani miscreants

Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 20, 1993 on the shooting of an Indian national Shri Gurmukh Singh in New York by Pakistani miscreants while taking part in a parade to celebrate India's Independence Day:

The condition of Gurmukh Singh, who was shot by a US citizen of Pakistani origin in New York city while taking part in a parade in New York to celebrate India's Independence Day on 15th August, continues to be critical. The shooting of Gurmukh Singh, who is also a senior official of the committee of one of the Gurudwaras in New York city, has generated enormous indignation in the Indian community in New York, especially in the community of Punjabi and Sikh origin. Gurmukh Singh is known as a person who promoted harmony and reconciliation among the different communities.

The community is reported to be exercised over this extension of Pakistani terrorism, which has been fomented on Indian soil by Pakistan, to target people of Indian origin abroad as well.

A group of MPs from the Punjab have expressed their indignation and their concern at this incident in a meeting yesterday.

The Government of India has also conveyed its concern at this incident and its possible fall-out to the United States Government.

It will be recalled that Gurmukh Singh was shot when, as part of the Indian Independence Day parade in New York, he stood up against a Pakistani crowd that tried to create a disturbance and remonstrated with them. While doing so, one of the groups, who were earlier raising anti-Indian slogans, pulled out a gun and shot Gurmukh Singh four times.

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A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN

Date : Aug 20, 1993

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Date : Sep 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

BRITAIN

India and Britain to Extend Cooperation in Agriculture Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1993 on Indo-British Cooperation in Agriculture Sector:

India and Britain have agreed to expand cooperation in the field of agriculture, horticulture and fisheries. Business possibilities and areas for joint ventures were discussed today in a meeting between the Minister of State for Agriculture Shri S. Krishna Kumar and the visiting British Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Mr. Michael Jack here this morning.

Welcoming the British Minister and a delegation of businessmen from Britain, the Agriculture Minister said that the new economic initiatives taken by the Government are being extended to agriculture and the development of infrastructure for agricultural export. The Minister said that stress was being laid on increasing investment in agriculture. Food processing was one of the important thrust areas to create more employment opportunities. He said that in the area of deepsea fishing there was a large untapped potential.

The Agriculture Secretary, Dr. M. S. Gill, expressed India's interest in boosting exports of horticulture products apart from the export of rice and other traditional commodities. He invited cooperation in the development of infrastructure such as greenhouses, cold chains and processing facilities and technologies for fruit and vegetables. He said that restrictions regarding internal and external trade had been lifted to allow free movement of agroproducts and to ensure the best prices to farmers.

The visiting British delegation will have further discussions with representatives from the Industry and the private sector.

DIA USA

Date : Sep 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Texts of Four Agreements Signed by India and China in Beijing on Sep 07, 1993

The following four agreements were signed between India and China in Beijing on September 7, 1993:

AGREEMENT ON THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY ALONG THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL IN THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER AREAS SIGNED IN BEIJING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1993

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China, (hereinafter referred to as the two sides), have entered into the present Agreement in accordance with the Five Principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and

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mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence and with a view to maintaining peace and tranquillity in areas along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas.

ARTICLE I

The two sides are of the view that the India-China boundary question shall be resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations. Neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means. Pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question between the two countries, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the line of actual control between the two sides. No activities of either side shall overstep the line of actual control. In case personnel of one side cross the line of actual control, upon being cautioned by the other side, they shall immediately pull back to their own side of the line of actual control. When necessary, the two sides shall jointly check and determine the segments of the line of actual control where they have different views as to its alignment.

ARTICLE II

Each side will keep its military forces in the areas along the line of actual control to a minimum level compatible with the friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries. The two sides agree to reduce their military forces along the line of actual control in conformity with the requirements of the principle of mutual and equal security to ceilings to be mutually agreed. The extent, depth, timing and nature of reduction of military forces along the line of actual control shall be determined through mutual consultations between the two countries. The reduction of military forces shall be carried out by stages in mutually agreed geographical locations sectorwise within the areas along the line of actual control

ARTICLE III

Both sides shall work but through consultations effective confidence building measures in the areas along the line of actual control. Neither side will undertake specified levels of military exercises in mutually identified zones. Each side shall give the other prior notification of military exercises of specified levels near the line of actual control permitted under this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

In case of contingencies or other problems arising in the areas along the line of actual control, the two sides shall deal with them through meetings and friendly consultations between border personnel of the two countries. The form of such meetings and

channels of communications between the border personnel shall be mutually agreed upon by the two sides.

ARTICLE V

The two sides agree to take adequate measures to ensure that air intrusions across the line of actual control do not take place and shall undertake mutual consultations should intrusions occur. Both sides shall also consult on possible restrictions on air exercises in areas to be mutually agreed near the line of actual control.

ARTICLE VI

The two sides are agreed that references to the line of actual control in this Agreement do not prejudice their respective positions on the boundary question.

ARTICLE VII

The two sides shall agree through consultations on the form, method, scale and content of effective verification measures and supervision required for the reduction of military forces and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the areas along the line of actual control under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII

Each side of the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question

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shall appoint diplomatic and military experts to formulate, through mutual consultations, implementation measures for the present Agreement. The experts shall advise the Joint Working Group on the resolution of differences between the two sides on the alignment of the line of actual control and address issues relating to redeployment with a view to reduction of military forces in the areas along the line of actual control. The experts shall also assist the Joint Working Group in supervision of the implementation of the Agreement, and settlement of differences that may arise in that process, based on the principle of good faith and mutual confidence.

ARTICLE IX

The present Agreement shall come into effect as of the date of signature and is subject to amendment and addition by agreement of the two sides.

Signed in duplicate at Beijing on the 7th day of September, 1993 in the Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all three texts having equal validity.

For the Government of the
Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL CO
OPERATION SIGNED IN BEIJING ON
SEPTEMBER 7, 1993

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the
People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the
Parties);

Recognising that the achievement of sustainable development and
enhancement of the quality of the environment are issues that
affect economic growth and the well being of the people;

Noting that scientific and technological exchanges and
cooperative activities are being conducted between India and
China in global environmental negotiations and in the field of
mountain development;

Wishing to increase this cooperation in sectors related to the
environment for mutual benefits;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Ministry of the Environment and Forests of the Government of
the Republic of India and the National Environmental Protection
Agency of the People's Republic of China shall be the nodal
agencies for the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II

The Parties shall maintain and enhance bilateral cooperation in
all fields of environmental activities on the basis of equality
and mutual benefits.

ARTICLE III

Cooperation under this Agreement shall be carried out inter alia,
in the following high priority areas;

1. Global environmental issues, including protection of bio-
diversity, global climate change and the protection of the ozone
layer;
2. Waste management;
3. Environmental Pollution control with emphasis on clean
technology, water quality protection, air quality protection,

packaging, recycling of solid wastes, hazardous wastes issues, and emergency response;

4. Environmental impact assessment procedures and experience;

5. Quality control and management of environmental protection products;
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6. Public awareness and education on environmental issues;

7. Wildlife conservation with specific focus on the prevention of trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

8. Environmental legislation and enforcement;

9. Any other areas that may be agreed between the Parties.

ARTICLE IV

Cooperation under this Agreement shall be carried out inter alia through the following means :

1. Exchange of scientists, scholars, specialists and environmental management personnel;

2. Exchange of the information in the areas listed in Article III;

3. Cooperative research on subjects of mutual interest, in which the Parties will exchange and provide each other with samples, reagents, materials, data, instruments and components for testing evaluation and other purposes in accordance with mutually agreed conditions;

4. Joint organisatin of symposia, seminars, lectures and training courses;

5. Other means of cooperation as are mutually agreed upon, including entering into protocols for effecting and implementing concrete programmes of cooperation in areas identified.

ARTICLE V

The Parties shall encourage and facilitate the development of contacts and cooperation between other levels of government or organisational entities, research institutions, private sector, academia, etc. and coordinate the implementation of these activities.

ARTICLE VI

1. Each Party shall determine within its own country the allocation of inteltual property rights arising from cooperative

activities under this Agreement;

2. The Parties shall decide jointly on the allocation of intellectual rights in third countries unless otherwise provided under particular project arrangements.

ARTICLE VII

1. Unless otherwise arranged between the Parties, international travel expenses related to such exchanges and cooperative activities will be borne by the sending Party. In country expenses will be borne by the receiving Party on a reciprocal basis;

2. In principle, the number of persons dispatched and the duration of stay (based on persons months) will be on an equal and reciprocal basis. In a case where the principle of reciprocity is difficult to implement, the two Parties will discuss the matter to find a satisfactory solution.

ARTICLE VIII

The terms and conditions of such exchanges and cooperative activities provided for in this Agreement will be subject to the laws and regulations of the Parties and will be established in writing between appropriate officials of the Parties.

ARTICLE IX

The Parties shall make biennial reports to the respective heads of their organisations summarising progress on cooperative projects as presented in the work programme, and identifying

possible opportunities for additional projects.

ARTICLE X

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature. It will remain in effect for an initial period of five years. It may be terminated by either Party with six months written notice to the other. It may be renewed by mutual consent for an additional period of time agreed to by both the Parties. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of specific activities or arrangements initiated under it, but not yet completed at the time of termination.

ARTICLE XI

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Parties In writing.

Done in duplicate at Beijing this 7th day of September 1993, in

the Hindi, Chinese and English languages, each version being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the
Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

PROTOCOL FOR EXTENSION OF BORDER
TRADE ACROSS SHIPKILA PASS SIGNED
IN BEIJING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1993

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the
People's Republic of China:

With a view to promoting the development of friendly relations
between the two countries and their people:

Pursuant to the Memorandum between the Government of the Republic
of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on
the Resumption of Border Trade signed at New Delhi on 13th
December, 1991; and Protocol on Entry and Exit Procedures for
Border Trade signed on 1st July, 1992;

Being desirous of extension of border trade to an additional
point on India-China border.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the
People's Republic of China shall establish border trade markets
at the following locations:

(i) Namgya in Kinnaur District of the State of Himachal Pradesh
of the Republic of India.

(ii) Jiuba in Zada County in Tibet Autonomous Region of the
People's Republic of China.

ARTICLE II

Shipkila shall be the pass for entry and exit of persons,
commodities and means of transport engaged in border trade,
exchange of commodities and means of transportation.

ARTICLE III

All the provisions of the Memorandum on the resumption of border
trade and the Protocol on Entry and Exit Procedures signed under
the Memorandum shall be applicable to the border trade across
Shipkila pass also.

ARTICLE IV

This Protocol may be amended or supplemented by agreement in writing between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

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ARTICLE V

This Protocol shall come into force as from the date of its signature and shall be valid during the validity of the Memorandum on Resumption of Border Trade between the Governments of the two countries signed at New Delhi on 13th December 1991.

Done at Beijing on September 7, 1993 in two originals each in Hindi, Chinese and English languages, the three texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the
People's Republic of China

AGREEMENT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION COOPERATION SIGNED IN BEIJING ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1993

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the parties),

Desirous of strengthening further the friendly relations and cooperation, between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China.

HAVE Agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The two parties will exchange at least once every six months tape recordings of songs, music or radio programmes as well some TV programmes.

ARTICLE II

To celebrate the National Day (or Republic Day) of the two countries (China: October 1st; India: January 26th), the two parties will send relevant audio and video tape recordings of special programmes to each other. The tape recording should reach

the radio and TV stations of the other party two months before the national (or Republic) day.

ARTICLE III

The exchange of programmes can be delivered through the Embassy of the other party. The exchange and use of the programmes will be free of charge. Explanatory notes or synopsis in English should be attached with the song, music, radio and TV programmes exchanged between the two parties.

ARTICLE IV

The radio and TV programmes exchanged under the terms of this Agreement can be used in accordance with the need of the receiving party, keeping reciprocity as an important criterion.

ARTICLE V

Both the parties may send radio and television delegations and radio and TV coverage teams to visit each other or take part in radio and TV festivals sponsored by the other party through mutual consultations.

ARTICLE VI

On equal and reciprocal basis, the guest party shall be responsible for the international travel expenses and the host party shall pay the expenses of meals, accommodation and local transportation for the visiting delegation or team during their visit.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain
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valid for a period of two years and shall be renewed for subsequent period of 2 years unless either of the Contracting Parties give to the others a written notice three months in advance of its intention to terminate the Agreement before expiry.

Signed at Beijing on this the 7th September 1993 in two originals each in Hindi, English and Chinese languages. All the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubts, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Republic of India

For the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television of the People's

Republic of China

INA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date : Sep 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

CIS STATES

Escalation of Hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1993 on escalation of hostilities between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan:

Government have followed with great concern the escalation of hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh with considerable ingress of Armenian forces into Azerbaijan. While expressing support for the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the CSCE to bring about peaceful settlement of the NagornoKarabakh issue, India recalls the Alma Ata Declaration of December 1991 signed by the Heads of State of the CIS Republics including both Armenia and Azerbaijan, which. inter alia, called for "the rejection of the use of force, the threat of force and economic and any other method of pressure, a peaceful settlement of disputes" and "respecting each others territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing borders." Government appeals to the parties concerned urgently to take the remedial steps required to respect international borders, to restore peace, and resolve mutual differences through early peaceful negotiations.

MENIA AZERBAIJAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

CIS STATES

India and Turkmenistan Signs an Agreement on Establishment of Air Services

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1993 on the establishment of air services between India and Turkmenistan:

Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad paid an official visit to Ashgabat on 13-14 September to sign agreement on establishment of air services between India and Turkmenistan. The Minister called on President Saparmurad Niyazov and had a 40-minute meeting with him, during which there were discussions on the further development of our bilateral relations. The Minister also met Deputy Prime Minister Sarjaev Batir Kurbanovich Foreign Minister Ataev, Minister for Culture and Tourism Nurmukhammadov and Minister of Civil Aviation Ilyas Berdiev. The Minister offered India's assistance in the development of the tourism industry in Turkmenistan. 6-8 slots would be offered every year for Turkmen students to study

at prestigious hotel management institutes in India. Experts from India would also visit Turkmenistan to help develop the tourism industry. The Minister's meetings with the President, signing of the air services agreement and his other engagements were prominently covered on Turkmen television.

RK MENISTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

ERITREA

Establishment of Diplomatic and Consular Relations between India and the Newly Independent State of Eritrea

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1993 on the establishment of Diplomatic and Consular relations between India and the newly independent state of Eritrea:

Protocols establishing diplomatic and consular relations with newly independent State of Eritrea was signed on September 17 in Asmara by Yamane Gabreab, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea and K. Srinivasan, Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs of India. It is proposed to nominate Indian Ambassador in

Addis Ababa to be India's first Ambassador to the new country.

Eritrea which has been engaged in a 30 year conflict to separate from Ethiopia opted for independence in a UN supervised referendum last April and declared itself an independent sovereign state on 24 May, 1993. Visit of K. Srinivasan was first high level contact between the two countries. He offered humanitarian assistance in the form of medicines of value \$ 32,0001- to the Transitional Government, which is composed of the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front and is the only political party. The transitional Government's aim is to hold multi-party elections within four years. One of the major problems facing this new country of about 3.5 million with scarce human and natural resources will be the repatriation of nearly 700,000 refugees in Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Djibouti and elsewhere who fled during 30 years of incessant guerilla warfare and periodical droughts. Eritrea's population is evenly balanced between Christians and Muslims and the Transitional Government has yet to decide whether to join the NAM, OIC and Arab League.

ITREA INDIA ETHIOPIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DJIBOUTI SUDAN YEMEN USA

Date : Sep 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONSICONFERENCES

G-15 Meeting of National Focal Points on Solar Energy Opens

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 27, 1993 on the opening of G-15 meeting of National Focal Points on Solar Energy:

The meeting of National Focal Point on the G-15 Project on Solar Energy Application was inaugurated in New Delhi at 9.00 hours on 27.09.93 by Shri J. N. Dixit, Foreign Secretary. It was chaired by Mr. L. M. Menezes, Secretary, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

The Foreign Secretary stressed the integrated triple relevance of this meeting

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on Solar Energy: the emperical, in as much as Solar Energy is a clean, abundant, inexhaustible source of energy which people can have access to, given the development and commercialisation of

technologies; political, in view of the strong commitment given and reiterated by the heads of Government at all three G-15 summits; and procedural, in the sense that preparations are in progress for the IV G-15 Summit in Delhi, which will take stock of the achievements in this field and chart the route ahead.

The Foreign Secretary exhorted the delegates to keep in mind the environmental value of solar energy and not merely see it as an alternative to traditional sources like hydrocarbons, with which some G-15 countries are blessed. With the right earnestness, solar energy could trigger the much needed quantum leap that would revolutionise the quality of life in G-15 countries.

Referring to the project on solar energy application which was proposed at the very first summit and recommended at the highest level for vigorous implementation at subsequent summits, it was also pointed out that all member countries must commit the required resources - financial, manpower and organisational - regardless of individual perceptions of the degree of gains that will accrue to individual nations. It is a G-15 commitment and consequent G-15 efforts must remain focussed, rationalised and consistent. Frittering away of scarce resources through duplication of efforts must be avoided.

In his address Mr. Menezes highlighted the efforts undertaken by India at the national and international levels in developing solar energy applications. The setting up of a national infrastructure for the manufacture, installation and servicing of a variety of renewable energy equipments and a chain of national laboratories have generated a wealth of experience, which India is prepared to share with fellow G-15 countries. Of particular value is the relatively new development in India of grid quality power from solar units as well as the new emphasis of commercialisation and market orientation. India is making vigorous efforts to promote manufacturer-consumer interaction, including after sales-service; attracting investment from non-resident Indians and progress in solar thermal and photovoltaic applications.

The Secretary mentioned the need for harmonizing both market driven mechanisms as well as state subsidies in this nascent and vital sphere of activities. Similarly at the international level the strengths of individual nations have to be combined into even stronger joint efforts.

Dr. J. Gururaja, Adviser Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources welcomed the participants. The meeting is being attended by delegates from Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Brazil Mexico and Indonesia.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA BRAZIL EGYPT MALAYSIA NIGER NIGERIA
ZIMBABWE INDONESIA MEXICO

Date : Sep 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRELAND

The President of Ireland Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 28, 1993 on the visit of the President of Ireland to India:

The President of Ireland, Mrs. Mary Robinson began her official state visit to India with her arrival late on September 26, 1993. The customary ceremonial reception on the 27th morning was followed by a call on the President and Smt. Vimla Sharma. The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao called on her later in the Day.
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The Prime Minister and President discussed traditional links between India & Ireland. They recalled the similarity between the struggles of Independence of both Ireland & India and the fact that Irish leaders such as Eamon D' Valera were greatly admired in India, while Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru were similarly admired in Ireland. Both felt that these shared historical experiences laid a good foundation for the all-round development of relations especially in the economic field. Mrs. Robinson was impressed by India's economic reforms. The discussion also touched upon the scope for cooperation in the sphere of agriculture.

Prime Minister also referred to the problem of Pak-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir.

Earlier, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Mr. Tom Kitt, who is accompanying the President, also called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia in South Block.

The President's visit underlines the extreme cordiality of Indo-Irish relations based on mutual empathy and strengthened by common historical experiences as well as similarity in positions of various international issues. The visit which is taking place in the context of liberalisation of the Indian economy and of Ireland's membership of the EEC provides an excellent opportunity to build on traditional ties and to add a modern dimension to bilateral relations particularly through the strengthening of

economic relations.

After Delhi, the Irish President will be visiting Agra, Calcutta, Bangalore, Bombay and Ahmedabad. The highlights of her programme in these places include a meeting with Mother Teresa and a visit to Nirmal Hriday Children's Home in Calcutta, a visit to Indo-Irish joint venture in Bangalore, an address at business seminar of the CH in Bombay, (where a business delegation from Ireland visiting India concurrently will also hold business meetings) and a visit to the Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. She leaves India late on Saturday, October 2, 1993.

ELAND INDIA USA

Date : Sep 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN STATES

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid Visits Brazil

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid to Brazil:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Salman Khurshid, who is on a tour to Latin America, met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Amorim and handed over the invitation from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to the Brazilian President for the G-15 Summit scheduled for 13 to 15 December 93 in Delhi. Welcoming the Minister, the Foreign Minister referred to the similarities between the two countries, India and Brazil, and the common problems and common solutions being sought by both of them. Shri Salman Khurshid underlined the investment climate in India -258>

and invited Brazilian capital to seek opportunities now available.

In his meeting with the Foreign Minister, there was an identity of views on all international issues. Brazil is under considerable pressure for carrying out structural changes in its economy, reduction of import tariffs, modifying its patent laws to conform to US standards, etc., which are problems being faced by India also.

The two sides signed a protocol on cooperation in Railways. Brazil, a vast territory, has a modest Railway Network which could benefit from the Indian experiences. Brazil being a tropical country has much in common with India and the experience of both countries will lead to better understanding of requirements for development.

Finance Minister, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, recalled with pleasure his visit to India some years ago and reiterated the importance of both countries to coordinate their policies in the international arena.

Later, in Brasilia, Shri Khursheed handed over to the Brazilian Foreign Minister a letter of invitation from the Indian Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, inviting President Franco of Brazil to attend the G-15 summit to be held in New Delhi later this year. He also had meetings with the Brazilian Ministers of trade and industry, tourism, agriculture, and finance and called on the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Brazilian Parliament. While a variety of bilateral and multilateral matters were discussed, the main focus of attention of Shri Khursheed's wide-ranging discussions was on the expansion of bilateral trade and economic and scientific and cultural exchanges. With both countries following policies of economic liberalisation, it was emphasised that there was considerable scope for increased cooperation in these areas.

Shri Khursheed signed an agreement on cooperation in Railways with the Brazilian Foreign Minister Mr. Celso Amorim.

Significantly, Shri Khursheed was accompanied by a business delegation which had one-to-one meetings with their counterparts in the course of the visit, especially in Sao Paulo. Shri Khursheed had a very useful meeting with the President of the Federation of Chambers of Industry of the Sao Paulo State (FIESP). He also inaugurated the office of an Indian pharmaceutical firm in Sao Paulo, Torrent Pharmaceuticals.

Import from India of pharmaceuticals figured prominently during the discussions as also a distinct mutual desire for cooperation in agriculture, hydrology, informatics, telecommunications and joint ventures in third countries. In order to add a new impetus to bilateral trade, which is heavily imbalanced in favour of Brazil, specific steps on which discussion focussed were setting up of Joint Commission and formal links between CII and FIESP, reactivation of Joint Business Council and exchange of trade and technical delegations and holding of an exhibition of Indian goods in Brazil.

The Brazilian side underlined the importance of regular high level consultations to which our Minister of State responded positively, since Brazil and India had similar views on a host of matters including crucial areas such as GATT and the environment.

Shri Khursheed also had the opportunity, in Brazil, Sao Paolo as well as Rio de Janeiro, to meet the resident Indian community. He also met leading Brazilian journalists and informed them about the current situation in the sub-continent, including the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Indo-Pak relations, the nonproliferation treaty, etc.
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AZIL INDIA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Sep 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN STATES

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid Visits Argentina

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 25, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid to Argentina:

Continuing his tour of Latin America Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid arrived Santiago from Argentina on 22nd September. Minister had a fruitful meeting with the External Relations Committee of the Parliament headed by Mr. Carlos Duppe Silva. In the evening Minister of State attended a reception in his honour given by the Indian association. Addressing the association Minister of State expressed appreciation of the enterprise shown by NRIs and promised full support of the Government of India. On 23.9.93 Minister of State and accompanying delegation had fruitful meeting with the Santiago and Chilean National Chamber of commerce. In depth discussions were held on possibilities of increasing trade, investment and joint ventures. Minister of State emphasized that his visit, the first by an Indian Minister to Latin America for several years, marked the beginning of a new phase specially in the commercial field where scope that existed for stepping up trade and investment needs to be exploited. Minister of State had meetings with the minister secretary general of the presidency Mr. Fdardo Boeninger and the minister of mining Alejandpo Hales. In the evening Minister of State addressed a distinguished gathering of diplomats, senior officials and students at the diplomatic academy on India's foreign policy, liberalisation and economic reforms, need for greater interaction between India and Chile based on mutual interest. In his address Minister of State

highlighted India's determination to achieve its due position in international affairs and principled attitude to NPT and missile technology control regime. He spoke of the pressing need to restructure the UN charter on the security council to give better representation to developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. He discussed the situation created in Jammu & Kashmir by continuing Pakistan's attempts to support terrorism and emphatically denying the validity of the so-called two-nation theory. He denied the possibility of detaching any portion of Jammu & Kashmir from India. Minister of State also spoke of India's growing relations with west Asia, ASEAN and central Asia. Minister of State discussed also of economic liberalisation and the great improvement in the economy achieved in the past two years.

With meetings on 21.9.93 with Ministers-in-Charge of Defence and Economy and call on the President of Argentine Senate, Dr. Eduardo Menem and address to Argentine Council of International Relations, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed concluded a three-day visit to Argentina. Other engagements during the previous two days included meetings with the Argentine Acting Foreign Minister, President of the Supreme Court and addressing of Argentine Chamber of Commerce and the Centre for Oriental Studies, University of Salvador, Buenos Aires. The Minister also signed an agreement for long term visa for Businessmen and a Memorandum of Understanding for Bilateral Consultations. He also inaugurated the India-Argentine Chamber of Commerce devoted to bilateral trade promotion.

At the Foreign Office meeting the Minister and his Argentine counterpart held detailed discussions on matters of bilateral and multilateral interest. With no outstanding issues between the two countries and both having opened up their economies to the outside world, it was felt that considerable scope existed

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for increased levels of trade and economic exchanges. Both sides also exchanged views on issues such as NPT, restructuring UN, G-15 and regional security matters. Raising the level of joint trade committee and reactivation of the joint business council existing between the two countries also came up for discussion.

At the Argentine Chamber of Commerce meeting, Mr. Khursheed spoke of the economic liberalisation being undertaken in India and invited the Argentine industrialists to invest in India. In particular, he underscored the importance of joint ventures as a long-term, sustainable and mutually beneficial form of partnership between the private sectors of the two countries.

At the School of Oriental Studies, Universidad del Salvador, Mr. Khursheed addressed a packed to capacity and wellinformed audience of the teachers and students on 'Unity in diversity: the Indian experiment' and later answered questions from the

audience.

In his meeting with Dr. Menem, Mr. Khursheed handed over Prime Minister's letter of invitation for the forthcoming G-15 Summit in New Delhi for the Argentine President. A strong trade delegation and cultural troupe are expected to accompany the Argentine President during his visit to New Delhi. Dr. Menem who was in New Delhi early this year for the IPU Conference suggested greater interaction between the Parliamentarians of the two countries and said for this purpose a special cell should be constituted in each other's Parliaments. Discussions between him and the Economy Deputy Minister, Mr. Carlos Eduardo Sanchez focussed around mutual investment in specific areas and on greater interaction between the private sectors of the two countries to identify mutually-beneficial opportunities for co-operation.

In separate meetings at the Argentine Council of International Relations and the Association of Friends of India, Mr. Khursheed addressed a select gathering of Argentine opinion-makers. In addition, he was also interviewed by leading Argentine newspapers.

The present visit, followed by the visit to New Delhi by President Menem would constitute important steps in the direction of intensifying bilateral relations between India and Argentina particularly in the commercial and economic fields.

GENTINA INDIA CHILE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA PAKISTAN EL SALVADOR

Date : Sep 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN STATES

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid Visits Peru

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid to Peru:

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed visited Lima on 18th September and met the Vice Minister for International Economy in the Ministry of External Relations Dr. Ana Maria Deustua Caravedo and handed over the invitation from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to President Alberto Fujimori for

the G-15 Summit scheduled for 13-15 December 1993 in New Delhi. During the meeting matters of mutual interest were discussed and covered items such as the liberalisation of economy, privatisation programmes, control of inflation etc. The discussion also covered bilateral matters and included trade, exchange of business delegations, participation in each other's Trade Fairs and cultural exchange programmes.
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RU INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Sep 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN STATES

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid Visits Venezuela

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid to Venezuela:

In the course of his visit to Venezuela, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, paid homage to Simon Bolivar by laying a floral wreath. He called on President Ramon J. Velasquez. The Venezuelan President was effusive in describing India's ancient history, culture and civilization. Shri Khurshid handed over a letter of invitation to the G-15 Summit to be held in Delhi, as well as personal message from Prime Minister of India to President Velasquez.

Shri Khurshid also held a meeting with the Acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Fernando Gerbasi and conveyed to him appreciation for support extended to India by Venezuela at international organisations. Mr. Gerbasi agreed to cooperate with India in the current United Nations Session. Later, he hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Indian Minister.

In his meeting with the President of Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce (FEDCAMERAS), Shri Khurshid called for strengthening trade & investment relations between Venezuela and India. He also referred to the dramatic changes made by India in liberalising its economy.

DIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Statement of Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahion 25-Fold Increase in Foreign Investment in Post-Policy Period

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1993 on a statement made by Smt. Krishna Sahi, Minister of State for Industry on 25-Fold increase in Foreign investment in post policy period:

The Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi has said that after the new industrial policy there has been 25-fold increase in the direct foreign investment. She said that the Government has accorded approval to 2965 proposals with a foreign investment component of Rs. 9,176 crore during the post policy period (August 1991 to July 1993).

Inaugurating a meeting on 'Review of Current Industrial Scene in the Country', organised by the FICCI, here today, Smt. Sahi said that the actual inflow of direct foreign investment almost had doubled in 1992 as compared to 1991; and by June this year it was almost 50 per cent more than last year.

The Minister said that response to the policy initiatives in the industrial, trade and fiscal sector had been overwhelming. She told the meeting that in the post-policy 25 months there had been 11,650 domestic investment intentions and approvals, an increase of almost 60 per cent compared to the pre-policy 25 months. Similarly, she said, during the two years after the policy, there had been a 250 per cent rise in the number of foreign collaborations approved.

Referring to the performance of key infrastructure industries, Smt. Sahi said that the performance of the six key infra-
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structure industries, had markedly improved, registering a growth of 5.8 per cent during April-July 1993-94 compared to 3.0 per cent during the first four months of 1992-93. She said that the Government had also opened key infrastructure sectors like power and oil exploration for private sector participation, with telecommunications likely to follow soon. She hoped that it would further boost investment in these critical areas. Sectors like

automobiles which faced demand recession had shown increased sales. During the first quarter of 1993-94 exports had also shown a high growth of 27.8 per cent. All these indicate that the country was moving ahead rapidly in the right direction.

The Minister was happy to note that with the improved industrial environment and better management of the economy, Indian industry had recorded a growth rate of 1.5 per cent during 1992-93, compared to no growth during 1991-92. This performance would have been much better at around 4 per cent, had the industrial sector now shown a decline of 4.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1992-93, due to post Ayodhya incidents and related problems.

She said that the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product at constant prices for 1992-93 was estimated at 4 per cent as compared to 1.2 per cent in 1991-92. The annual rate of inflation which had peaked at 17 per cent in August 1991 has come down steadily and is now around 6 per cent. The Government's fiscal deficit was estimated to be 5.6 per cent of GDP during 1992-93 compared to 8.4 per cent of GDP during 1991-92.

Expressing satisfaction on the working of capital market, Smt. Sahi said that the capital markets had now established. She informed the meeting that in 1991-92, 519 issues by non-government public limited companies had been floated involving a total investment of Rs. 5,753 crore. In 1992-93, in contrast, 1,006 such issues had been floated involving a total investment of Rs. 16,362 crore i.e. a growth of 94 per cent in the number of issues and of 184 per cent in the value of investment. Some measures of realisation of investment intentions could be obtained from the Financial Institutions. During 1992-93 the total credit sanctioned at Rs. 30,043 crore had shown an increase of 35 per cent and disbursement at Rs. 19,790 crore showed an increase of 30 per cent over the volumes of 1991-92, she told the meeting.

Referring to industrial restructuring, the Minister said that the process of industrial restructuring had already been initiated by strengthening SICA and making the National Renewal Fund operational. She said that the Government was committed to the rehabilitation, retraining, and providing funds for compensation of employees, thus developing a social safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences of industrial restructuring.

A INDIA

Date : Sep 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Address by Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit on ITEC Day -Sep 15, 1993

The following is the text of address by Foreign Secretary on ITEC Day - 15 September 1993:

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) is India's main instrument for promoting Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in the spirit of South South Cooperation.

Under the ITEC programme (Annual Budget - Rs. 15 crores), India extends technical assistance to other developing countries in the form of execution of projects (mostly of a pilot nature), extension
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of training facilities in Indian civilian and defence institutions, deputaton of Indian experts abroad, conducting feasibility studies/providing consultancy services and organising study visits. The ITEC programme is fully funded by the Government of India and is implemented on a bilateral basis. Technical expertise, assiduously developed by India in the course of the last 4 decades since independence, is not only more cost effective but is pereceived as being more relevant to the demands and challenges of other developing countries.

It is estimated that over 20 thousand foreign nominees have been trained in India since the inception of the ITEC programme. On an average, the expenditure on account of training under ITEC amounts to 30 per cent and that on account of projects roughly 40 per cent of the ITEC budget. At present, 50 Indian experts are deputed abroad on an annual basis to assist partner countries in their developmental activities. Apart from several ongoing projects, which include, inter alia, restoration of the historic Angkor Vat temples in Cambodia, the execution of a Hand Tool project in Manila, the setting up of a Remote Sensing Centre in Nigeria as well as several projects in countries as varied as Cambodia, Mauritius, Afghanistan etc., new projects to be executed include the setting up of a Vocational Training Centre in Mongolia, a Multi Purpose Small Industries Training Centre in Vietnam, the setting up of a Solar Photovoltaic plant in Oman etc. It is also proposed to set up several projects in the Central Asian Republics.

The ITEC programme, which was begun in 1964 with a modest budget of Rs. 4 lakhs, has grown steadily over the years and the present annual budget totals Rs. 15 crores. One of the noteworthy

developments of late is the increase in the number of countries covered under ITEC. More than 100 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe are now covered under ITEC. Following the break up of the erstwhile USSR, India extended the ITEC programme to the CIS countries which included the six Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. In 1992-93, a total of 93 trainees from the six Central Asian republics underwent training in civilian institutions in India, in fields as varied as Foreign Trade, Banking, Management, Diplomacy etc. In mid-93, for the first time, a delegation from South Africa (sponsored by the ANC) paid a study visit to India; it is hoped that the visit would serve to identify the specific areas of cooperation in the fields of rural development and solar energy, which could be implemented when a broad-based and representative government comes to power in South Africa.

Efforts are afoot to further streamline the ITEC programme with a view to imparting a greater thrust and dynamism to activities under it, inter alia, by making it more responsive to the requirements of partner countries and region(s), as also to bring about greater integration of ITEC with our over all economic commercial interest abroad. Among the measures orderly taken in this regard are greater prioritisation of the civilian training, requirements of country(y)ies and regions so that facilities under ITEC could be tailor made to suit their specific requirements and grading of Indian civilian institutions so that focus could be on those courses and institutions which are best suited both in terms of their contents and the requirements of partner countries.

Among the measures to be undertaken for further improving the efficacy of the programme are greater and more involvement of the private sector (in the context of the ongoing economic reforms in the country) and refocusses integration of ITEC and more directly focussing ITEC programmes for the promotion of India's overall economic and commercial interests in the countries concerned.

The ITEC programme is now nearly 3 decades old. Over this period, it has
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helped in fostering commonality of outlook and interdependence between India and partner countries of the South - in the economic and commercial fields, particularly in tackling the various problems of development and nation building, in the South. What is more, the programme has helped in building bridges of understanding and friendship between India and these countries. It is hoped that, in the years to come, this programme which would be continuously refined and adapted to the challenges of development cooperation between India and our friends in the developing world, would create and sustain a symbiosis of economic interests among the economies of the South.

A INDIA CAMBODIA PHILIPPINES NIGER NIGERIA AFGHANISTAN MAURITIUS MONGOLIA OMAN
VIETNAM AZERBAIJAN UZBEKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Sep 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Training of Foreign Diplomats in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 17, 1993 on training of foreign diplomats at the foreign service institute:

Twenty eight diplomats from 19 countries will be taking part in the Third Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) being organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). Starting today the Programme will include participants from our neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, representatives from countries which have traditionally sent their diplomats for training to the FSI such as Vietnam and Laos, diplomats from the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kirghystan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan which have found FSI training beneficial and South Africa (the ANC and the PAC). For the first time the Pacific island State of Kiribati and Syria will be sending a representative each. Several new republics in Europe, such as the Baltic States of Latvia and Lithuania and Armenia and Moldova will also join this Programme for the first time. The former socialist States of Poland and Bulgaria would also be sending participants.

2. The 10-week Programme which ends on 30th November will be conducted by the faculty of the FSI with the help of serving officers from the Ministry of External Affairs and eminent persons in different walks of life. Its main objective will be to familiarize the 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 also feature a section on the diplomacy of the future and include the study of diplomatic protocol, international law, international economic relations, computers and crisis management. Formulation and implementation of foreign policy, communication skills and representational responsibilities would also form part of this wide ranging course.

3. In their efforts to establish and strengthen their diplomatic services, several countries around the world, including many newly independent ones, have projected the need to enhance the professional skills of their staff to the FSI. The Institute is pleased to take these projections into account in arranging its current and future programmes that emphasize practice oriented professionalism. In response to this increased demand, the FSI is planning a similar Course in January 1994.
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A INDIA BHUTAN NEPAL SRI LANKA LAOS VIETNAM KAZAKHSTAN TURKMENISTAN
UZBEKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA KIRIBATI SYRIA LATVIA ARMENIA BULGARIA POLAND

Date : Sep 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iraq

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 08, 1993 on the visit of the Iraqi Permanent Under Secretary to India from September 4-9, 1993:

A three-member Iraqi delegation led by H.E. Mr. Abdul Jabbar Omer Al-Douri, Permanent Under Secretary in the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to India on September 4-9, 1993.

2. This visit marks the first high-level official contact between the two countries since the Gulf crisis of 1990-91, the effects of which persist to this day.

3. The Iraqi Under Secretary called on the Minister of External Affairs Shri Dinesh Singh and the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed, and his delegation held talks with Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (W) and their Indian counterparts in the Ministry of External Affairs and other ministries and organisations concerned with the IndoIraqi relations. The deliberations were conducted in a cooperative, frank and friendly spirit with due regard to the close relations which have traditionally prevailed between India and Iraq. The External Affairs Minister of India extended an invitation to his Iraqi counterpart to visit India, the dates to be determined through

diplomatic channels.

4. The Indian side took the opportunity to raise bilateral matters of importance to India such as the pending dues of the Indian project exporters, non-certification and cancellation of bills and completion certificates by the Central Bank of Iraq, confiscation of Indian property and equipment in Iraq after the Gulf War and release of an Indian national Shri Samuel Kutty imprisoned for straying inadvertently into Iraq from Kuwait. The Iraqi delegation took note of these aspects raised by the Indian side. They invited an OCCI delegation of concerned project exporters to visit Iraq and agreed to negotiate a new deferred payments arrangement to take effect when UN sanctions are lifted.

5. India reiterated its full support to maintenance of peace, stability and security in the Gulf region, with respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Gulf States, all of whom have historic traditional and friendly bonds with India. India hoped that the various points of impasse concerning the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions would soon be satisfactorily resolved, so that the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq can be lifted to alleviate the grave humanitarian problems facing by Iraqi people.

AQ INDIA KUWAIT USA

Date : Sep 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Sweden

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1993 on the state visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden to India from 10-18, October, 1993:

The King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf accompanied by his wife Queen Silvia will pay a State Visit to India from 10-18
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October, 1993. During the visit, the Royal Couple will have meetings with our President and Prime Minister.

Apart from New Delhi, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will

also be visiting Agra, Jaipur, Dhanua, Pune, Bangalore and Nagpur. The Royal Couple will be departing from India for Bhutan on 18 October 1993.

A high-level Industrial Delegation led by the Swedish Minister for Communication will be in India from 10-15 October. The Swedish Trade Council and CII are organising a series of seminars/symposiums from 12-14 October on "Meet Swedish Industry". Around 50 members from 29 leading Swedish companies would be participating in these seminars. The tenth meeting of the Indo-Swedish Joint Business Council is also scheduled to take place in Delhi on 11 October, 1993, coinciding with the visit.

EDEN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA BHUTAN

Date : Sep 09, 1993

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 Sep 13, 1993 on use of boats in the territorial waters between India and Sri Lanka:

The attention of this Ministry has been drawn to press reports regarding a regulation issued by the Government of Sri Lanka which prohibits the use of boats in territorial waters northwards of Mannar town and Trincomalee town. The reports had mentioned that India had taken an 'understanding attitude' to this declaration.

The facts are otherwise. The Government of India has neither welcomed the step nor agreed to it. Following the announcement of the regulation by the Government of Sri Lanka, the Ministry has taken up this matter with the Sri Lankan government through its High Commission here as well as through the Indian High Commission in Colombo, pointing out that this regulation has the effect of denial of right of innocent passage for Indian ships and boats and is not in accordance with the International Law of the Sea. More particularly, the effect of the regulation would be to deny the traditional rights enjoyed by the Indian fishermen in and around the waters of Kachchativu Island which is guaranteed under the Bilateral Maritime Agreements concluded between India

and Sri Lanka in 1974 and 1976. This would amount to unilateral modifications by Sri Lanka of these Bilateral Maritime Agreements. The regulation is sweeping in scope and is likely to give rise to incidents adversely affecting Indian fishermen operating in the Palk Bay area.

The government has expressed its concern at this regulation and urged the Sri Lankan government to reconsider it, as the Indian Government does not wish this to become a matter affecting the very cordial relations that exist between India and Sri Lanka.

I LANKA INDIA USA MALDIVES

Date : Sep 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Palestine Liberation Organisation

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1993 on the signing of the peace agreement between Israel and the P.L.O.:

While briefing newsmen, Official Spokesman stated that India welcomes mutual recognition by the State of Israel & the PLO, and the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Palestinian self-rule. These are notable steps towards ensuring peace & stability in West Asia, which has been troubled by strife and discord for so many generations. Government of India extend facilitations to Mr.

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Yaser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and his negotiators for their courage in taking this first but essential step. India also notes the pragmatism and foresight of the Israeli leadership, especially Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres in arriving at the present Agreement. India with her historic ties of friendship and socio-cultural links with the peoples of the region, will continue to extend its support to further efforts that will be undertaken towards peace in West Asia, and will lend its good offices whenever required towards confidence-building measures in the area. India expects that these historic steps forward would lead to further positive developments aimed at achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The agreements between Israel & Syria, Jordan

& Lebanon which are under discussion, when achieved, will introduce an era of regional amity, peace and prosperity, free from tension and conflict. India hopes for this prospect in the larger interests of world peace and stability.

In response to a query, the Spokesman clarified that it is true that the analysis of those dealing with foreign policy in our government over the last 18 months or so had in fact produced an assessment that this was the way the peace process was going. This analysis had led to our engaging more with the peace process and in our major decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. It is a country like India with its principled stand on foreign policy issues which makes it a credible interlocutor in something complex like the West Asia peace process, because it is this adherence to principles which allows us the opening of a necessary dialogue with Israel without in the least diluting our continued support for the just Palestinian cause.

DIA ISRAEL JORDAN SYRIA LEBANON USA

Date : Sep 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Report of UN Secretary General

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 21, 1993 on UN Secretary General's Report on Indo-Pak bilateral relations:

The Government of India have taken note of the paragraph on India and Pakistan in the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly. The Government appreciate his reference to the Simla Agreement and to the commitment therein of the two sides to resolve the issue peacefully through negotiations. The Government of India reaffirm their firm belief that such negotiations should be conducted bilaterally in the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement and without external interference, and call upon the Government of Pakistan to eschew the path of violence and terrorism and revert to the Simla process for resolving bilateral issues in the larger interest of the people of the two countries.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL

The United Nations Military Observer Group on India and Pakistan have been monitoring the cease-fire in Jammu & Kashmir since 1948. In the Simla Agreement of 1972, the two countries affirmed their commitment to respect the cease-fire line and resolve the issue peacefully through negotiations. I have repeatedly urged both sides, in the context of preventive diplomacy, to find a peaceful solution of this difficult and complex problem. I have also expressed my readiness, should the two countries request it, to exert every possible effort to facilitate the search for a lasting solution.

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DIA PAKISTAN

Date : Sep 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Russia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1993 on recent developments in Russia:

In the context of the friendly relations existing between our two countries, Government has been carefully monitoring the evolution of the political, economic and social situation in Russia over the past few months and have taken note of the significant developments that have taken place following the Decree issued by President Boris N. Yeltsin on 21 September 1993 on Stage by Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation. While these developments are essentially internal, they do tend to impinge on international relations and the positive orientation towards pluralist democracies in the world. Government of India, therefore, expresses the hope that all democratic forces in the Russian Federation would cooperate in resolving existing outstanding differences of opinion in a peaceful and stable environment.

2. Government of India is aware of President Boris N. Yeltsin's role in guiding the Russian Federation through the multifarious complexities of the transition to pluralist democracy and an economic system based on market relations. Government of India expresses the hope that President Yeltsin along with other democratic leaders of the Russian Federation would succeed in

revolving all outstanding problems at an early date with a view to sustaining the fulfilment of these objectives.

SSIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

South Africa

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 25, 1993 on the lifting of sanctions against - South Africa:

The Government of India welcomes Dr. Nelson Mandela's announcement at the UN General Assembly on September 24 that irreversible progress towards a non-racial, democratic South Africa has been made. Simultaneously, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, after consulting member-States, has determined that the conditions set out at the Harare Summit of 1991 have been fulfilled and trade and investment sanctions should now be lifted. In view of these encouraging developments, steps are being taken by the Government so that commercial and economic relations with South Africa are normalised.

All sides involved in the negotiation process have made their contribution, especially Dr. Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk, whose vision and perseverance have been crucial to the present outcome.

India recalls the long struggle of the people of South Africa to achieve human dignity and freedom. India has always stood firmly with them. India was the first to impose trade sanctions against South Africa, way back in 1946. Over the years, India has extended full support to the ANC and other liberation movements in South Africa.

As South Africa moves towards elections based on universal suffrage, India looks forward to a positive expansion in our mutual relations which have been interrupted for so long and which have great prospects for the future.

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UTH AFRICA INDIA USA ZIMBABWE MALI

Date : Sep 25, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1993 on the remarks attributed to the Indian Foreign Secretary regarding plebiscite in Kashmir:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Government have seen reports in newspapers published in the Gulf and in Pakistan claiming that Foreign Secretary, Mr. J. N. Dixit, has reportedly stated that India still stands by the United Nations Resolution on plebiscite in Kashmir. There have been comments on this alleged statement by the Official Spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office. The remarks attributed to the Indian Foreign Secretary are a total and unmitigated fabrication. Mr. Dixit has never made any such remark on any occasion. This seems to be another attempt by the Government of Pakistan to spread misinformation.

DIA PAKISTAN

Date : Sep 23, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

USA

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1993 on a reference on Kashmir made by US President

Mr. Clinton in his address to the UN General Assembly:

In response to a query on reference to Kashmir by the US President, Mr. Clinton, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, the official Spokesman stated that we have noted his reference to Kashmir, and the whole of his speech, and are studying its implications.

A INDIA

Date : Sep 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH/ADDRESS/LETTER

Prime Minister's letter to the PLO Chief on Agreement between PLO and Israel

Following is the text of Prime Minister's letter to PLO chief on agreement between PLO and Israel:

Your Excellency,

I am indeed grateful that you have found time at this most important juncture to apprise me in some detail about the agreement arrived at between the PLO and the Israeli Government, as also the understandings reached between the PLO and Israel. We have subsequently seen the text of the proposed agreement which has been carried in some newspapers.

This initial agreement between the PLO and Israel and the possibility of early mutual recognition between PLO and Israel are welcome news. We hope the negotiations regarding the details for interim self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, and other aspects, now taking place in Washington would be concluded successfully and that this initial agreement will lead to comprehensive agreements concerning the remaining occupied territories, I take this opportunity to congratulate you personally, and your negotiators, on the
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courage which has characterised this major step forward, and we look forward to the announcement on the signing of the agreement. We appreciate that the further steps to be taken will not be easy, but we hope the momentum for peace and the attainment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people will be sustained.

With highest consideration and kind regards.

Sd/-
(P. V. Narasimha Rao)

H.E. President Yasser Arafat,
President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Palestine
Liberation Organisation, TUNIS

RAEL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA TUNISIA

Date : Sep 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH/ADDRESS/LETTER

Prime Minister's Speech at the Banquet Hosted by the Korean President

Prime Minister's speech at the Banquet hosted by the Korean President:

Speaking at the banquet hosted at Soeul in his honour, the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao said:

I feel privileged to be the first Prime Minister of India to visit your beautiful country, the land of morning calm. I would like to express my appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation during this visit.

Your Excellency quoted the Indian Nobel Prize winning poet, Rabindranath Tagore, who had written a poem about Korea in the dark days of Korean history in 1929, expressing his conviction that Korea's lamp, which had provided light to the East in its golden days, was waiting to be lit once again for the illumination of the East. How prophetic his words sound today, when the Republic of Korea, - the "New Korea" that Your Excellency spoke of - after its stunning economic achievements, and democratic transformation, takes its rightful and respected position in the international community of nations.

Though situated at different ends of Asia, India and Korea have known each other well from very early times. As your Excellency noted, Buddhism came to Korea from India via China, and forms an enduring common link between us. In more recent times, both India and Korea underwent the experience of occupation and

colonization. Independence of both our countries was marked by partition and consequential conflicts. India was privileged to play a useful humanitarian role at the end of the Korean War in arranging the repatriation of the thousands of the suffering prisoners of war. Our common experience in history, and in the contemporary world, and increasing trade and economic exchange in recent years, have sustained our friendly and cordial bilateral relations since the independence of our two countries. The end of the cold war, and the revolutionary changes that this has brought about in the international situation, provides us with fresh opportunities to embark on a new era in the relationship between our two countries.

We have noted with admiration how the Republic of Korea, together with the building up of a strong and vibrant economy, has been pursuing a dynamic, outward-looking foreign policy directed at strengthening its independent policies in favour of peace and security in North East Asia. It has also worked towards the peaceful reunification of Korea through bilateral discussions and negotiations with the DPRK, and striven to contribute to stability, economic development and peaceful cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. India is convinced that the early realisation of the Korean peoples' dreams for the peaceful emergence of a reunified, strong and prosperous Korea would be an important factor, not only for peace in the North East Asia sub region, but for Asia and the world as a whole.

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Common elements in our positions and approaches to the changing international situation, particularly in Asia, provide many opportunities for India and Republic of Korea to work together to mutual benefit. During our very cordial and fruitful official talks this morning, President Kim and I agreed that the building up of a strong and diversified bilateral relationship between India and the Republic of Korea would benefit our two countries and also play an important and positive role in the Asia Pacific region. We have accordingly agreed on a series of measures to promote wide-ranging cooperation and exchanges in the political, economic and cultural fields, not only between the two Governments but also at the people to people level and among our respective business and academic sectors and scientific and specialised institutions. The Agreement on Tourism Cooperation and the Cultural Exchanges Programme signed during my visit should help to boost such exchanges. We look forward to working with our Korean friends to further deepen and widen this interaction between our two countries.

The sweeping reforms and liberalisation of the Indian economy over the last two years have set in firmly on the path of accelerated growth, rapid expansion of imports and exports and closer integration with the global economy, particularly with the dynamic economies of East and South East Asia. We are committed to broadening and intensifying these reforms in the coming years.

The Indian economy is the second largest in the developing world. India provides a market for manufactured products which is potentially among the largest in the world. Private foreign investment in India has gone up sharply in the last two years to take advantage of the new opportunities which are opening up. We would welcome more Korean business to come to India and take part in this process.

In conclusion, I would like to thank President Kim once again for the warm hospitality extended during my visit. I have already, during our discussions, extended a cordial invitation to President Kim to visit India at his earliest convenience, so that the process of dialogue and understanding that we have initiated at the higher-level becomes a regular feature of a dynamic India-ROK relationship.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would now like you to join me in a toast.

- to the good health of His Excellency President Kim Young Sam and Madame Kim;

- to the well-being and prosperity of the people of the Republic of Korea;

- and to ever-increasing friendship, goodwill and cooperation between the peoples of India and the Republic of Korea.

REA INDIA CHINA USA RUSSIA

Date : Sep 29, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Indo-Russian CEP Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1993 on Indo-Russian CEP signed:

India and Russia have signed a comprehensive Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 1993-95. It envisages cooperation between the two countries in science and education, culture and art, mass media, youth affairs and sports. Exchange of cultural troupes, visits of individual performers in dance, drama and music,

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increased cooperation in publication and journals and interaction between academic, scientific and research institutions of both countries are also proposed.

The agreement is the largest programme of this nature signed between New Delhi and Moscow. It is also the most comprehensive cultural agreement signed between the Russian Federation and any other country. The CEP has been drawn up in pursuance of the agreement on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation concluded between the two countries during the visit of President Yeltsin to India. The CEP was signed in Moscow last week by Mr. S. V. Lavrov, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Russian Federation and on behalf of India by Shri S. K. Mahapatra, Secretary, Department of Culture.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Sep 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

India-Syria Co-operation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1993 on the India-Syria cooperating in the field of agriculture and allied sectors:

Ambassador of India to Syria Mr. R. M. Abhyankar and the Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Government of Syria Mr. Ahmed Morai signed on 29th September 1993 at Damascus, the work plan agreement for 1993-94 for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors between the two countries. The work plan calls for exchange of GERMPLASMS in respect of field and forage crops, minor spices.

Under this work plan, India will extend necessary assistance for the agricultural development of Syria. There will be exchange of scientists/experts for study visits and training. The programme also calls for exchange of germplasms for field and forage crops, minor spices etc.

To boost the agricultural cooperation between the two countries, visit of Indian Agriculture Minister to Syria is expected to take

place shortly.

RIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar Visits Thailand

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1993 on the visit of Minister for Agriculture Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, to Thailand:

Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, India's Minister for Agriculture, currently visiting Thailand, delivered a keynote speech on "Cultural Affinities between India and Thailand" at a Seminar on "Indian Influence on Thai Culture" organised by the India Studies Centre of Thammasat University in Bangkok on September 10, 1993.
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In his speech, Dr. Jakhar recalled the various cultural interactions that had existed between India and Thailand over the centuries. Buddhism was, no doubt, a very strong link that had been further strengthened in recent times. A large number of Thai monks and pilgrims visited India each year. The peoples of India and Thailand also shared the folklore and tradition of Ramayana, which in Thailand was called "Ramkien". Dr. Jakhar also expressed his support to the proposal to carry out a study of Thai influence on Indian culture.

Dr. Jakhar appreciated the role of the India Studies Centre in promoting friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries and praised the activities it had undertaken in the short period of its existence since its inauguration by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in April this year.

Following Dr. Jakhar's address, Prof. Srisurang Poolthupya, Director of the Centre, presented a paper on "Significant Similarities and Differences between Valmiki's Ramayana and the Thai Ramkien".

In the afternoon session, a panel discussion on "Indian Religious Influence on Thai Culture" was held. The panelists were noted scholars Acharn Karuna Kusalsaya and Assistant Professor Dr.

Chirapat Prapanvidya. The discussion was moderated by Associate Professor Dr. Chatsumarn Kabilasingh. HSH Prince Supadradis Disakul made a special presentation on "The Influence of Indian Art on Thai Art".

AILAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

UGANDA

India-Uganda Cooperation in Trade and Industry

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 16, 1993 on India-Uganda cooperation in trade and industry:

India and Uganda have agreed to step up bilateral trade and economic cooperation, particularly industrial cooperation covering a number of sectors. This is indicated in the agreed minutes of the First Meeting of the Indo-Ugandan Joint Trade Committee meeting which was held recently in Kampala on 6-8 September, 1993. Briefing newsmen here today. Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce, who led the Indian delegation at the meeting, said that the meeting which was held in pursuance of the Indo-Ugandan Trade Agreement of 1981, also considered the formation of a Joint Business Council, facilitating trade through Suppliers' Credit and Credit Guarantee facilities and explored possibilities of support for industrial development efforts in Uganda, besides the scope for enhanced training opportunities. Follow-up action on the visit of the Ugandan President to India in October 1992 was also reviewed and both sides underlined the important role that the private sector could play in enhancing the development of trade between India and Uganda.

Both sides agreed on new areas of cooperation including development of the horticultural industry, food processing and packaging, development of fresh water fish and fish products and developments of leather and leather products industry.

The feasibility of setting up smallscale hydro-electric power stations in

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Uganda, development of the edible oil industry in Uganda, exploitation of phosphate deposits and cooperation in agricultural research were also discussed. The meeting noted the visit of Indian officers to assess the viability of small power stations in Uganda and the possibility of concrete measures being taken on completion of the feasibility report. It was further agreed that technological knowhow for the development of edible oil industry in Uganda would be considered favourably provided viable projects including projects for small scale oil mills can be formulated.

Recognising the importance of suppliers' credit for the promotion of trade, it was agreed that governments on both sides would play a facilitating role in the support of trading arrangements mutually agreed between exporters and importers in the 2 countries. The difficulties experienced by Ugandan importers and also, importers in other countries in the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), to access the line of credit of EXIM Bank to the PTA due to non-availability of government guarantees were discussed and it was agreed to refer the matter to respective authorities in the two governments.

Both sides have agreed to expedite the process of setting up of a Joint Business Council for which steps have been initiated by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Uganda National Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Uganda is one of India's major trading partners in Africa, along with Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Benin etc. While the bilateral trade between India and Uganda has increased substantially from Rs. 33.66 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 61.46 crores in 1992-93, the volume is still small and way below the potential. Out of the total trade of Rs. 61.46 crores in 1992-93, India's exports to Uganda were Rs. 59.95 crores and imports from Uganda Rs. 1.51 crores.

The Indian delegation led by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed also included Shri A. K. Goswami, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Shri R. W. Khanna, representative of the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), Shri B. R. Gurumurthy of the State Trading Corporation (STC) and Shri K. H. Patel, Indian High Commissioner to Uganda. Mr. S. E. Adriko, Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, who is holding the portfolio of Minister of Trade and Industry, led the Uganda delegation.

ANDIA INDIA USA GHANA KENYA NIGER NIGERIA TANZANIA ZAMBIA

Date : Sep 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Appointment of an American Lobbyist by the Embassy of India, Washington

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 02, 1993 on the appointment of an American Lobbyist by the Embassy of India, Washington:

Our attention has been drawn to an absurd report published in one of the Indian newspapers with regard to the appointment of an alleged Lobbyist by this Embassy. The Government of India has been contemplating the appointment of some firm which could help in public relations and other operational matters. No final decision has yet been taken. None of the firms being considered or any of their partners or alleged promoters has even had the remotest connection with the Ambassador nor did the Ambassador know any one of them previously.

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A INDIA

Date : Sep 02, 1993

October

Volume No

1995

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NETHERLANDS SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA SWEDEN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

ALGERIA

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia meets the Algerian President Ali Kafi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1993 on a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Algerian President Ali Kafi:

Special envoy of the Prime Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia called on the Algerian President Ali Kafi, on October 11 and extended an invitation to the President to attend the forthcoming G-15 Summit in New Delhi in December 93. Shri Bhatia said that Algeria's vast experience would be of immense help at the Summit which would deal not only with problems like South-South Cooperation and North-South dialogue but also include issues like the new world order, restructuring of the UN system, environment, peace and

development, and terrorism. President Ali Kafi thanked the Minister for the invitation and said that he would do his best to attend the Summit personally. In any case, Algeria would be represented at a high level at the Summit being held in a friendly country which was dear to Algeria.

Shri Bhatia also conveyed the appreciation of the Government of India to Algeria for the message of sympathy during the recent earthquake in Maharashtra and for the relief material sent by Algeria for the earthquake victims.

GERIA INDIA

Date : Oct 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

CIS STATES

Trade Agreement between India and Estonia Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1993 on trade agreement between India and Estonia:

India and the Republic of Estonia have signed an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation providing for commercial and non-commercial transactions in freely convertible currencies and grant of most favoured nation treatment to each other. The Agreement was signed here today by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Trivimi Valliste, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Estonia. The Agreement, which is valid for 5 years, provides for promotion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries on a long-term and stable basis.

According to the Agreement, both sides shall encourage investments and technological cooperation, inter alia, through establishment of joint ventures; opening of branch offices of foreign trade organisations, firms, companies etc. in each other's territory in accordance with their national laws and regulations; and exchange of visits of delegations business information and participation in fairs and exhibitions. The Agreement also envisages

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cooperation in the fields of science and technology, ecology,

transport, tourism, communication, education of personnel and in other spheres of mutual interest.

Estonia, situated on the eastern shores of the Baltic sea, became part of the Soviet sphere of influence in 1940 and was recognised as an independent republic in September 1991. The population is 1.5 million and it introduced its own currency 'Kroon' in June 1992. Per capita GNP is \$ 5,390 and it is a net exporter of foodstuffs.

Mr. Valliste, who is on an official visit to India from October 14 to 17, 1993, is accompanied by Mr. Toomas Tiivel, Division Chief in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. P. Pallum, Deputy Director in the Foreign Economic Policy Department, Government of the Republic of Estonia.

TONIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Oct 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

CIS STATES

Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission on Culture Meets

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 02, 1993 on the meeting of the Indo-Kazakh joint commission:

The Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission on Cultural Cooperation met here today for monitoring the implementation of the Cultural Exchange Programme for 1992-94 between the two countries. The possibility of covering other areas of collaboration in the cultural field was also explored at the inaugural session. While the Kazakh delegation was led by Mr. A. T. Sigaev, first Deputy Minister for Culture of Kazakhstan, the Indian side was led by Dr. S. K. Mahapatra, Secretary, Culture.

The delegation will hold extensive discussions with officials in Information & Broadcasting, Sports and Tourism during its stay in India.

DIA KAZAKHSTAN USA

Date : Oct 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

EGYPT

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1993 on a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak:

Minister of State for External Affairs and Prime Minister's Special Envoy Shri R. L. Bhatia met H.E. President Hosni Mubarak this morning and handed over to him President of India's letter of congratulations on his re-election for the third consecutive term as President of Arab Republic of Egypt. Shri Bhatia was the first foreign dignitary to meet President Mubarak after his formal swearing-in yesterday.

He also handed over to the President letters of invitation from the Prime Minister-

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ter of India for the G-15 and Education for all Summit to be held in New Delhi in mid-December. President Mubarak accepted the invitation and indicated his clear desire to attend both the Summits in New Delhi. Shri Bhatia also reiterated to President Mubarak, Prime Minister's invitation for a bilateral visit to India which the President accepted.

The meeting was marked by warmth and openness and President Mubarak emphasised the need for greater bilateral interaction between India and Egypt and for greater coordination on international issues.

Shri Bhatia also met Foreign Minister Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary General, Arab League, Dr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, and Minister of Education Dr. Hussein Kamel Bahaa Eddin.

Foreign Minister, Mr. Amre Moussa, emphasized the need of greater political inter-action and consultation between Egypt and India, as both the countries are very important in the Third World. During his meeting with Secretary General Arab League, Shri Bhatia discussed with him recent developments in the Middle East region.

YPT INDIA USA

Date : Oct 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Indo-German Cultural Pact Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1993 on the signing of a Cultural Pact by India and Germany:

India and Germany today signed a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 1993-96 envisaging co-operation in arts, education, TV Radio, public administration and sports. It was signed here by Smt. Komal Anand, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. Wiltrud Holik, Deputy Director General for Cultural Affairs, Bonn.

Under the CEP, there would be increased cooperation on conservation of cultural heritage, archaeology and archives. Provision has been made for exchange of academicians, award of scholarships, contacts between universities and collaboration in school education and adult education.

The Indian side will offer two scholarships to German students of Hindi for study in India. Participation in each other's film festival and exchange of radio and TV programmes are some of the other provisions. Possibilities of training of civil servants from India in various disciplines of administration will be explored by Germany.

In sports, India will send coaches to Germany for training and the German side will send a hockey coach to India on a short-term assignment. The German side will also provide opportunities to qualified Indian sportsmen to participate in coaching courses at the Faculty of Sports Science at the University of Leipzig.

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RMANY INDIA USA

Date : Oct 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

HAZRATBAL SHRINE

Details of the Militants who Occupied the Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1993 on the details of the militants who occupied the Hazratbal Mosque at Srinagar:

According to the latest information available to the authorities regarding the armed militants who have occupied the Hazratbal shrine, apart from Idris, a senior JKLF leader, and Salahuddin, the self-styled leader of the Hizbul Mujahiddin, among the militants are a number of Pakistanis, including a Major in the Pakistan Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). There are also a number of Afghan mercenaries. The total number of the militants is estimated to be about sixty.

DIA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 28, 1993

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

The 9th Session of the Indo-Hungary Joint Commission held in Budapest

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1993 on the 9th session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission held in Budapest from October 5-8, 1993:

The 9th Session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in Budapest from October 5-8, 1993. The Commission met after a gap of 5 years and offered a very useful opportunity to both the countries to exchange information on the major changes taking place in the economies in Hungary and India and to consider how commercial and economic cooperation could be encouraged in the changed environment. Both sides agreed that the volume of trade at US \$ 47 million for 1992 - was below the potential which

existed and that efforts should be made to diversify the structure of bilateral trade. The Commission discussed possibilities of increasing the number of joint ventures and production cooperation as well as technology transfer in a number of areas including aluminium, industry, electronics industry, telecommunications, power sector, transportation, hydro-carbons, agriculture, animal husbandry, hydrology and food processing industry. It was agreed that concrete projects would be identified to avail of the Hungarian credit offer of 200 million US Dollars before December 31, 1994. In the context of liberalisation taking place in both the economies, both sides recognised the need for facilitating the match-making of technologies available in the small and medium enterprises sector where India has already acquired considerable expertise.

The Joint Commission was preceded by the Meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Business Council which brought together entrepreneurs of the two countries. The discussions between delegations

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are expected to yield good results; one small joint venture has already been realised.

These meetings have added to the growing momentum in Indo-Hungarian relations.

NGARY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia Visits Indonesia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia to Indonesia:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, visited Indonesia on October 6-7, 1993, in his capacity as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. During the visit, he had meetings with President Soeharto and the Acting Foreign Minister and Defence Minister Mr. Sudradjat.

Shri Bhatia handed over to the Indonesian President letters of invitation from our Prime Minister to the G-15 Summit (December 13-15, 1993, New Delhi) and the 'Education For All' (December 16, 1993, New Delhi). President Soeharto immediately confirmed that he will be attending both the Summits. President Soeharto stressed the importance of South-South Cooperation and emphasized its enormous potential which needs to be further explored so that South carried greater weight in the North-South Dialogue. He mentioned that as Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), he has been working actively to promote both South-South Cooperation and the North-South Dialogue.

Apart from the two invitations, Shri Bhatia handed over another invitation from our Prime Minister wherein, in his capacity as the Chairman of the G-15, the Prime Minister has informed President Soeharto of the efforts made by India in the progress of the North-South Dialogue.

President Soeharto also expressed his sympathy for India on the recent earthquake and said that Indonesia would be contributing towards relief efforts. The discussions with the Acting Foreign Minister focussed on the growth and substance of the bilateral relations between the two countries.

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DONESIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/CONFERENCES

The Right of Reply Exercised by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed at the NAM Ministerial Meeting during 48th Session of UNGA

The following is the text of the right of reply exercised by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed on Oct 04, 1993 at the NAM Ministerial meeting during 48th Session of UNGA:

Mr. Chairman,

The distinguished Foreign Minister of Pakistan has unfortunately once again chosen a dissident note and raised the issue related to the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir in the Non-aligned Forum. We have noted the growing desperation in the consistent pattern

of behaviour on the part of Pakistan to agitate this issue in various international fora whether it is the UN, the Human Rights Commission, the OIC or the Non-aligned Movement. This process is compounded by systematic, well-planned and orchestrated encouragement to secessionism and lethal terrorism against India. The motivation is not to resolve issues related to Jammu and Kashmir or to ensure peace and stability for the peoples of India and Pakistan. They are something else to which I will come later in my remarks. It distresses me to take the floor to exercise the right of reply but I am compelled by Pakistan's conduct.

In this fast changing world characterised by new pressures on developing countries, if the movement is to retain its political and functional relevance it should concentrate on matters of collective interest to the membership of our movement and not on bilateral issues conjured by individual ambition or inherited from aberrations of history. Since Pakistan seems determined not to resolve problems relating to Jammu and Kashmir bilaterally in a realistic and practical manner, it is time that my delegation gave its frank assessment of Pakistan's motivations.

Pakistan has a single point programme nay obsession - the political and territorial disintegration of India to revalidate its spurious theory that religion alone is the basis for national geo-political identity - a myth exploded two decades ago. Since the international community will not accept this antediluvian concept of nationhood, Pakistan seeks to further this objective under the guise of its artificial, hard to believe, commitment to principles of human rights, self-determination, predicament of minorities and such arguments.

This sophistry is not acceptable. It will not work. While the Government and people of India reject these futile perorations and shall firmly resist the attempts by Pakistan to challenge India's political and territorial integrity, it is imperative that our movement does not get deviated from its ideological integrity and its noble objectives by the machinations of one delegation.

Our only advice to Pakistan is to strengthen the movement by concentrating on its current orientation and to show a willingness to reason together with us an matters which are of vital interest to both our countries which can be solved, howsoever intractable they may be. Reason not ruse, harmony, not hypocrisy should be our beacon.

Regardless of how many times Pakistan repeats their sorry tale we do not intend to tax the time of the delegates again. We believe truth shall prevail even without repetition.

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KISTAN INDIA USA CHINA

Date : Oct 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/CONFERENCES

Speech by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs at the Inaugural Function of the 3rd Annual South Asian Friendship Youth Camp at Hyderabad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 02, 1993 on a Speech by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the inaugural function of the 3rd Annual South Asian Friendship Youth Camp, 1993 at Hyderabad:

Governor, Distinguished Guests Friends from South Asia and Members of the Servants of the People Society,

I consider it a great honour to inaugurate the third Annual South Asian Friendship Youth Camp here today. Unity in diversity is an article of faith for us in India and today as I see you all find happily that the spirit of this principle is gradually spreading to many countries in this region. What is particularly important, is that young minds are experiencing this spirit of oneness and unity and I am sure that this will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the future generations and we can look forward to greater cooperation amongst the countries in the region. The spirit, energy and idealism of youth not only makes us feel younger in body and mind, but strengthens our desire to build a better future for the coming generations.

In South Asia we have a regional organisation called the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or SAARC, whose basic aim is to accelerate the process of economic and social development in the member States through joint action in agreed areas of cooperation. The fact that SAARC was one of the last regional organisations to be set up was primarily because of the vitiated political environment passed on to the region as a colonial legacy. But it is important to note that despite innumerable obstacles, the leaders of the region realised the necessity and importance of a regional organisation, which became the first serious attempt to build on commonalties and leave aside divisive and contentious issues in order to overcome the colonial legacy of hatred and suspicion and work towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding and to create an order based on mutual respect, equity and shared benefits.

Despite the present unfavourable political and security environment, the SAARC record, even though modest, is a cause for satisfaction. The institutional mechanisms built up over the years and the functions for which these have been designed show that slowly, but steadily, SAARC has come a long way in which considerable groundwork has been done since the Association was officially launched in December, 1985. No one can deny the impact it has had in breaking down the psychological barriers that divided the nations of the region. SAARC has witnessed a growing exchange of officials and professionals working in varied areas of mutual interest such as agriculture, communication, education and culture, environment, health, meteorology, drug trafficking and drug abuse, rural development, science and technology, tourism, transport and women in development. Some of the examples of SAARC cooperation has been the signing of the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and the Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The relevance of cooperation in these two areas cannot be over-stated.

During the 5th SAARC Summit at Male the Heads of State or Government had declared 1993 as the SAARC Year of Disabled Persons and adopted the regional plan of action for the disabled persons. SAARC has also paid singular attention to the need for providing shelter for the people in the region and urged member States to continue to work towards the

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global objective of shelter for all by the year 200. The SAARC leaders have continuously reaffirmed their commitment to accord the highest priority to child survival, protection and development and in particular the need to take effective measures to protect children against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation and to promote cooperation amongst member States in devising such measures. I am also happy to inform you that during the 7th SAARC Summit in Dhaka the Heads of State or Government stressed the fact that the youth of South Asia constituted a vital resource for national development and that mobilisation of their latent power was imperative and welcomed the offer of the Government of Maldives to host a Ministerial Conference on Youth in South Asia in 1994 to address the problems of the Youth and focus on the broad theme of youth and development. It was also agreed to designate 1994 as the SAARC Year of the Youth.

However, as cooperation in various fields increased among the countries in the region, there was a growing realisation that economic cooperation would not only lend substance to the Association but ensure that the benefits reached the people in the region and in order to do so, it was important to extend economic cooperation to the core area of manufactures, trade and services. At the 7th SAARC Summit in Dhaka, India's Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, speaking on this matter had stated "Our Association must therefore evolve meaningful Policy approaches to deal with the world-wide trends in regional

cooperation, economic groupings and trading blocs as witnessed in Western Europe, North and South America, ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region. For economies like ours, particularly at a time when we have liberalised and adopted outward-oriented policies, these trends have important implicationsOur collective economic strength and weight as a mega-market of over 1 billion consumers and the pooling together of our abundant and manifold talents, skills and resources will alone enable us to be a serious player in the global economy. Hence, the new beginning we must make in the coming years is to focus our energies - political and social -on economic development. Contemporary history tells us that economic development in all its aspects is among the best cures for socio-political ills. We must make a renewed effort to break down the trade barriers between our countries and jettison the irrational past which created and sustained these barriers In this, our inter-dependent world, let us begin by recognising, reinforcing and capitalising our own regional inter-dependence"

The desire of the leaders of the region for greater economic cooperation found its expression in the regional study on trade, manufactures and services completed in 1991 which clearly showed the scope of cooperation possible within the region. Thereafter, Sri Lanka proposed a SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), which was signed in April this year by the Foreign Ministers. This will probably constitute one of the most important arrangements which would enable South Asia to achieve a self-reliant economy. In fact, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, stated that, "trade and economic cooperation forms the bedrock for any organisation for regional cooperation. SAARC has taken its first and important step towards achieving this goal through SAPTA".

When we look at the trading pattern prevalent amongst countries in this region, we realise the importance of SAPTA. Of the total imports by SAARC countries in 1990 of approximately \$ 38 billion, the share of trade of SAARC countries among themselves was only \$ 2 billion. In other words \$ 36 billion was being traded by countries in this region with countries outside the region. The attempt with the signing of the framework agreement of SAPTA, is to reverse this process and try and ensure that the countries in the region benefit from each other. While India produces almost 15 % of the world's iron-ore and is a major exporter, Pakistan

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imports iron-ore from places as far away as Australia, Canada, Brazil and Liberia. The advantage to Pakistan of the low cost of freight for Indian iron-ore would make it very attractive for end-users. Sri Lanka exports over a 100,000 tonnes of natural rubber every year while India which is a net importer of natural rubber buys much of its rubber from Malaysia though prices of Sri Lanka's rubber are lower than that of Malaysia. Similarly,

Pakistan imports close to a 100,000 tonnes of tea from countries as far away as Kenya, China and Indonesia although Indian tea would be superior and more economical to buy. Except India, all SAARC countries import Aluminium for which India now has an exportable surplus and can supply all the countries in the region. There is also considerable scope for intra-SAARC trade in metal products, plastics and laminates, machinery, pharmaceuticals, telecommunication, agro-chemicals etc. The items mentioned above are only illustrative, but clearly shows the possibilities and need for increased intra-SAARC trade. However, in addition to trade, cooperation for industrial development is equally important and the Government of India and the private sector in India welcome the increasing opportunities. Already there is one joint venture in operation in Bangladesh and 6 more have been approved by the Government of India and are under implementation; with Sri Lanka 13 joint ventures are in operation and 13 more have been approved and are under implementation; with Nepal 9 joint ventures are in operation and 8 have been approved and are under implementation.

In the light of the above, it is imperative that the countries of the region if they are to achieve a self-reliant economy in South Asia, must find ways and means to overcome all obstacles because the trading arrangements with distinct and more developed countries are no longer to their advantage. A more liberal trade within the SAARC region must be a part of a broader strategy for increased South South trade. SAPTA, at the political level, by creating vested interests between business communities across the borders would provide a degree of balance to the political relationship between countries.

The private sectors in SAARC countries welcomed this Agreement.

Mian Habibullah, President of the Federation of Pakistan CCI called the signing of SAPTA a historic occasion which should open avenues of trade development and economic relationship between the SAARC countries on principles of mutual benefit and that the free flow of trade and development of economic cooperation would help us in industrialisation and growth of ancillary services. President of the Karachi CCI, Mr. Tahir Khaliq, said among other things, Pakistan's import from India was confined to about 570 items only, but many items not included in this list were also coming from India into Pakistan through third countries like Dubai and Singapore at a higher cost; "why to provide benefits to the commission agents in Dubai and Singapore," he asked and believed direct import from India of these items was a judicious way of meeting the requirement.

Initial steps towards the implementation of SAPTA have already been taken by Governments and the attempt is to try and ensure that SAPTA is acted upon at the earliest as there is an expectation in the region that it will prove to be the harbinger of an era of genuine peace and prosperity in the region.

Before I end, I would once again like to thank the Governor and the Organisers of this Youth Camp for having given me this opportunity to inaugurate this Function today and to speak to our young friends from the South Asian countries. I wish this 3rd Annual South Asian Friendship Youth Camp all success.
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DIA USA MALDIVES BANGLADESH RUSSIA SRI LANKA PAKISTAN AUSTRALIA CANADA BRAZIL
LIBERIA MALAYSIA CHINA INDONESIA KENYA NEPAL REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Oct 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/CONFERENCES

Statement by H. E. Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Mnisterat 48th Session of UNGA

The follwoing is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1993 on a statement made by External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh at 48th session of UN General Assembly:

Mr. President,

Your unanimous election as President augurs well for the 48th Session of the General Assembly. I extend my heartiest congratulations to you and best wishes for your success,

2. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary-General has given a new vision and a new impetus to the United Nations at a crucial time in its history. We wish him well in his efforts.

3. My Government is deeply touched by the sympathy and compassion expressed by the leaders of several delegations on the devastating earthquake in India on September 30, 1993.

4. The UN will soon be fifty years old. It has had many achievements to its credit: decolonization; efforts at alleviation of poverty; peace-keeping; disarmament; devising of an accepted code of international law; respect for human rights and concern with environment. I would like to reiterate India's faith in and consistent support for the U.N. and its efforts to establish peace and well-being of people. We take note that the United Nations is trying to evolve, so as to better serve the principles and purposes of the Charter. We support the

SecretaryGeneral's effort to make what he has called "transition from the old to the new United Nations", particularly useful and fruitful for the less developed and less fortunate States.

5. The euphoria generated by the end of the Cold War has in the last two years given way to concerns about the difficulties in achieving a new global equilibrium and stability. Essentially, we can see these difficulties arising from the contradictory pulls and pressures exerted by the forces of positive integration and harmony on the one hand and fragmentation and discord on the other.

6. The end of the divisions of the Cold War and the efforts to halt and reverse the arms race have generated some of the integrative forces. Some forces of integration have also been at work in the global economy which has been characterized by the globalization and interdependence of factors of production of countries and of issues of trade, money, finance, technology, environment, population and development. The desire of developing countries to participate more actively in the growth of the world economy and the building up of free market, liberalized economies for themselves adds another positive dimension. Issues of common concern and global survival, namely, economic development and regeneration, environmental sustainability, demographic management, technological dynamism and health for all have provided a sense of common destiny. The communication revolution has resulted in greater cultural intermingling and openness around the world.

7. These forces of integration are unfortunately opposed by those of fragmentation. Represented by sectarian and sub-national aggression, racism, religious fundamentalism, bigotry and terrorism, drug trafficking and arms smuggling they pose a threat to peace, global security, democracy, human rights and economic and social development. Besides, we are witnessing strifes, conflicts and cruel unceasing and irrational civil wars in many parts of the world. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Afghanistan cause us anxiety and concern. The proliferation of such local conflicts and the ever-increasing flow of refugees across national frontiers reaffirm the truism that peace, like freedom,
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is indivisible and that disruption of peace anywhere is a danger to peace everywhere.

8. These divisive forces have not only caused, political instability, but also economic collapse in several instances. Conversely, economic sluggishness and lack of development in several cases have led to political upheavals. Inward looking, exclusivist and narrowly self-centered global economic policy-making has been in evidence at a time when the global economy is over-shadowed by recession and lack of dynamism. Macro-economic coordination is at its weakest. Protectionist tendencies are

strong. The potential of developing countries to act as vigorous engines of growth for revitalizing the world economy stands largely ignored. In developing countries, absolute and deepening poverty, hunger and malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and the lack of shelter and sanitation for a large portion of the population have caused political and social tensions. The structural imbalances and flaws of the post-World, War II international economic order persist and prevent the maximization of the benefits of inter-dependence and globalization.

9. Mr. President,

Against this backdrop, the task of the new U.N. should be to construct a new global equilibrium by fostering positive integrative forces and discouraging, if not counter-acting, forces of fragmentation and discord. For this, the new U.N. will have to reiterate the fundamental and immutable principles on which it was built, namely, respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and sovereign equality of nation States. I am glad that the Secretary-General stated in the report to the 48th Session: "National sovereignty is the art of rendering unequal power equal. Without state sovereignty, the very instrument of international cooperation might be destroyed and international organization might itself become impossible". The UN will have to set an example for the conduct of relations amongst nation States on the basis of respect for rule of law, democracy and pluralism. Any international framework, whether in the area of peace or development that it is associated with, must be transparent and must deal with issues of global concern in a non-selective and nondiscriminatory basis.

10. In the final analysis, the institutions, concepts and agencies that represent the new world order will be judged by their ability to harness and channelize the beneficial and creative forces of integration for the benefit of peace and development for all and by the ability of the UN to ensure that the interests of its weaker member States are fully reflected therein. In these still-perilous times, they would have to promote development cooperation and effectively arrest the plunge into insecurity, strife and chaos particularly when these threaten the very foundation of member States, where ultimately the UN is rooted.

11. There were references in this Assembly describing all these conflicts, big or small, local or with international dimensions, in generic terms of ethnic, religious and civil wars. The plurality and complexity of our post-Cold War world does not permit such generic labelling nor are these conflicts amenable to generic and instant remedies. A number of strifes or aberrations are part of historical legacies inherited by Member States. Each is posited in different socio-economic and cultural matrix of causation, each is caught up in a different cycle of circumstance and violence. Imposition of peace through unilateral external

intervention would only perpetuate situations embodying the Orwellian logic of "peace is war" that we see in many parts of the world today.

12. Wisdom lies in overcoming conflict situations with a positive vision animated by peace and amity and in creating the necessary confidence and will to peace among countries and peoples. It is in this spirit that India is ready to initiate a dialogue with Pakistan to build mutual confidence and to promote a climate of stability in our region. I can only hope that Pakistan will respond to it instead of
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going around the world, which will create problems that will be difficult to solve.

13. We welcome the recently concluded Peace Accord between Israel and the PLO and earnestly hope that this will be a true harbinger of further positive developments aimed at establishing lasting peace and prosperity in West Asia. We also welcome the announcement by Dr. Nelson Mandela that irreversible progress towards a nonracial, democratic South Africa has been made. In response to his suggestion, India, which had imposed trade sanctions against South Africa as early as 1946, has initiated action to lift these sanctions and to normalize relations with South Africa.

14. We trust that the recognition by Security Council of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait will contribute to the stabilization of the situation in the Gulf region. We hope that the faithful implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions will lead to the alleviation of the present difficulties of the people of the region.

15. In Somalia, a whole population went through a protracted civil war and famine, with hardly any governmental machinery to tackle the situation. This made it imperative for the United Nations to act. As an unprecedented humanitarian mission, the multilateral action in Somalia enjoyed the support of the entire world including the factional Somali leaders themselves. India, on its part, has contributed one of the largest contingents to this mission. Now that the situation has improved and starvation has been averted, the U.N. operation faces new problems. It is necessary for the U.N. to reassure all sections of the people of Somalia about its role in the country, intensify the process of political reconciliation and adhere strictly to the original objectives of the mission.

16. The phenomenal increase in peacekeeping operations in the post-Cold War period and its inclusion as an element of the new agenda for peace is at once a matter of comfort and concern. It is a matter of comfort because the United Nations, at long last, has started playing the charter role in the area of peace and

security. In the altered international political environment, we would like the U.N. to realize its full potential. At the same time, the UN's involvement on an unprecedented scale with peace-keeping operations causes us concern because operationally the UN is not fully prepared and equipped to discharge this role effectively. And, legally and conceptually, the limits, procedures and rules of the UN's involvement are not clearly defined.

17. For peace-keeping operations to be successful, it is necessary to follow certain guidelines and criteria. All avenues of pacific settlement of disputes as laid down in Chapter VI of the Charter should be fully explored and exhausted before resorting to peace-keeping operations under Chapter VII. The decision on such operations should be taken in a democratic, and broad-based manner and after thorough consideration of all aspects. To command universal endorsement and maintain its non-partisan character, the U.N. peacekeeping operations must be based on the consent of all the States parties to a dispute. They should be undertaken with a specific mandate and a clear time-frame. Greater efficiency should be achieved in both planning and execution of peacekeeping operations. The Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation in his address to the General Assembly a few days ago, has put forward a few proposals in this respect which merit consideration by the General Assembly. The concept of invoking humanitarian relief as a basis for peacekeeping operations may have to be approached with a great deal of caution and circumspection. Any new UN operation for providing humanitarian relief must be completely non-partisan, in fact, and in perception of the parties involved. This consideration must also guide any discussion or decision on preventive deployment. The U.N. must not allow itself to be burdened indefinitely with obsolete and ineffective peace-keeping operations. Every possible measure should be taken to ensure the safety of peace-keeping personnel.

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18. Another aspect of the agenda for peace which we would like to underline is the particular importance we attach to Article 50 which enjoins the Security Council to find solutions to the special economic problems faced by third States on account of the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council. We call for an automatic mechanism that will put remedial action in place simultaneously with the imposition of sanctions.

19. An integral element of any agenda for peace in our time is the achievement of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Having endorsed the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United Nations should move on to consider similar steps in other areas of disarmament. We welcome the unilateral decision of the U.S. to extend its moratorium on nuclear testing until the end of 1994. The focus of nuclear weapon powers should now be on an early conclusion of a universal, verifiable and comprehensive Nuclear

Test Ban Treaty, leading to the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

20. India's commitment to non-proliferation is complete and unequivocal. India has an unblemished track record. India's proposal made in 1988 for an Action Plan for nuclear disarmament within a specific time-frame is of continuing relevance in our bid to rid the world of the global scourge of nuclear weapons. We believe that a new, just and uniformly applicable regime for non-proliferation, which does not discriminate between the nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon States should be considered at an early date. Such a treaty should place equal obligations on all States. For a non-proliferation regime to be truly meaningful, it must also address the questions of a convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons, a verifiable freeze on the production of fissionable material, a total ban on nuclear weapon tests, and negotiations on general and complete disarmament. The global spread and reach of nuclear weapons reduce to a travesty the objective of achieving genuine peace and security within a narrow regionale framework.

21. One area of concern for developing countries is the question of ad-hoc and unilateral export controls and other restrictions being placed on the transfer of dual use and high technology with the ostensible purpose of curbing proliferation. Non-proliferation concerns must not be made a pretext to deny developing countries access to technologies critical for their development. There is, therefore, need to evolve multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent arrangements to regulate the transfer of such technologies so that peaceful uses and dissemination of some key technologies is not denied to the developing world.

22. There is perhaps merit in convening a Special Session on Disarmament to examine the whole gamut of disarmament related issues that arise in the new context of today.

23. The question of a peace dividend arising from disarmament in the form of financial and technical resources for the enhancement of international development cooperation in the context of the UN could be one of the issues this Special Session could address.

24. It is evident that there can be no global security unless development is ensured and we, therefore, attach as much importance to the Agenda for Development as to the Agenda for Peace. Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration outlining the plan and programme for global cooperation in ensuring sustainable development, the outcome of the final act of UNCTAD VIII Conference on the partnership for development between the North and the South, and the forthcoming Conference on Population and Development, as well as the World Summit on Social Development provide the international community enough opportunity to promote economic and social development and environmental sustainability,

particularly in developing countries. The work on An Agenda for Development should build on
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all these development-related action programmes and provide a new impetus to development cooperation, both under the UN auspices as well as in bilateral and other multilateral context. Enhancement of the role, resources and capacities of the organs and agencies dealing with development in the U.N. system should be stressed. UN should also be enabled to have a more interactive relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions in a spirit of finding considered and innovative solutions to global economic problems and pooling all available resources for this purpose.

25 Mr. President,

The need for a comprehensive and constructive dialogue between the North and the South and the strengthening of a global partnership for development is the need of our times if we are to avoid the replacement of the East-West divide by a North-South one. India has always participated in the on-going NorthSouth dialogue through G-77, the Nonaligned Movement and in keeping with the requirements of a more focussed dialogue. India has become part of the group of 15 developing countries for South-South consultation and cooperation - G-15. We are hosting the Fourth Summit of this group in New Delhi in December. We have had a promising start through an informal dialogue with the G-7, representing the developing countries and we hope to build on these beginning in a spirit of "global partnership for global benefit" as was stated by my Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, in his message to the G-7 Chairman.

26. Some key issues where there is an ongoing dialogue but which nonetheless need further consideration and implementation include:

(a) participation of developing countries in global macro-economic coordination and decision making; (b) reciprocation by the North of the efforts of the South at restructuring and economic liberalization through pursuit of expansionist policies conducive to long term growth and opening them up to global competition in goods, services and manpower through reduction and elimination of protectionist barriers; (c) increased capital flows both official and private, bilateral and multilateral, to developing countries to offset the crippling effects of the debt burden, and to accelerate growth and development; and (d) a balanced, successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round which should ensure substantial enhancement of market access for developing country exports and of their access to the tool of competitiveness.

27. The profoundly humanistic traditions of the Indian Civilization with its emphasis on tolerance, harmony nonviolence

and inviolability of the individual have found their modern expression in the setting up of a democratic, secular and egalitarian polity and society in free India. Being the largest practising democracy and effecting a synthesis between a multiplicity of ethnic, religious, linguistic groups and peoples has been no easy task as some in the West are themselves realizing even in the context of their relatively lesser diversities. The Constitution of free India consolidated this humanistic tradition and is indeed a veritable bill of human rights. A strong and independent judiciary and a totally free Press have also been watch-dogs of democracy and human rights. India's commitment to the effective protection of human rights has now received another institutional impetus with the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission comprised of a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, a former Chief Justice of the State High Court and other eminent persons as well as the Chairmen of the three separate National Commissions which already exist for protecting the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Women and Minorities. The Commission has been mandated to enquire into allegations of violations of human rights and has been invested with

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wide-ranging powers including the power to establish Special Investigation Teams for effective investigation. The findings of the Commission are to be published from time to time besides being reflected in its Annual Report which will also be laid before the Parliament. The law also provides for the establishment of Human Rights Commissions by the State Governments, on the pattern of the National Commission as also Special Courts for speedy trial of cases involving Human Rights violations.

28. Mr. President,

I am confident that the distinguished delegates will agree that India has established the most appropriate Human Rights Commission for the protection of human rights. Our commitment to universally acceptable non-discriminatory norms of human rights and their protection and promotion cannot be questioned. It was in that spirit that we participated actively in the World Conference on Human Rights which recognized the importance of this issue. We are, however, pained that not enough emphasis is put on a major threat and impediment to the realization of human rights, namely, terrorism, especially one that is aided and abetted by one State against another. Why is it that a few so-called, human rights advocates and Member States of the UN choose to focus on the human rights of terrorists - those who indulge in senseless murder, destruction, pillage, disruption of civilized existence and undermining of democratic institutions? Why do they virtually turn a blind eye to the violation of the human rights of the victims of such terrorism - innocent civilians or those

upholding the law and order and the territorial integrity of States. Can they, in true conscience, allow terrorists and their supporters to usurp the moral high ground on human rights? The UN will have to take action against terrorists as they upset democratic structures. This should be condemned.

29. Mr. President,

In sum, we believe that international cooperation in the protection of human rights can succeed only if it is within the framework of respect for sovereignty and integrity of States and of a vigorous global programme for anti-terrorist action. We would, however, like to point out that any unilateral use of human rights as an instrument of political pressure or intervention, obstacle to trade or as a conditionality for development cooperation and aid, in fact, serves the opposite purpose and impedes the full realization of the human rights of people of affected countries.

30. The enhanced role of the United Nations in international affairs calls for the restructuring and re-defining of the functions of its principal organs. The responsibilities of the Security Council have grown dramatically in the last few years, requiring greater degree of participation of the overall membership of the U.N. in the decision-making process of the Council. Also, we must recognize that the membership of the U.N. has grown enormously over the years. A more balanced and expanded representation for Member States in the Council is therefore, inevitable. Unity of purpose among its Members rather than size determines the efficiency of any organization. The expansion should not be done selectively or in a piecemeal manner. The principles or criteria of expansion of the permanent and nonpermanent membership should be agreed upon by consensus. For the selection of additional States in an expanded Council, population which represents the principle of democracy and an element of power, size of the economy and future potential of the countries concerned should, be taken into account, along with equitable geographical distribution and contribution to maintenance of international peace and security. There is virtual unanimity among those who have responded to the Secretary-General that an expansion of the Council is imperative. Interesting suggestions have been put forward by several countries. The logical next step would be to start a process of consultations to arrive at a suitable and fair formula that commands universal support.

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31. The permanent members should be responsive to the aspirations of developing countries represented in the General Assembly on the basis of equality. It is therefore, essential also to revive the role of the General Assembly as had been originally envisaged in the Charter.

32. Mr. President,

We stand at a decisive threshold incomparable to any in history, a moment in time when we must bring to bear a larger vision and foster the forces of positive integration, democracy and cooperation at national and international levels. My Prime Minister, has, in characterizing the 1990s as watershed years in global affairs in the realm of political, economic and environmental challenges and changes, conveyed an unequivocal message: "We cannot go wrong", he said, "if we make co-existence and peace our watchword, and common universal good our objective". It is my Government's belief that this quest for the common good, jointly undertaken, would be central to the success of our endeavour and for the achievement of the Charter's objective of harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Thank you, Mr. President.

DIA USA AFGHANISTAN MALI SOMALIA PAKISTAN PERU ISRAEL SOUTH AFRICA IRAQ KUWAIT
RUSSIA URUGUAY

Date : Oct 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/CONFERENCES

Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Environment and Forests, addresses the World Bank Conference

The following is the speech of Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath at the World Bank Conference on Oct 02, 1993:

The Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has said that the priorities and Agenda of the Developing Countries - indeed, of the World - which got recognition at the Earth Summit at Rio last year, are in danger of being relegated to the background. He said that it cannot be denied that there is a growing sense of impatience, and a feeling that the bold initiatives of Rio have been submerged in diplomatic rhetoric, and that despite some positive events, funding and other commitments are still much below the expectations raised at the Summit.

Shri Kamal Nath was speaking on "Valuing the Environment" at the First Annual Conference on Environmentally Sustainable

Development organised by the World Bank at Washington, last night.

Shri Kamal Nath said that he cannot find any pleasing answer to the question, "one and a half year after the unprecedented Earth Summit what "extra" has been done for commitments to Agenda 21? He regretted that the Global Environmental Facility seems to restrict the objectives of Environmental Conventions by limiting incremental costs to 'agreed global environmental benefits'. This in effect transfers development aid away from vital needs in developing countries to so-called global concerns, which really enhance the affluence of the developed countries and does not ameliorate the scope or scale of the problems faced by the poor.

Making a strong case for proper economic valuation of the environment Shri Kamal Nath said that this will place us and our future in a better position and equip us with superior tools to analyse our situation and to attempt solutions. So far we have only recognised the carbon cycle and of bio-diversity, we need to give equal importance to water cycle and the lost opportunity costs in selection to forest conservation.

Shri Kamal Nath said that only the proper economic valuation of environment will help assess the extent to which the

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developed societies were drawing upon the eco-systems of other societies who are dependent on local bio-diversity for their survival and food security. He asked the North if it will now make a commitment to undergo structural adjustments, especially to account for the ecological debt it has incurred over the years by overusing the environmental space of the Developing Countries. He said, the overuse of the assimilative capacity of atmosphere has to be paid for. He said that the South is already undergoing the travails of structural adjustment and the pains of integrating into global economy.

The Minister, however, cautioned the environmental valuers about the worry of ecologists about economic valuation and market-based environmental policy instruments only taking us further down the path of ruin. While valuing the natural resources we must keep these pitfalls in mind and keep in view the need to constantly test the hypotheses with real life experiences.

Shri Kamal Nath referred to the Delhi Declaration issued by the First Ministerial Conference of the FEDC calling for the valuation of natural resources.

A CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 02, 1993

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Outcome of India-Japan Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1993 on the outcome of India-Japan talks:

Japan has welcomed the continuing liberalisation of the Indian economy and felt that the measures have created favourable conditions for investment and collaborations, inconceivable a few years ago. At the 23rd meeting of the IndiaJapan Study Committee, held in Tokyo on October 7 & 8, 1993, the two sides discussed at length as to how to further cement the ties of economic cooperation between the two countries and create favourable conditions for increasing Japanese investment in India. The Japanese side felt that the quality of economic and social infrastructure in India ought to be further strengthened with more emphasis on creating Indo-Japanese business alliances rather than mere transfer of technology. Both the sides agreed that efforts were required to promote greater awareness among the people of the two countries through media exchanges and scientific interaction.

There was a special focus on developing tourism as it can be a precursor to investment in India. While the Japanese side favoured some procedural changes to promote tourism, the Indian side called for stepping up Japanese investments to set up tourist complexes in India.

The meeting also reviewed the progress in respect of the Industrial Model Town (IMT) project where it is proposed to create superior quality infrastructure for both Indian and foreign companies to set up industries. The Committee felt that the feasibility study for the project should be prepared as per schedule so that the project can fructify as soon as possible.

The meeting also discussed various aspects of scientific and cultural exchanges between the two countries and decided to make an indepth study of the possibility of promoting Indo-Japanese cooperation in the field of manpower development and training in context of the changing age profile of the Japanese population.
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The two sides felt that while fundamental changes are taking place in international political and economic relations, the Asian region where both India and Japan are located, have

remained relatively stable and concentrated on economic development. Although the Japanese economy is in recession now, it was felt that Japan could play an important economic role by opening its markets to the Asian products and by increasing direct overseas investments in the Asian countries.

The Indian side was led by Shri Vasant Sathe, a former Union Cabinet Minister while the Japanese side was headed by Mr. T. Kaifu, a former Prime Minister of Japan. Leading Indian and Japanese businessmen attended the two-day meeting.

PAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Meeting between the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1993 on a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Kuwait Parliamentary delegation:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, received, today afternoon in South Block, a Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al-Sadoon, Speaker of the National Assembly. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of bilateral concern as well as matters of mutual concern.

Both sides agreed to intensify efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relationship. To this end, a multi-disciplinary highlevel Kuwaiti team is likely to visit India in the foreseeable future to identify areas for Kuwaiti investments in India and fillip to Indian exports to Kuwait.

India reiterated its principled support for Kuwaiti independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. India also called for full implementation of all the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis.

Shri R. L. Bhatia gave a detailed presentation of India's relations with neighbouring countries especially Pakistan. He

also explained to the Kuwaiti side that the current insurgency in Jammu & Kashmir and India's inter-communal situation were largely due to interference and abetment from outside.

Mr. Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al-Sadoon said that Kuwait firmly believed that all international disputes should be settled peacefully through dialogue. With respect to Kashmir, the Simla Agreement provided the basis for such dialogue between India and Pakistan. Kuwait supported the Simla Agreement and hoped that the Indo-Pak dialogue would continue. He emphasised that Kuwait was against internationalisation of this bilateral dispute as this would not be beneficial to any side.

He added that Kuwaiti National Assembly and people valued Indian democracy and political system which had preserved its multi-faceted society. They regarded the destruction of Babri Masjid as an isolated incident for which Government of India bore no responsibility.

The Kuwaiti delegation also offered deep and sincere condolences for the catastrophic calamity which has fallen victims of earthquake in a part of India.

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WAIT INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN STATES

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed visits Mexico

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1993 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed to Mexico:

In the course of his visit to Mexico, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, handed over the formal letters of invitation from Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to President Salinas for the G-15 and Education For All Summits to be held in New Delhi in December 1993. The letters were handed over to the Acting Foreign Minister, Carlos Icaza, with whom Shri Khursheed reviewed the entire range of India's bilateral relations with Mexico. He also had a meeting with the Senate President Senator Emilio Gonzalez Parra, which was

attended by eight other Senators including the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

During the ministerial meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade, opportunities for investment, joint ventures and extended trade were mutually examined. The areas of petroleum exploration and refining, petrochemicals, gas-based power and fertilizer production, steel-making, electronics, computer software, infrastructure development, deep sea fishing and tourism were identified as primary fields of cooperative activity. It was agreed that a high-level Mexican industrial delegation would visit India in the first half of November 1993, as a follow up of these discussions. The business contracts signed include one for US \$ 2.4 million for importing 30 luxury buses and five other contracts valued at over US \$ 1 million for Indian textiles and readymade garments, specialised food additives and industrial chemicals & lubricants.

XICO INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Oct 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh Meets the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Bangladesh and Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1993 on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh's meeting with Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Bangladesh and Afghanistan:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Bangladesh and Afghanistan at the United Nations on October 1, 1993. The discussions with the Afghanistan Minister included the political situation in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister raised the question of infiltration of some Afghan nationals in Kashmir through the efforts of Pakistan and their participation in uprising against Indian Government. He also raised the issue of Pakistani attempts to inter-

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nationalise Kashmir issue and bring it to the United Nations. He sought the help of Afghanistan in persuading Pakistan not to break the Simla Agreement and internationalise the matter. The

Afghan Minister assured that he will never encourage Pakistan in this regard.

In the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. A. S. M. Mostafizur, Shri Dinesh Singh, emphasized usefulness of Simla Agreement in bilateral relations between India & Pakistan. He sought the cooperation of Bangladesh in persuading Pakistan not to internationalise Kashmir issue. The Bangladesh Minister expressed appreciation for India's role for the settlement of Chakma refugee problem and also referred to the Joint Economic Commission.

EAM raised the issue of Pakistan attempting to internationalise the Kashmir issue with his Brazilian counterpart, Mr. Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim. The Brazilian Minister stressed the need to improve bilateral cooperation between the two countries at the economic, social, cultural and scientific level.

A AFGHANISTAN BANGLADESH BRAZIL INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed Meets the Foreign Ministers of Guyana, Namibia, Singapore and Jordan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1993 on the meeting of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurseed with the Foreign Ministers of Guyana, Namibia, Singapore and Jordan:

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman had meetings today in New York with the Foreign Ministers of Guyana, Namibia, Singapore and Jordan.

2. In the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Guyana the focus was on bilateral relations including cultural exchanges, student exchanges, trade and cooperation under joint commission.
3. The Namibian Foreign Minister told MOS that Namibia would open its mission in India in the near future. He briefed MOS on the evolving situation in South Africa. He assured MOS of their support to our position on Kashmir saying that Namibia did not favour internationalisation of the issue.

4. In the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Singapore, emphasis was on economic relations. MOS outlined our economic reforms. MOS said that India was looking forward to the visit of the Prime Minister of Singapore. MOS told the Singapore Foreign Minister that India was keen to upgrade and deepen its interaction with ASEAN not only in the economic field but also in other fields such as security. There was identity of views on the human rights issue. The Singapore Foreign Minister told MOS that the western idea of human rights was not practical and cannot be implemented universally.

5. In the meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister there was review of bilateral relations. The joint commission between the two countries is to meet next November. There were exchanges of views on the PLO-Israel Agreement and Jordan's own agenda with Israel. Jordan looked up to countries such as India in the context of recovery from the hardships resulting from sanctions etc., after the Gulf War. MOS told the Jordanian Foreign Minister that the OIC should be cautious of Pakistan's game to use the forum for its own ends on the Kashmir issue.

6. In all the above meetings MOS briefed the foreign ministers about Indo-Pak relations and the Kashmir issue and sought their support.
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A GUYANA NAMIBIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE JORDAN INDIA SOUTH AFRICA ISRAEL
PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh meets the Foreign Ministers of Morocco and U.K.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1993 on the meeting of Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh with the Foreign Ministers of Morocco and U.K.:

Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh met the Foreign Minister of Morocco and the U.K. on September 30, 1993 in New York. He briefed his Moroccan counterpart on the problem of terrorism in Kashmir. The Moroccan Foreign Minister expressed

understanding of the problem and hoped that peace would soon return to this part of the Sub-Continent. Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that the U.K. was well aware of the problem being faced by India and said that the bilateral approach under the Simla Agreement was an excellent option for settling the vexed question and for peace to return.

A MOROCCO UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date : Oct 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed meets the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Sudan and Palestine as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan and Uganda

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1993 on the meeting of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed with the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Sudan and Palestine as well as the Deputy Prime Ministers of Turkmenistan and Uganda on October 5, 1993 in New York:

The Foreign Minister of Kazhakstan invited India to participate in a conference to be held in early 1994 regarding regional collective security system for Asia. The DPM of Turkmenistan requested for early opening of an Indian Mission in Turkmenistan. He requested MOS to convey an invitation to our Prime Minister to visit Turkmenistan. The Sudanese Foreign Minister showed understanding of our position on Kashmir and human rights and said that Sudan would take a helpful position in OIC meetings on these issues. The Ugandan DPM expressed the satisfaction of the Ugandan side regarding the strengthening of the relations between the two countries after the visit of their President to India. He indicated that there was good scope for bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and small scale industries. Mr. Kadoumi of PLO briefed our Minister on the recent accord signed with Israel and the developments thereafter. He thanked India for its offer of assistance pledged in the October 1 meeting.

In all the above meetings MOS explained our position on Kashmir, human rights etc., in the context of Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

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Date : Oct 06, 1993

Volume No

1995

MOLDOVA

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Moldova, H.E. Mr. Ion Botnarumeets Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1993 on the meeting between the Deputy Foreign Minister of Moldova H.E. Mr. Ion Botnaru and Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Moldova H.E. Mr. Ion Botnaru called on Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (W) in the Ministry of External Affairs on September 30.

Discussions took place on the political situation in Moldova, Eastern Europe and Russia as also relations between India and Pakistan, and the progress of economic reforms in India and Moldova. The Moldovan dignitary thanked India for technical assistance rendered through training facilities and proposed that Foreign Office consultations could be continued next year in Kishinev, capital of Moldova. He expressed strong support for India's stability in its relations with its neighbours, especially Pakistan, as a contribution to world stability.

Mr. Botnaru is accompanied by more than 60 Moldovan businessmen who are interacting with the CIS Chamber of Commerce in a visit organised by the Commerce Ministry.

DIA USA RUSSIA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1993 on the visit of the President of Zambia to India:

The President of the Republic of Zambia, H.E. Mr. F. J. T. Chiluba, arrived in Delhi today, accompanied by Mrs. Chiluba and a senior delegation. The Zambian President and his wife called on our President and Smt. Vimla Sharma. The visiting President had a short meeting with our Prime Minister, after which both leaders led their respective delegations at the official talks. During the talks, the two sides had a detailed review of the bilateral relations as also the regional situation, in Africa and the international situation over-all. Discussions on Africa focussed on the situation in South Africa, Angola Mozambique and Somalia. There was also a discussion on the role of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in future peace-keeping/peace-making operations in Africa in order to ensure a greater role for the OAU in international operations on that continent.

Bilaterally, both sides noted the process of economic liberalization that was
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being implemented in both countries and stressed that to improve commercial and economic interaction, there should be greater business contacts between the private sectors of both countries, with the two governments providing the enabling environment. Zambia expressed its special interest in the promotion of small scale industries in Zambia, an area in which India has already provided substantial assistance and expertise in the past.

Our Prime Minister gave the visiting side an over-view of the situation in our region. He underlined the need for peaceful resolution of problems, and the dangers posed by state sponsorship of terrorism, something which India was being faced with, with the aiding and abetting of terrorism on our soil by Pakistan.

The Zambian side noted that over-all relations between Zambia and India in every sphere continued to be excellent, characterized by total understanding and cooperation, and expressed their gratitude for the diplomatic, moral and material support that had been extended to Zambia by India all along.

An agreement on controlling traffic in by narcotics was also signed. On the Indian side it was signed Shri M. R. Sivaraman, Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and, on the Zambian side, their High Commissioner, Mr. Ian Sikazwe.

Date : Oct 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Russia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1993 on events in Russian Federation:

The Russian Ambassador called on Secretary (W) in the External Affairs Ministry late on 5th October, in order to brief the Ministry on the recent developments in Russia. He said the opposition to President Yeltsin had availed of the negotiations organised by the Orthodox Church to regroup and launch violent demonstrations and attack the city government headquarters and the TV station. The intention was to storm the headquarters of the President at the Kremlin. President Yeltsin had no alternative except to declare a state of emergency and to take over the security of the government buildings and TV radio stations, and restore law and order.

2. The armed clashes do not represent a political struggle but an armed rebellion and mutiny, with no legal grounds, the Ambassador said. All military commanders had reiterated their loyalty to President Yeltsin, and the situation in the rest of Moscow and the Russian Federation, according to the Ambassador, is stable. The political process will be commenced and strengthened. The Ambassador mentioned that President Yeltsin highly values the understanding and support of all Foreign countries in this situation.

3. Keeping in view the traditionally friendly relations existing between India and Russia, Secretary (W) expressed the hope that all democratic forces in the Russian Federation will achieve reconciliation in the shortest possible time. He reiterated our hope that President Yeltsin along with other democratic leaders would be able to resolve all their outstanding problems speedily.

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SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 06, 1993

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Germany

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1993 on the visit of the President (Speaker) of Bundestag, Dr. Mrs. Rita Suesmuth of Germany of India:

The President (Speaker) of the Bundestag, Dr. Mrs. Rita Suesmuth of Germany called on Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, today at 12 noon. Shri Dinesh Singh and the visiting dignitary exchanged views on bilateral relations. Shri Dinesh Singh invited greater economic engagement by Germany in India's development. He also surveyed the emerging world order and the need to stress on development issues and the fight against terrorism. Shri Dinesh Singh also emphasised the role of Europe and in particular Germany in the new world order. This should promote democracy, peace and development. The External Affairs Minister also mentioned the UN's new role in peace-making which should be carefully considered by the world community, as well as the question of the democratization of the UN.

Shri Dinesh Singh also gave an overview of India-Pakistan relations and mentions that all issues should be resolved bilaterally through the Simla Agreement, an agreement that had helped keep the peace in this region for 22 years. Pakistan should also, for better relations with India, stop aiding and abetting terrorism, he said.

RMANY INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 08, 1993 on the bilateral issue of River waters between India and Bangladesh:

In answer to a query on the Bangladesh Prime Minister's address to the UN General Assembly, the Official Spokesman said that India noted with considerable regret that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh thought it fit to raise the bilateral issue of River Waters in her statement at UN General Assembly on October 1, 1993. Her references to the Farakka Barrage and related issues neither do justice to the documented facts nor refer to the understanding in May'92 between Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the principles and framework of a solution. India remains committed to devising "an equitable, longterm and comprehensive arrangement" on water sharing with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions.

When Bangladesh confirms its interest in a meaningful dialogue on these principles and is able to overcome the temptation to play politics with the important River Waters issue, it should be possible to conclude a mutually acceptable Agreement. India continues to be ready for a constructive dialogue with Bangladesh on the subject.

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NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Oct 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1993 on the situation regarding Hazratbal Shrine:

On the evening of 15th October, 1993, it was discovered that the locks of outer door of the Shrines safe room, where the holy relic is kept, had been replaced. When the administration was notified they immediately informed the management who found,

after a thorough search, that the inner door locks as well as the safe itself had not been tampered with.

A large number of militants, estimated at about a hundred, and fully armed with sophisticated weapons, had taken up positions inside the Shrine. The area was cordoned off by the security forces and some people in nearby houses were removed to the safety of temporary shelter elsewhere.

The militants have been firing on the security forces, and one civilian bystander was killed.

In a bid to escape, one building at the South-East corner of the Shrine, used as a shelter for pilgrims, was set on fire by the militants. The fire was brought under control. The main building of the Shrine is intact and undamaged. Any damage discovered later would undoubtedly have been caused by the terrorists - there are apprehensions that terrorists may do this to try and blame it on the security forces.

The security forces are exercising maximum restraint and none have entered the Shrine. The militants have been asked to surrender and an assurance given that they would not be harmed if they did so and would be dealt with under the due process of law.

In this background, the statement issued by the Pakistani Government stands revealed as what it is - a blatant falsehood and another attempt by Pakistan to rake up communal and fundamentalist passions. The shrillness of the statement shows clearly their frustration at having failed in their conspiracy to damage the holy Shrine. Indeed, for Pakistan, no Shrine, not even this holy Shrine of Islam, is holy enough to stop it from carrying on with its ugly, even though futile, designs against India. The Indian Government has hard intelligence about Pakistan's direct involvement in this conspiracy.

It is, therefore, Pakistan and the terrorists inside the Shrine, who are armed and aided by Pakistan, who are the real desecrators of this holy Shrine. It is the Indian administration that has, infact managed to foil their conspiracy. The Government of India hopes that the terrorists will surrender peacefully without doing any damage to the main building of the Shrine.

The Pakistani spokesman's statement is quite predictably a forerunner of other statements and resolutions which it will doubtless soon orchestrate in that country's institutions, and in every forum possible. Such propoganda and litany of baseless and motivated allegations will continue to be treated by the Government of India as brazen falsehoods, and unacceptable.

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Date : Oct 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Reaction of Pak Press on Developments Regarding Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1993:

In response to a query on the reaction in the Pakistani press regarding the incident Hazratbal, the Official Spokesman stated that we have noted the spurious and hysterical reaction in the Pak press about the developments in Kashmir. Meanwhile, we encourage members of foreign media to visit Jammu & Kashmir and report on the situation themselves. We also welcome visits of impartial observers from abroad, should they want to visit Srinagar and assess the situation themselves.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Oct 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Official Spokesman's Statement in Response to the Statement of OIC Secretary General on Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1993 in response to the statement of the Secretary General of the OIC on the events at the Hazratbal Mosque in Sri Nagar:

Government of India have seen the statement of the Secretary General of the OIC, made yesterday, on the events at the Hazratbal Mosque in Srinagar. The statement is one sided and has

been issued without relevance to the facts. The responsibility for the acts of arson and intimidation of those frequenting the Mosque rests with the terrorists who have desecrated the Mosque and even threatened to blow it up. As we had indicated yesterday, Government of India have evidence that these terrorists have been armed and aided by Pakistan. The Secretary General of the OIC has not only ignored the fact that it is the terrorists who are responsible for the escalation of tension, but has also made unacceptable observations and gratuitous recommendations with regard to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. We deplore and reject these sweeping, simplistic and biased references.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Oct 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Expulsion of India Diplomats by Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1993 on the expulsion of Indian Diplomats by Pakistan:

In response to a query on the expulsion of Indian diplomats from Pakistan, the Official Spokesman stated that as far as we are concerned the accusation about their activities being incompatible with the official status is totally baseless. We are well aware of the fact that Pakistan does not wish to encourage people to people contact between Pakistan and India. They have always tried to put obstructions on issue of visas to their people who wish to visit India. They have always been obstructing the operations of the Indian Consulate in Karachi. Last December, they reduced the staff from some 60 people to 20, and now it is 16, after these recent expulsions. Even the issue of visas to officials from here to replace those who are transferred out of Karachi has been deliberately delayed and made difficult. This is obviously yet another attempt in the same direction to create difficulties in the functioning of our Consulate and to prevent people to people contact.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Oct 19, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

External Affairs Minister Calls on the Dutch Prime Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1993 on the call by External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, on the Dutch Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. R. F. M. Lubbers:

The External Affairs Minister called on the Dutch Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. R. F. M. Lubbers today. The Dutch Prime Minister was accompanied by his Foreign Minister. They discussed a variety of regional and international issues. These included India's relations with China especially in the context of recent visit by our Prime Minister and the Agreement on Peace & Tranquillity on the Line of Actual Control. They also discussed India's relations with Bangladesh, particularly, the subject of sharing of river waters.

Our External Affairs Minister mentioned that Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue was nullifying the Simla Agreement which had kept the peace for 21 years. The Dutch Prime Minister requested for access for human rights organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Our External Affairs Minister mentioned that we have already announced our willingness in this regard and a dialogue has already been initiated, including with the ICRC. They also discussed the situation in the Russian Federation, developments in SAARC especially progress made on SAPTA, and also the question of expansion of the Security Council. The Dutch Prime Minister agreed that the Security Council can be expanded but in such a manner as not to involve a review of the UN Charter.

DIA USA CHINA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN RUSSIA

Date : Oct 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

OIC Meeting at the Ambassador's Level issues a Statement on the Hazratbal Situation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1993 on India's reaction to a statement on the Hazratbal situation issued by the OIC meeting at the Ambassador's level:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the OIC Meeting at Ambassador's level was convened in New York at Pakistan's request on October 25, 1993, to discuss the Hazratbal situation. After the meeting, a statement was sent to the President of the Security Council by the Pakistan PR to the UN. Government of India regrets that the contents of this statement are completely distorted and unrelated to the real situation on the ground. The Pakistan PR's letter and the enclosed statement make no reference to militancy, terrorism, incitement to violence or incessant and wilful breaking of the law. The damage and threat of damage to the shrine, its precincts and the holy relic by the militants and the fact that certain persons are held hostage inside the premises, are nowhere mentioned.

Once again, we have to regret that under Pakistani instigation, the OIC appears to have been hijacked by Pakistan to serve its own agenda against India. The OIC would do well to also remember what some of its members have done in similar circumstances when holy places have been occupied.

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DIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh Sends a Message to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari

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

on Oct 21, 1993 on a message sent by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari:

Excellency, on your assumption of office of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, I extend my sincere felicitations.

We hope that during your tenure as Foreign Minister, renewed efforts would be possible in accordance with the Simla Agreement to work towards establishing good neighbourly and harmonious bilateral relations between our two countries. We are confident that our two countries can resolve their outstanding issues through bilateral negotiations and peaceful means.

I take this opportunity to convey to you my best wishes for a successful tenure of office.

Please accept; Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 21, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES / ADDRESSES / MESSAGES

Prime Minister's Speech at the Banquet for the Prime Minister of the Netherlands

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's speech at the Banquet for the Prime Minister of the Netherlands H.E. Mr. R. F. M. Lubbers on the Oct 27, 1993:

Mr. Prime Minister,
Madame Lubbers,
Distinguished Guests,

Almost four centuries ago, the great maritime traditions of Holland brought your sailors and navigators to the shores of India. Thus began an interaction that has changed and evolved into a bilateral relationship of political understanding, economic and commercial cooperation, and exchanges in various areas that benefit both our countries. Your visit, Mr. Prime Minister and Madame Lubbers, is in keeping with this constructive tradition, and we welcome you warmly as friends and wish you a pleasant stay in our country.

Our bilateral relationship has, I think, an exemplary status in a fastchanging world whose uncertainties can be disconcerting. In the Cold War era, certain features of inter-state relations had become rigid and predictable: confrontation between members of adversarial blocs, the tendency of nations to take advantage of crises around the world for ideological advancement, the debilitating conflict between irreconcilable political and economic systems. Today, these rigidities and antagonisms are much less. But the world is perhaps no safer than it was five years ago.

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During your visit to our country in 1987 our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had observed, "In this nuclear age, more than ever before, human survival requires that adversary relationships give way to peaceful co-existence and the pacific settlement of disputes. Peace is the foremost question before humankind". In such a context, a mutually beneficial relationship such as ours, with its foundations of goodwill and understanding, has qualities of benevolence and stability that an insecure world seeks.

The India-Netherlands equation is exemplary in another sense. Much is said about the North-South gap; here is a North-South bridge that is well-placed, useful, and sturdy. Our problem-free relationship in fact points to the importance of diverse countries, in an interdependent world, coming together to mutual benefit.

As an economist yourself, Mr. Prime Minister, you will appreciate our emphasis on development and growth. India faces gigantic tasks of eradicating poverty that centuries of exploitation and neglect have created; of stimulating the energies of its people towards concerted, constructive activity; and of ensuring economic growth within the parameters of social justice. Our economic reforms aim at precisely this. We wish to take our country from the sluggish growth patterns of the past into a self-generated and self-sustaining economic vitality that addresses the needs of our 850 million people. It is, as I said, an immense exercise, and one in which the support and solidarity of friends like the Netherlands is of special value. I would, in this connection, like to place on record our gratitude and appreciation for the generous help that the Netherlands has been providing us through the years. The consistency and steadiness of such help has enhanced its worth.

An important business delegation accompanies you on your visit. We welcome its members and trust that their stay here will convince them of our determination to stay the course as far as economic liberalization is concerned. We invite Dutch business leaders to participate in our economic growth by working with their Indian counterparts to encourage bilateral trade, joint ventures and Dutch investments in India.

Mr. Prime Minister, it was during Your Presidency of the European Community that the historic Masstricht Treaty, charting the course of European integration, was signed. We wish you success in your endeavours to strengthen the bonds of European unity. And we look forward to a cooperative and mutually reinforcing relationship with the integrated Europe, whose strengths can provide a vital input into the global quest for peace, security and development.

In our region of South Asia, we are working to improve and strengthen relations with our neighbours. Much success has been registered and the potential is vast. Our objective is to have a region where the interests of all are addressed and promoted in a cooperative effort, a region where commonalities overcome divergences, bringing countries and peoples together in goodwill and combined effort. Admittedly, there are problems like statesponsored cross-border terrorism infiltrating into our territory. But our conviction is that the forces of good-neighbourliness, given the support of our countries, can triumph.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now invite you to join me in a toast to the health of Prime Minister Lubbers and Madame Lubbers; to the friendship and cooperation between India and the Netherlands.

Thank you.

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E NETHERLANDS INDIA USA

Date : Oct 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES / ADDRESSES / MESSAGES

Prime Minister's Message to Ms. Benazir Bhutto on her Assumption of Office as Prime Minister of Pakistan

Following is the text of the Prime Minister P. V. Narsimha Rao's message delivered to Ms. Benazir Bhutto on her assumption of office as Prime Minister of Pakistan on Oct 19, 1993:

Excellency,

I would like to convey, on behalf of my Government, and on my own behalf, our felicitations to you on your assumption of office as Prime Minister. We wish you success in your important

responsibility.

At this juncture, when Your Excellency's Government assumes office in Pakistan, we look forward to working with Pakistan to promote peace and stability in South Asia and in building up harmonious relations among the nations of the region.

In this context, and taking into account the mutual commitment of our two Governments to the Simla Agreement, I would like to suggest that wide-ranging, and sustained bilateral discussions commence between India and Pakistan as early as possible, the objective being to progressively normalize relations between our two countries. We look forward in such a comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan to discussing all matters of mutual concern, including issues related to Jammu & Kashmir.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.
(P. V. NARASIMHA RAO)

Her Excellency
Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto
Prime Minister
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
ISLAMABAD

KISTAN USA INDIA MALI

Date : Oct 19, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh meets Mr. Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister of Russia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1993 on a meeting between External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and Mr. Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister of Russia:

Minister for External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh, had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Russian Federation, Mr. Kozyrev, in New York. The two Ministers discussed issues of mutual interest, including Pakistan, the Gulf, Central Asian States and peace keeping in the former Soviet Union. He briefed the Russian Foreign Minister on Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue and the support that Pakistan was giving the

terrorism in India. Mr. Kozyrev said that he fully understood India's point of view and added that Russia fully supported the bilateral approach based on the Simla Agreement. He said that there was no question of any change in Russia's policy and mentioned that Indo-Russian friendship was unshakeable. Shri Dinesh Singh extended an invitation to Mr. Kozyrev to visit India, which was accepted. The Russian Foreign Minister also spoke of the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement and praised India's role.

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SSIA USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Oct 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Bilateral Consultations between India and Russia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1993 on Indo-Russian bilateral consultations:

Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, visited the Russian Federation from 10-12, October, 1993, in the framework of a Protocol on Bilateral Consultations between India & Russia signed during Russian President's visit to India in January, 1993. He had an extensive and indepth exchange of views with the Acting Foreign Minister of Rssia, Mr. S. V. Lavrov on bilateral topics and international issues of mutual interest. The progress made on the bilateral agenda chalked out during President Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993 was noted. The treaty of Friendship and Cooperation has been ratified by India & Russia and Instruments of Ratification were exchanged on 11th October, 1993. Agreement on utilization of debt repayment and liquidation of technical credit and swing credit up to Rs. 3 billion were signed in September 1993 and a Banking Agreement was concuded simultaneously. The programme for exchanges in the fields of culture, science and technology during 1993-95 has been concluded and a Protocol of Cooperation in medical sciences was signed last month. The meeting of the Joint Council for Integrated Long Term Programme for Scientific and Technical Cooperation is to be held in New Delhi in November 1993. Further Minister of Interior of the Russian Federation, Mr. V. F. Yerin is expected to visit India from October 16-20, 1993, in connection with an agerement between Home Interior Ministries of India & Russia to combat drug

trafficking, crime, etc.

Foreign Secretary conveyed to Mr. Lavrov, India's deep gratitude for Russia's prompt offer of assistance to India following the recent earthquake in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

During the visit, Shri Dixit, called on the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. V. P. Shmeiko, who is the Russian Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission and First Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. A. Kakoshini & discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

India-Russia Sign Agreement to Combat Crime

The following is the text of a press release issued on the signing of an agreement to combat crime by India and Russia in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1993:

India and Russia today signed an agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on development of inter-action in the field of combating crime, terrorism, drug-trafficking and ensuring reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The Agreement was signed by the Union Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan and the Russian Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Victor F. Yerin. The Union Home Secretary, Shri N. N. Vohra, Special Secretary, Shri V. K. Jain, Joint Secretary, Shri C. D. Arha and other senior officers were present. The Russian Ambassador to India, Mr. Anatoli M. Drukov was also present.

The Agreement provides for cooperation in combating crimes against life, health, freedoms and dignity of person and property. It also provides for combating organised and international crime and terrorist activities.

It includes cooperation in combating illicit operations with weapons, ammuni

tion, explosives, toxic substances and radioactive materials also illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The Agreement covers prevention of illegal migration as well as illicit stay of persons on the territories of their countries and search for persons who are preparing or have committed crimes. It also includes search for criminals as well as persons absconding from the competent authorities. It provides for a regular and continuing exchange of information, sharing of intelligence and planning coordinated counter operations.

The Agreement which has come into force from today, October 18, 1993 will be valid for a period of 5 years, it provides for an extension of 3 years unless otherwise desired.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Oct 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Russian Interior Affairs Minister Mr. V. F. Yerin meets External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1993 on a meeting between the Russian Interior Affairs Minister, Mr. V. F. Yerin and External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The Minister of Interior Affairs, Mr. V. F. Yerin, called on External Affairs Minister on 18 October, 1993. He had earlier signed an Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russian Federation with the Home Minister.

2. Minister Yerin briefed External Affairs Minister on recent developments in Russia. He emphasised President Yeltsin's commitment to the democratic process and to implement the reforms necessary for the transition of Russia to a market economy. In that context, he also gave External Affairs Minister an assessment of the Constitutional reform process which is currently underway. He also briefed External Affairs Minister on President Yeltsin's recent visit to Japan.

3. External Affairs Minister welcomed the visit of Minister Yerin and noted that an important agreement had been signed by him with Home Minister. This would contribute to the strengthening of Indo Russian relations in an important sphere. The two Ministers discussed the importance of international cooperation in the battle against terrorism. External Affairs Minister stressed that the support for terrorism by one country against another was particularly reprehensible. Minister Yerin said that the international community should raise its voice loudly against such actions. He stressed that Russia and India should develop their relations in line with the agreement reached during President Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993.

4. With respect to developments in Russia, External Affairs Minister took note of the assessment given by Minister Yerin and indicated that we were happy to see that in spite of all difficulties, President Yeltsin was adhering to the democratic path and for the holding of elections. He reiterated that India wishes to strengthen its relations with the Russian Federation.

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SSIA USA INDIA JAPAN

Date : Oct 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Violence against Indian Fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 12, 1993 on the violence against Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy:

We have been informed by the Government of Tamil Nadu that in two separate incidents on 8th October, 1993, Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on three Indian boats killing four Indian fishermen and injuring four others. Ministry of External Affairs promptly sent instructions to our High Commissioner in Colombo to convey Government's concern over the continuing violence against Indian fishermen and to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka asking them to take effective remedial measures so as to forestall any recurrence of such incidents in the future. Our High Commissioner has made an appropriate demarche to the Government of Sri Lanka.

Further, a senior diplomat of the Sri Lankan High Commission was called in yesterday at Ministry of External Affairs. We conveyed Government of India's deepening concern and unhappiness over the incidents, and strongly urged the cooperation of the Sri Lankan Government to stop violence against Indian fishermen.

I LANKA INDIA

Date : Oct 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Exchange of Business Delegations with South Africa Proposed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1993 on exchange of business delegations with South Africa:

Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce, has emphasised the need for exchange of high level business delegations to boost trade with South Africa. Shri Ahmed was addressing a meeting of Commerce and External Affairs Ministry officials as well as representatives of trade and industry on trade with South Africa, here today. Representatives of ASSOCHAM-FICCI Joint Business Council on South Africa; PHD Chamber of Commerce; Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Indian Railway Construction Company; Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC); Bharat Earth Movers; National Mineral Development Corporation; Project & Equipment Corporation (PEC); State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Machine Tools attended the meeting. Shri A. K. Goswami, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, was also present.

The Minister asked the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to carry out surveys to identify the business opportunities in South Africa. The CII representative stressed the need for trade with South Africa on sectoral basis like capital goods, garments, leather etc.

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He informed the meeting that CII was organising an exclusive Indian Trade Fair in South Africa in 1994.

Shri Ahmed stressed the need for expanding trade relations with South Africa, which would boost Indian exports to other front line countries also like Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Losotho and Swaziland. Regular shipping service would further help in our exports to Mauritius and Seychelles, the Minister added.

OUTH AFRICA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BOTSWANA NAMIBIA ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE SWAZILAND MAURITIUS SEYCHELLES

Date : Oct 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao meets His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1993 on the meeting between the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, called on His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. The King expressed his condolences at the loss of life caused by the recent earthquake and the Prime Minister conveyed his appreciation of the Swedish government's sympathy and assistance.

The King and the Prime Minister discussed the economic reform programme underway in India. The Prime Minister invited Swedish industrialists and businessmen to take advantage of the opportunities India's reform programme was throwing up. Noting that a large Swedish business delegation was also visiting India in the course of the King's visit, the Prime Minister hoped that they would be able to fruitfully interact with their Indian counterparts and identify concrete areas for further cooperation. In reply to a query by the King on India's priorities in the area of economic cooperation, the Prime Minister mentioned that top priority would be in the field of infrastructure, such as power, telecommunications, etc.

The Prime Minister also gave an assessment of the political situation in our region. On Kashmir, he pointed to the problem India was facing because of terrorism in that state which was being aided and abetted from outside.

The King and the Prime Minister also had a discussion on a range of international issues as well Indo-Swedish bilateral relations in different areas.

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EDEN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA INDIA

Date : Oct 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of the UK meets Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1993 on a meeting between Mr. Jeremy John Durham Ashdown leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of the U.K. and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia:

Mr. Jeremy John Durham Ashdown (popularly called Mr. Padd), Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of the U.K. met our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, today, at a meeting that lasted about an hour.

They had a detailed discussion on bilateral relations between India and the U.K. and both were agreed that, over all, bilateral relations as well as cooperation in a number of specific areas were proceeding very well. Both agreed that there must be an intensification in the activity in commercial and economic spheres, where the full potential had yet to be tapped. Both countries had a common approach in their strong opposition to terrorism of all kinds. Mr. Ashdown mentioned specifically that Britain was one with India on this issue Mr. Ashdown also expressed his admiration for the efforts being made by India to liberalise its economy and noted that this offered tremendous opportunities for increased cooperation between the U.K. and India. Mr. Ashdown also mentioned that on most world issues, he noticed the convergence of the views of his party and India.

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UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date : Oct 05, 1993

November

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Date : Nov 31, 1993

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CUBA

Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 5, 1993 on the visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba to India:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr. Martinez Rodriguez, who is on a 3-day visit to India from November 4, called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. Both noted the long-standing excellent relations between Cuba and India and the exemplary cooperation that exists between the two countries, as well as the leading role both have played in the Non-aligned Movement.

The Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister noted that both countries were undergoing an economic restructuring programme and suggested that there should be much more contact between businessmen of both sides, with which our Minister agreed fully.

It was also felt by both that the world needed to move towards a more democratic world order.

The Deputy Foreign Minister also met Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The discussions held were part of the ongoing dialogue between the two Foreign Offices and centered on bilateral matters. There was a particular focus on increasing economic exchanges and joint ventures and certain areas which offered great potential had already been identified, which included biotechnology and drugs and pharmaceuticals.
Nov 05, 1993

CUBA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

HAZRATBAL SHRINE

India's response to OIC Secretary General's statement on Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 26, 1993 on India's response to OIC Secretary Generals statements On Hazratbal Shrine:

With reference to the OIC Secretary-General's statement of November 25, 1993, the Government of India would

like to emphasise that the Indian security forces are exercising the greatest restraint and will continue to perform their duties to subdue militancy and terrorism and protect innocent Indian citizens in Kashmir.

The only persons held in detention are those directly associated with militancy, terrorism, breach of the peace and violations of the rule of law. Such allegations by the OIC Secretary-General are out-

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rageous and have no relevance to the facts.

We are surprised the OIC Secretary-General had made no mention of the peaceful eviction from the Hazratbal shrine of armed men and militants. Nor has he made any appeal to the terrorists operating in Kashmir with support from outside the country, to desist from their nefarious activities and lay down their arms, which would be more consistent with the Secretary-General's declared concern for human rights and the success of the bilateral Indo-Pakistan discussions.

Regarding India's relations with the OIC States, the OIC Secretary-General must know that many, if not most of them were uncomfortable and embarrassed by Pakistan's vilification of India for political purposes and its efforts to introduce a totally prejudiced and one-sided draft resolution on human rights in Kashmir.

Nov 26, 1993

INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 26, 1993

Volume No

1995

HAZRATBAL SHRINE

Terrorists at the Hazratbal Shrine surrender

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 16, 1993 on the surrender of terrorists at Hazratbal Shrine:

Responding to a query on the surrender of the terrorists at the Hazratbal Shrine, the External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh said that the peaceful solution of Hazratbal Shrine has shown to the world that India wants to solve all national and international problems peacefully. India believes not in bloodshed but relies on negotiations as the best means and that external interference is the biggest hurdle in settling things through bilateral negotiations. If external interference could be stopped, the resolution of problems would be easy.

Nov 16, 1993

INDIA

Date : Nov 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister meets the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Secretary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 8, 1993 on the meeting of First deputy, Foreign Minister of Iran with the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Secretary:

The First Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran H.E. Mr. Alaeddin, Broujerdi who is on a 3-day visit to India today called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. During the 30-minute meeting, they exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Mr. Broujerdi said that Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao's visit to Iran in September marked a new chapter in the bilateral relations. Shri Dinesh Singh recalled the old historical friendship between the two countries and underlined that India's endeavour will be to restore and revive this friendship.

Mr. Broujerdi appreciated the sagacity and wisdom of the Government of India's efforts to safeguard the welfare of the Muslims in India. Mr. Broujerdi said that India is also following a wise policy

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of seeking a settlement of the Kashmir issue keeping out attempts at interference by external powers. Mr. Dinesh Singh briefed Mr. Broujerdi on the status of India's dialogue with the OIC, a process in which Iran has assured to play a useful and constructive role. Mr. Dinesh Singh underlined that Iran being a country which is concerned over the welfare of Muslims all over the world, a factor in Iran's policy should be that India has the second largest Muslim population in the world. The two sides in an exchange of views on the common problems of development, the growing menace of trans-border terrorism and other current issues of mutual concern, reiterated their desire to cooperate in the regional and international forums.

Mr. Broujerdi conveyed an invitation from Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Valayati to the External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh to visit Iran.

Earlier in the day, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister held a two-hour discussion with Foreign Secretary Shri J. N. Dixit on the issues of bilateral relations. They discussed the agenda of the forthcoming Seventh Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission with particular reference to the implementation of the MOUs concluded during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao to Iran. Mr. Broujerdi expressed satisfaction that a serious commitment has been made by Iran and India to expand the bilateral relations. The two sides agreed that as countries involved in national re-construction which are encountering various external pressures, India and Iran regard their friendship and cooperation as integral to their internal consolidation. Mr. Dixit underlined in this connection that India attaches a high importance to its relations with Iran especially as the two countries have concrete, specific and substantive complementarity of interests at the present juncture of international affairs.

Mr. Broujerdi is visiting New Delhi on November 8-10, 1993 at the invitation of Mr. Dixit as a part of the regular consultations between the two Foreign Ministries on matters of mutual interest.

Nov 08, 1993

IRAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister meets the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on November 10, 1993 on a meeting between the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran and the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, called on the Prime Minister today. The Deputy Foreign Minister informed Prime Minister that very good progress had been made on bilateral cooperation following Prime Minister's visit to Iran in September. The joint Commission meeting would also take place shortly and will focus on initiating and implementing concrete measures for increased cooperation in a number of areas.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran handed over a message addressed to Prime Minister by President Rafsanjani of Iran, which also emphasised the need for greater cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Prime Minister stated that India had been having very good high-level contacts with Iran. He said that India would like to pursue vigorously the various items of cooperation decided upon during his visit to Iran. He reiterated the invitation already extended to President Rafsanjani to visit India.

Nov 10, 1993

IRAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indian Ambassador to USA Meets US Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 3 ' 1993 on the meeting between the Indian Ambassador to USA, Shri Sidharth Shankar Ray and the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff on November 2, 1993:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Indian Ambassador to the United States, Shri Sidharth Shankar Ray, met the US Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, (equivalent to our Foreign Secretary). The talks were fruitful, frank and constructive. This exchange of views was held basically to remove the misunderstandings created by the response to a query by journalists given by the US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Robin Rafael. Mr. Tarnoff reiterated that this should not be construed as a policy statement. He said there is no change or shift in the US policy towards India, Indo-Pakistan relations or the Kashmir issue. The US's only interest

is towards the India-Pakistan relationship being normalised through peaceful dialogue.
Nov 03, 1993

INDIA USA PAKISTAN MALI

Date : Nov 03, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Talks between the Indian Foreign Secretary and the Thai Permanent Secretary

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 4, 1993 on talks between the Indian Foreign Secretary and the Thai Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokes man stated that a great deal was accomplished over the last two days. There were two working sessions at full delegation level and two more meetings in smaller groups. Both sides, in their delegations, had experts in specific areas who also had useful individual meetings. The working sessions concentrated on a review of cooperation in different areas identified by the first Joint Commission. These areas are bilateral trade, multilateral trade issues, South-South Cooperation, investment, promotion and protection, joint ventures in both countries, fisheries & aquaculture, tourism & civil aviation, agriculture and science & technology, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, culture (which included proposals for having Festival of India in Thailand and Festival of Thailand in India) and finally Extradition.

The Foreign Secretaries reported that these very productive discussions have resulted in a decision to work towards a formal Agreement on Investment Promotion & Protection. A Joint Investment Seminar sponsored by both countries would be held in Bangkok in early 1994. It was also agreed that an MOU on agriculture should be included in view of the vast potential in this area. A separate Agreement on Cooperation in the sphere of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy is also expected to be signed shortly. Both sides agreed to aim at increasing the overall trade volume to US \$ two billion per year by 1997.

In the discussions in the smaller groups, the focus was on the political subjects. Foreign Secretary mentioned that we benefited greatly from the Thai

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delegation's assessment on bilateral and regional issues as well as current priorities in ASEAN. There was also a discussion on developments in the bilateral arena which included progress made in SAARC. ASEAN and other regional initiatives. Discussions also focussed on the United Nations including reform, restructuring and expansion of the Security Council. Our side stressed that we looked forward to very substantial exchanges and ASEAN from early 1994 onwards.

The commencement of the sectoral dialogue would add substance to our relations bilaterally and collectively with ASEAN countries. The Thai delegation confirmed that it would support fully India's growing relationship with ASEAN which it welcomes both in terms of India-ASEAN relationship and a South Asia and South-East Asia relationship overall. Foreign Secretary noted that the most frequent and the most high-level contact within ASEAN, as far as India is concerned, had taken place with Thailand, and India was encouraged by Thailand's very positive

response. The Thai Foreign Secretary confirmed that the discussions had been 'brotherly' and 'full of substance' and had resulted in a large number of specific and substantial decisions which will be reflected in the agreed minutes. The success of this Joint Commission augurs well for the future of bilateral relations. He referred also to the very important decisions to promote trade including the need to address imbalances in trade.

Nov 04, 1993

INDIA USA THAILAND

Date : Nov 04, 1993

Volume No

1995

Iran

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 8., 1993 on the views of Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister on Hazratbal situation, Iran's standpoint on Kashmir and call on Commerce Minister by the visiting Iran's Minister:

In response to a query regarding the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, H.E. Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi's views on Hazratbal situation, the spokesman clarified that this matter was discussed during his meeting with External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh. The Iranian Minister appreciated the restraint which is being shown in the handling of this situation. He expressed the hope that this will come to an end in a mutually satisfactory manner as early as possible. It is in that context that he expressed the appreciation of the Iranian leadership on the Wisdom and sagacity of the Government of India's efforts in not only safeguarding the muslims but also in safeguarding the sanctity of Holy places of all religions in India.

Responding to another query on Iran's standpoint on Kashmir, the spokesman drew attention to Iran's comments on the issue during Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Iran in September this year, during which it was clearly told by the Iranian side that Kashmir is India's internal matter. The Iranian Minister added that it is not only India's internal matter but India should preserve it as a internal matter and should not allow interference by external powers.

Responding to a query on the visiting Iranian Minister's call on the Indian Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the spokesman clarified that they had discussion on basically three areas. Firstly, they discussed a visit of a delegation of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industry probably during the India International Trade Fair from November 1.5. Secondly, the Iranian side expressed the desire to constitute a joint Indo-Iranian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee welcomed this idea. The officials have got a directive to go ahead and take steps in this direction. Thirdly, they

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discussed in depth President Rafsanjani's recent visit to Central Asian Republics during the course of which as many as 67 agreements have been signed. In their curtain raiser on the visit, they had, in fact, said that President Rafsanjani is carrying a brief with him on Indo-Iran cooperation with Central Asia.

Nov 08, 1993

IRAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 08, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

British Foreign Secretary meets External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text Of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 15, 1993 on a meeting between British Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hurd and the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, met the visiting Foreign Secretary of the UK, Mr. Douglas Hurd. The meeting lasted for around 45 minutes. The two Ministers focussed mainly on all aspects of bilateral relations. They also discussed regional issues pertaining to South Asia, particularly India-Pakistan relations. International issues of mutual interest were also discussed, including the situation in Europe and especially the situation in Russia.

Both expressed, satisfaction at the structured dialogue that had concretised after Mr. Hurd's previous visit in January 1992. This dialogue had resulted in great benefit to bilateral relations, which were now extremely active in a large number of areas.

The indo-British Partnership Initiative, launched in January 1993, in the course of the visit of the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, had produced excellent results. Bilateral trade as well as UK investment in India had risen sharply. (Note: In the first 8 months of 1993, the total of UK's investment in India was five times higher than the total investment from the UK that came in the whole of 1992, as a result of which UK is today the second largest investor from fifth position earlier).

Both expressed great satisfaction that the Instruments of Ratification for the Extradition Treaty between the two countries were to be exchanged during this visit. Mr. Hurd emphasised the UK's keenness to conclude a Bilateral Investment Guarantee Agreement to boost investors' confidence. Shri Dinesh Singh informed Mr. Hurd that a policy decision had already been taken to sign such an Agreement with the UK and details would be worked out.

Mr. Hurd indicated that the UK fully understood India's concern regarding terrorism, as the UK itself was a target of terrorism. Shri Dinesh Singh conveyed to Mr. Hurd that India had completed all the formalities and was in a position to implement speedily the Indo-UK Confiscation Agreement. Mr. Hurd said they would very shortly be completing their procedures also to bring this into effect. He stressed that all countries should be more resolute against this menace. Both Ministers agreed that India and UK would consider concluding an Agreement on Transfer of sentenced prisoners.

On Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Hurd conveyed that their position continued to be to encourage bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan under the aegis of the Simla Agreement. The UK wanted to see the initiation of the political process in J & K as well as an end to armed interference from outside. The UK would continue to hold this position.

Shri Dinesh Singh reiterated India's rejection of Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation. He also noted that Pakistan was now raising pre-conditions for starting a dialogue with India. Our own position remains very clear

we are for a comprehensive bilateral dia

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logue with Pakistan con all substantive issues, including - J&K, as had been clearly mentioned in our Prime Minister's congratulatory letter to the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mrs. Bhutto, sent to her immediately after her re-election.

After the talks with Shri Dinesh, Singh, an agreement was signed by the British High Commissioner and our Finance Secretary for a Pound 60 million grant for projects in the area of environmental development.
Nov 15, 1993

IRAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA MALI PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

British Foreign Secretary meets Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan

The following is the text Of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 15, 1993 on a meeting between British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd and Home Minister, Shri S. B. Chavan:

Mr. Douglas Hurd met the Home Minister Shri S. B. Chavan, who conveyed an assessment of the ground situation prevailing at the Hazratbal Shrine and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir overall. He also informed him about the initiatives taken by the Government to commence the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. He referred to the problems that were, created in resolving this situation by the external support to terrorists in Kashmir.

Mr. Hurd mentioned that the UK Government greatly welcomed the initiatives taken by the Government of India in the area of human rights. The two Ministers also had a discussion on the powers of the National Human Rights Commission and the various provisions of the legislation under which this Commission will function. The Home Minister expressed his appreciation at the stand of the UK as it had emerged at the recent debates in the UK Parliament an the ratification of the Extradition Treaty with India.
Nov 15, 1993

IRAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Nov 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Release of hostages and militants from the Hazratbal Shrine

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 16, 1993 on the release of hostages and militants from the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that on 16th November, 1993, in the early hours of the morning, the militants who were holed up in the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar surrendered. The total number of militants as well as those who had been held hostage by them was 65. They had left their weapons inside the shrine and these had been taken over by the State Authorities. These included 14 AK - series rifles, one LMG, one Sniper Rifle, one Rocket-Launcher, hand-grenades, mines & ammunition. Among those who surrendered are two foreigners, investigations are underway as to their antecedents. As had been conveyed by the State Government Authorities, right from the outset, the due process of law would apply. Accordingly, those who have come out of the Shrine are all being screened. The innocent hostages will be released and as far as the others are concerned the law will take its course. Representatives of the State Administration accompanied by representatives of those who had occupied the Shrine and the representatives of the Awqaf Trust entered the Shrine in the morning and confirmed that the holy relic was safe. The Government is satisfied that the fully co-ordinated approach, the patience and the extreme restraint displayed by the State Government, the Army and the para-military forces has enabled this difficult situation to be handled with sensitivity with the safety of the Shrine and the holy relic assured.

Nov 16, 1993

IRAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Discussion of the Yugoslav Foreign Minister with the Indian leaders

The following is the text Of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on November 30, 1993 on the discussions between the Yugoslav Foreign Minister with the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister:

The Yugoslav Foreign Minister, H. E. Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic, called on our Prime Minister today, and gave an extensive narration, at Prime Minister's request, on the situation in Yugoslavia. He sought India's help in lifting sanctions and for readmission to international organisations such as NAM. He also mentioned that the international opinion was now more in favour for lifting sanctions since Yugoslavia was not involved in the fighting in Bosnia and Krajinas, and they were, in fact, an agent for peace. He said that media attitudes towards Yugoslavia were also changing for the better. The Prime Minister thanked the visiting Foreign Minister for the information and assessment that he had conveyed, and said that it was a difficult situation. He added that India welcomed any moves for a peaceful political solution in Bosnia, and expressed the hope that all parties concerned would be able to work together for this purpose.

YUGOSLAV FM'S MEETING WITH EAM

H.E. Mr. Vladislav Jovanovic met Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, yesterday. Shri Dinesh Singh also hosted a lunch in his honour.

During the meeting, the visiting Foreign Minister briefed our External Affairs Minister in detail on the ground situation in former Yugoslavia. He also dwelt on the meeting which had just commenced in Geneva to seek a possible settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Yugoslav Foreign Minister expressed the hope that the Geneva meeting will lead to a successful conclusion. He was hopeful that the signing of a peace agreement would lead to easing of sanctions against his country although it was his country's position that this should lead to a complete lifting of sanctions.

Shri Dinesh Singh said he was happy to learn about the attempts for a peaceful settlement. India had always stood for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of this issue.

Bilaterally, Shri Dinesh Singh mentioned that once circumstances had changed to the point where sanctions against Yugoslavia are lifted, India would hope to resume the normal and fruitful ties that it had with Yugoslavia earlier.

Nov 30, 1993

IRAN INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA SWITZERLAND

Date : Nov 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Prime Minister's message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The following is the text of the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed on November 30, 1993:

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People underlines the wish of the Government and people of India to re-affirm their support to the Palestinian people who have

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been struggling in the past decades for the restoration of their legitimate rights. On this occasion, I would like to reiterate India's continued support for the Palestinian cause.

The signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on September 13, 1993 was a notable first step towards ensuring peace and stability in West Asia. We salute the courage of Chairman Yasser Arafat in taking this bold initiative. It is our earnest hope that all the parties involved in the Middle East Peace Process will seize this opportunity for the advancement of the cause of peace, and for a just and comprehensive settlement which restores to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

India, with its historic ties of friendship and socio-cultural links with the Palestinian people, and by its participation in the Middle East Peace Process, will continue to extend its support for further efforts towards peace in the region. India is also ready to continue to extend material and technical assistance to the friendly Palestinian

people to consolidate their progress towards self-government.
Nov 30, 1993

INDIA USA

Date : Nov 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

India, and Romania Issue Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of a joint Press Statement issued in New Delhi on November 12, 1993 by the officials of India and Romania:

Mr. Gheorghe Tinca, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Romania, held official consultations in New Delhi on 11 and 12 November, 1993 with an Indian delegation led by Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, as part of a process of regular dialogue developed between the two countries following the visit of the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs in October November, 1991. To formalise such consultations and to expand them to other areas of cooperation that fall within the purview of the two Ministries concerned, a Protocol of Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania was also signed on 12 November, 1993 by Mr. Srinivasan and Mr. Tinca.

2. The Romanian delegation paid courtesy calls on Mr. Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs of India and Mr. R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs. They also called on Mr. T. Khanna, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. Discussions were also held with Mr. P. M. S. Malik, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs and with senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce on bilateral trade and trade-related financial matters.

3. The Indian side conveyed to the Romanian side that it attaches importance to its relations with Romania. The Romanian side indicated that it gives priority to the development of relations with India and also to India's regional and international role. In their view a new stage has been entered in the development of their bilateral ties with India.

4. Both sides reviewed the development of these bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over the frequent exchanges at various levels that have taken place, during the last two years.

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5. There was an exchange of views on issues of regional and international concern. The Romanian side briefed the Indian side on its relations with China, Pakistan, Moldova, Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslavia, Black Sea Cooperation Council, Russia, etc.. For its part, the Indian side briefed the Romanian side on the economic and geo-political situation in Asia, Gulf Cooperation Council, the Middle East Peace process, relations with China, USA, Western Europe, non-proliferation matters, MTCR-related issues, Pakistan, and issues currently in focus in the United Nations. Both sides agreed that the views exchanged enabled a better understanding of each other's positions.

6. The Romanian side clarified that it does not encourage any action by a country that may involve the risk of

destabilisation of any other country in the world. In this context, it was stated that disputes between countries should be settled bilaterally, and references in international fora to such issues were not appropriate.

7. Both sides also strongly opposed the spread of terrorism in the world. The Romanian side was of the view that the international community had to work together and take a global and comprehensive view of the problem of terrorism, with a view to stopping this menace and also finding appropriate solutions,

8. Both sides agreed that with the economic liberalisation in India and the economic reform programme in Romania, there were very good opportunities for greater economic cooperation. In this context, specific possibilities were discussed.

9. The Romanian side conveyed its appreciation for assistance provided by India under the ITEC Programme. A request was made that such assistance be extended to cover training in management techniques. The Indian side conveyed a favourable response to this request.

Nov 12, 1993

OMAN ROMANIA INDIA MALI USA CHINA BULGARIA HUNGARY TURKEY YUGOSLAVIA RUSSIA
PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 12, 1993

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Seminar on Indo-South African Trade inaugurated

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 18, 1993 on a Seminar On Indo-South African Trade:

The vast scope for furthering trade and investment ties between India and South Africa following the recent decision to establish trade relations between India and South Africa was underlined by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce, when he inaugurated the Seminar on "Economic Cooperation between India and South Africa: New Opportunities", organised by the visiting South African Delegation in cooperation with the India-South Africa Joint Business Council (JBC), here today. In his address, Shri Ahmed said that the first ever visit of a Ministerial delegation led by Mr. David De Villiem Graaff, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism of South Africa, heralded the beginning of a new era of mutual understanding which would lead to closer ties and economic and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Elaborating on the potential for trade, the Minister said that by virtue of its strategic geographical location South Africa could become a gateway for Indian exports to other countries in Africa, Oceanic island nations Eke Madagascar,

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Mauritius and Seychelles and even the countries of South America. India, he said was well placed to supply a variety of products to South Africa including traditional items like tea, coffee, spices, cashew, rice, jewellery, textiles etc. and also manufactured items like engineering and chemical products and computer software. Similarly, South Africa could be source of supply of items like diamonds, rock phosphates and phosphoric acid, zink, newsprint, and

coal mining equipment and technology. Equally promising were the potentials in the areas of bilateral investment and joint ventures specially: food processing, energy development, coal mining and diamond cutting and mining.

In the context of far reaching economic reforms, the Minister said the visit of the South African delegation was most timely for assessing the new economic environment and exploring possibilities for the promotion of economic relations between the two countries. He urged the entrepreneurs from South Africa to look afresh for investment and technology tie-ups.

Nov 18, 1993

SOUTH AFRICA INDIA USA MAURITIUS SEYCHELLES RUSSIA

Date : Nov 18, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

India-Thailand Joint commission Meeting from 4-5 November 1993 in New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Indo-Thailand joint commission meeting:

The bilateral relations between India and Thailand have been revitalised and given a definite direction with the recent visit of the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to Thailand in April 1993. During their discussions, the two Prime Ministers had agreed on the need for high level political direction to augment trade and commerce between the two countries by atleast 20% each year. They had also identified specific areas for time-bound cooperation such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, agriculture, science and technology including peaceful uses of atomic energy and increased bilateral trade and investment.

It is a measure of the sincerity of the two sides that subsequent to Prime Minister's visit, two rounds of talks on fisheries cooperation have already been held; just last week (27.10.93), India, Thailand and Myanmar signed the Trilateral Maritime Boundary Agreement, followed by India and Thailand signing a bilateral agreement in New Delhi; the Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy is ready for signature; and the draft MOU on Agricultural cooperation is near finalisation by the Thai side.

It is with this backdrop that the second meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission will be held in New Delhi from 4-5 November 1993. This will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of senior officials of the two sides from 2-3 November 1993. The last India-Thailand Joint Commission was held in May 1989 in Bangkok, which was led by respective Foreign Ministers.

The Thai delegation for the Joint Commission meeting will be led by H.E. Sqn Ldr Prasong Soonsiri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. The Indian delegation will be led by H. E. Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

During the visit, Thai Foreign Minister will, be received by the President and Prime Minister of India. He will also call an Commerce Minister and Agriculture

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Minister while the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries will call on the visiting dignitary. The

programme of the Thai Foreign Minister in India also includes visits to Bombay and Calcutta where he is expected to see for himself the functioning of the Thai Consulates General.

Prior to the plenary session of the Joint Commission meeting, the two Foreign Ministers will exchange views on positive trends in bilateral relations and also discuss follow-up to the decisions taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of India Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to Thailand in April 1993. Apart from bilateral issues, the two Ministers will also have an exchange of views on current regional issues such as SAARC, ASEAN, ARF and APEC; and international issues such as human rights, cross-border terrorism, disarmament, etc.

The two-way trade target of US \$ 1 billion set by the first session of the Joint Commission had already been achieved in 1991. During the Prime Minister's visit to Thailand, the two sides agreed that it would be appropriate to have a two-way trade target of US \$ 2 billion to be achieved within two years, i.e. by 1995. During the forthcoming Joint Commission meeting, the delegations will discuss steps to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including the early convening of the Joint Business Council, exchange of commercial delegations between the two countries in different areas of interest and participation in the trade fairs and industrial exhibitions in each other's country.

Discussions will also focus on promotion of investments, particularly from the private sector, from one country to the other keeping in view mutuality of interests, particularly in the wake of the recent liberalisation measures and economic reforms introduced by the Government of India. With Thai firms now looking at India as an investment destination, some progress has been made recently in the area of joint ventures, including in deep sea fishing, prawn, farming, shrimp meal production, upgradation of fishing trawlers etc. There are also a large number of successful joint ventures in Thailand where major Indian industrial houses have participated.

Placed below are figures of India's trade with Thailand over the last three years:- (Value in million baht)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
1990	13899	1615	15514
1991	23929	8504	32433
1992	25480	6312	31792

(Jan - May)

There is an emerging convergence of views between the two countries on many political issues since the end of the cold war, disintegration of the Soviet Union and the growing pressures on the US to scale down its military involvement in Asia.

The most important single factor in the new equation between India and Thailand is the comprehensive economic reforms undertaken by India since June 1991, aiming at deregulation and integration with the global economy. The whole of ASEAN in general and Thailand in particular have seen the opening of the Indian economy very positively. The large Indian market can offer considerable potential for further accelerated growth of bilateral economic relations through expanded and unfettered two-way trade, increased investments and greater consultation and coordination between the policies of the two countries on economic issues of common concern. The commencement of Indo-ASEAN sectoral dialogue in areas of trade, tourism and investment will provide welcome impetus to bilateral cooperation through institutional linkages with a much wider forum of like-minded nations. India is also seeking close association with APEC whose chairmanship rests with Thailand at present.

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EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

The Thai Government had announced a contribution of 1 million baht in cash and 3 million baht in kind, in the form

of medicines, to help the Indian Government's efforts towards earthquake relief in Maharashtra. A note on Indo-Thai Economic and Commercial Relations is enclosed.

Nov 05, 1993

THAILAND INDIA USA

Date : Nov 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

The Thai Foreign Minister Calls on the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release Issued in New Delhi on November 5, 1993 on the Thai Foreign Minister's call on the Prime Minister:

The Thai Foreign Minister called on the Prime Minister today. He recalled his recent visit to Thailand with great deal of satisfaction and enquired as to the progress that had been made since then. The Thai Foreign Minister mentioned that there had been really substantial progress in virtually every area, at which Prime Minister expressed his appreciation. The Foreign Minister informed him that there had been significant progress towards formal agreements in the area of nuclear energy, business exchanges, fisheries and agriculture, apart from the agreed programmes of cooperation which include a large number of other areas.

On the Joint Business Council, the Thai Foreign Minister assured the Prime Minister that the JBC. would be meeting very soon.

Prime Minister said that he himself had led the Indian side at the first Joint Commission meeting in 1989 when he was the External Affairs Minister. The Thai Foreign Minister paid tribute to the Prime Minister for his personal role in boosting relations between India and Thailand. The Prime Minister and the Thai Foreign Minister also discussed regional issues, and the Thai Foreign Minister also gave an assessment of the current Cambodian situation.

On ASEAN, the Thai Foreign Minister welcomed India's growing relationship with ASEAN. As Chairman of the Standing Committee of ASEAN, which is responsible for relationship with other countries, the Thai Foreign Minister stressed that he would give his full support to expanding India's cooperation with ASEAN in every sphere. The Prime Minister welcomed this statement and mentioned that India wanted all-round cooperation and also wanted to increase the level of its cooperation.

The two sides agreed that the sectoral dialogue which had commenced with ASEAN should transform soon to a full-fledged partnership with ASEAN. The Prime Minister noted that bilateral relations between India and the individual ASEAN countries were excellent and, therefore, the relationship with ASEAN as a whole augurs very well.

On the Thai Foreign Minister's mentioning that Thailand was now a full member of NAM, Prime Minister confirmed that he saw this as a welcome development.

Both Prime Minister and Foreign Minister agreed that trade imbalances should be redressed and the overall trade volume should expand rapidly. The Prime Minister also suggested that India and Thailand should cooperate in business ventures in third countries, such as Vietnam.

The Thai Foreign Minister requested for assistance in getting the release of Thai fishermen who were arrested after straying into Indian waters. The Prime Minister said that those fishermen who had strayed into Indian waters in this fashion can be released.

Nov 05, 1993

THAILAND INDIA USA CAMBODIA VIETNAM

Date : Nov 05, 1993

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

India and UK ratify the Extradition Treaty

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 15, 1993 on the ratification of Extradition Treaty by India and UK:

India and UK have today ratified the bilateral Extradition Treaty which was signed in London on 22 September, 1992. This is a significant event in the relations between the two countries. The External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Douglas Hurd exchanged instruments of ratification this evening. With this exchange, all procedural requirements and formalities necessary to bring into force this landmark treaty between the two countries stand completed. The Indo-UK Extradition Treaty realises the political vision, expressed as far back as 1985 by the then Prime Ministers of the two countries, to effectively combat terrorism, drug trafficking and organised international crime. It symbolises, the resolve of the two countries to stand together in the defence of democracy against the menace of terrorism and drug trafficking.

2. Under the Treaty, India and UK will not permit the use of their territories to launch terrorist acts against each other and will not provide safe-haven to terrorists. They have renewed their mutual commitment to extradite fugitives committing crimes of terrorism and drug trafficking. The legal framework established between the two countries in the field of extradition goes beyond the traditional regime. Defence of "political offence" against extradition is not available for terrorist and other serious offences. Nationals of each other can also be extradited. Extradition is possible not only for crimes committed but also for abetment, incitement and conspiracy in commission of such crimes. Not only the criminals directly involved in the commission of crimes in one country but those masterminding these crimes from the territory of the other country can also be extradited. The two countries have mutually extended their jurisdiction extra-territorially in respect of offences committed in each other's territory. Not only can the criminals involved in the commission of crimes in one country be extradited, but those masterminding these crimes from the territory of the other country can also be prosecuted in that territory.
3. The Extradition Treaty guarantees due process of law, basic human rights and forbids double jeopardy.
4. The Indian Parliament as well as the British Parliament have made necessary provisions in their respective national legislation to give full force to the provisions of the Treaty in their countries.
5. With its ratification, the Indo-UK Extradition Treaty has entered into force today.

6. As far as the Indo-UK Confiscation Agreement is concerned, the Government of India have today conveyed through a note verbale to the British High Commission that they have completed all requirements for entry into force of the Agreement. In terms of Article 16 of the Confiscation Agreement, it will enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of one calendar month after the date of receipt of notification from the Government of the UK confirming the completion of their requirements for entry into force of the Agreement. It will be recalled that the Confiscation Agreement provides for inter-agency cooperation and

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coordination in mutual legal assistance at the operational level. Under the Agreement, the proceeds and instruments of drug, trafficking crimes and terrorist funds are liable for tracing, restraint and confiscation by the two Governments.

Nov 15, 1993

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM MALI USA

Date : Nov 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

ZAMBIA

India and Zambia Sign Air Services Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 15, 1993 on the signing of Air Services Agreement by India and Zambia:

India and Zambia signed here today an Air Services Agreement between the two countries. This Agreement will provide a legal frame-work for the operations of the designated airlines of India and Zambia.

The Agreement was signed by H.E. Mr. Ian C. B. Sikanzwe, High Commissioner of Zambia in India on behalf of his country. Shri P. K. Banerji, Joint Secretary in the Department of Civil Aviation signed the agreement on behalf of India.

Nov 15, 1993

ZAMBIA INDIA

Date : Nov 15, 1993

Volume No

1995

ZAMBIA

Zambia Seeks Cooperation of Indian Railways

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 16, 1993 on India-Zambia cooperation on Railways:

Zambia and India discussed here today the cooperation of Indian Railways in developing Zambian Railways. The Zambian delegation was led by Mr. Gilbert Mululu, Deputy minister for Communications and Transport and the Indian delegation represented by the Minister of State for Railways Shri K. C. Lenka. Mr. Mululu sought cooperation of Indian Railways in five areas relating to development and improvement of Porungo Harbour Urban Transport Development scheme for Lusaka, construction of a road from Chipata to Pica, deputation of a suitable officer from India for posting as Inspector for Railways with considerable experience and expertise in bridges and development of Inland Water Transport. Mr. Mululu stated that Zambia has had traditionally time tested friendly ties with India. Responding to his request, the Minister of State for Railways Shri K. C. Lenka. assured the Zambian delegation that Indian Railways were well represented in Zambia through its two public sector undertakings namely Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES). Shri Lenka assured the Zambian delegation of all cooperation from Indian Railways in developing the railway system of Zambia. He further assured the Zambian delegation that India will do its best to ensure that the system of Zambian Railway was quite modern and serving the need of the country.

The Zambian delegation is in India on a week long visit from November 10, 1993.
Nov 16, 1993

ZAMBIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 16, 1993

Volume No

1995

ZIMBABWE

The Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia meets the President Mugabe

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 2, 1993 on a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia with the President Mugabe:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, had one hour meeting with President Mugabe in Harare on October 29, 1993. He handed over letter from Prime Minister to the President inviting him to the G-15 Summit to be held in New Delhi from December 13, 15 1993. President has accepted the invitation and said that he looks forward to attending the Summit and holding discussions with Prime Minister.

In further discussions, areas covered included close bilateral ties, regional development in South-Asia as well as in Southern Africa, and international issues concerning peace and development. Both sides underlined the potential of expanding bilateral economic relations to our mutual benefit. The President referred to Indian experts who had helped Zimbabwe to scholarships and training facilities accorded to Zimbabwe nationals and mentioned his desire to launch the Robert Mugabe Jawaharlal Nehru Scholarship Fund, the idea for which had come from the Nehru Award presented to him in November 1991.

Earlier in the day, MOS (RLB) met Foreign Minister Shamuyarira. They discussed the need to make greater use of the Joint Commission to improve our trade, economic and cultural cooperation. Discussions also covered regional and international issues of common interest.
Nov 02, 1993

ZIMBABWE INDIA USA

Date : Nov 02, 1993

December

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PAKISTAN

Date : Dec 01, 1993

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indian Water Transit and Trade with Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 06, 1993 regarding renewal of Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh for a further period of two years:

The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh has been renewed for a further period of two years w.e.f. October 4, 1993.

Transit facilities for Indian inland vessels through specified waterway routes in Bangladesh are provided under the protocol. The Government of Bangladesh has also agreed to maintain two specific stretches which are primarily used by the Indian Transit vessels. For this purpose it has been agreed to pay a sum of TK 137 lakhs in 1993-94 and TK 150 lakhs in 1994-95 to Bangladesh. The Protocol also provides for sharing of inter-country traffic on 50:50 basis by the two countries.

This information was given by Minister of State for Surface Transport Shri Jagdish Tytler in written reply to a question in

Lok Sabha today.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Dec 06, 1993

Volume No

1995

BELARUS

Pharmaceutical Aid to Belarus

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 13, 1993 regarding announcement by Prime Minister of India a grant of Rs. 50 lakhs of medicines for children in Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster:

During the visit of Prime Minister Kebich of Belarus on May 12-15, 1993, Prime Minister had announced a grant of Rs. 50 lakhs of medicines for children in Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

2. In fulfilment of this, on 13 December '93 Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs formally handed over the consignment of medicines to Indian representatives of the Belarussian Company Trans-Avia Export Cargo Airlines for transportation to Belarus. The medicines are Zaditen tabs., Kefzol, Metro-gil, Oripim, Insulin Monotard, Insulin Ultratard and Cap. Lactobec.

3. It may be recalled that in 1990 we had extended assistance of Rs. 100 lakhs to Belarus for Chernobyl and in 1991 for -329>

\$ 0.25 million as part of the UN effort aimed at mitigating the impact of this disaster. The grant of medicines reflects

our continuing concern over the effects of the disaster as also our goodwill towards the people of Belarus.

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Dec 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

EGYPT

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Egypt calls on President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1993 on the meeting of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Egypt with the President:

His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Egypt called on President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

During the meeting, which lasted for about half an hour, Mr. Moussa had wide ranging discussions with Dr. Sharma on the importance of the success of peace efforts in the West Asia region. President said that India is opposed to any type of fundamentalism and supports peaceful negotiations between nations. Both of them also discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Sharma referred to the age old ties between India and Egypt and said that they should be further strengthened for mutual benefit.

YPT INDIA USA

Date : Dec 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Meeting of German Parliamentary Delegation with Minister of State for External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1993 on a meeting of German Parliamentary delegation with Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia:

A 5-member German Parliamentary delegation, comprising members of the Home Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, led by H.E. Mr. Hans Gottfried Bernrath, MP, met Minister of State for External

Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, today. Shri Bhatia briefed the delegation extensively on the situation in India and in the region, especially the problems being faced by India in combating terrorism and the threat posed by terrorists violence to democracy and to the human rights of the innocent people. He recalled the recent visit of the Speaker of the German Bundestag and stated that such frequent exchanges between parliamentarians of both countries was to be welcomed.

The leader of the German delegation recalled the visit of the German Chancellor, H.E. Mr. Helmut Kohl, to India and -330>

the honour that was conferred on him during the visit, the Nehru Award. He expressed his satisfaction at the fact that bilateral relations between India and Germany were excellent and that frequent high level exchanges continued to provide the impulse for a host of concrete activities on the ground.

RMANY INDIA

Date : Dec 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

GUYANA

Visit of President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 27, 1993 on the visit of President of Cooperative Republic of Guyana to India:

H.E. Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, arrived in Delhi on 26th December 1993. He is accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Nadia Brancier. They were accorded a ceremonial arrival this morning at Rash-, trapati Bhavan. This morning, following an introductory meeting with the Prime Minister, the Guyanese delegation led by their President and the Indian delegation led by our Prime Minister, met for official talks. On the Guyanese side, Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan gave an account of the economic situation in his country as well as the region. He referred to the debt problems being faced by developing countries and also the impact of trade association such as NAFTA.

The two delegation discussed cooperation in specific sectors,

including sugar, rice, cattle breeding and dairy farming. The Guyanese delegation was interested in organising a survey of small scale industries that could be set up in Guyana.

Sugar being the most important agricultural product in Guyana, the possibility of India's assistance in this sector was discussed.

Earlier, Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan had visited Kerala and Karnataka. His visit to Kerala arose out of his interest in lowcost housing and the possibility of developing industries based on tropical products such as cashew-nuts and coir. In Karnataka, he visited the Triveni Engineering Works and a sericulture training project. The President also had a discussion with officers dealing with integrated rural development, another area of interest.

The Prime Minister hosted a lunch for Dr. Cheddi B. Jagan this afternoon. Later today, the Guyanese President will address the Global Organisation of People of Indian origin (GOPI). In the evening our President and Smt. Vimala Sharma will call on the visiting President and will also host a banquet in his honour.
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YANA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 27, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, I CONFERENCES I SUMMITS

Joint Statement on Political Dialogue between the European Union and The Republic of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 20, 1993 on joint statement on political dialogue between the European Union and the Republic of India:

Following the signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of India on Partnership and Development, and keeping in view the steadily improving relations between the European Union and India and the improvement of these relations in range and content, the European Union and India (hereinafter referred to as "the parties") express their resolution to reinforce and intensify their mutual relations in the political, economic, technological and cultural fields.

Accordingly, the parties reaffirm their commitment to a political

dialogue contributing to the establishment of lasting links of solidarity and new forms of cooperation.

The political dialogue, based on shared values and aspirations, will aim to:

- underline the parties' common attachment to democracy and respect for human rights, and their common commitment to safeguarding peace and establishing a just and stable international order in accordance with the UN charter.
- reinforce the parties' common interest in closer cooperation to promote prosperity, the commitment to economic reforms and liberalisation of the economy, free trade and the enhancement of economic stability, social progress and the development of cultural ties.
- enable each party to consider the position and interests of the other party in their respective decisionmaking processes.
- bring about mutual understanding, increase cooperation and work towards defining areas of agreement on international issues, particularly those of concern like non-proliferation and disarmament, combating terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering, and other matters relating to peace and international stability.

The political dialogue between the parties will take place through contacts, exchanges and consultations particularly in the following forms:

- meetings at ministerial level between India on the one hand and the EU Troika on the other, with the purpose of promoting the relationship.
- providing mutual informations on foreign policy decisions, taking full advantage of diplomatic channels, including contacts in the bilateral as well as the multilateral field, such as the UN and elsewhere.
- development of contacts at parliamentary levels.
- any other means which would contribute to consolidating and developing the political dialogue between the parties.

If and when appropriate, the parties agree to review the proposed arrangements laid out in the Joint Statement.

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DIA USA

Date : Dec 20, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, I CONFERENCES I SUMMITS

7th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of G-15 Countries - Statement of External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh

Following is the text of the statement by Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs of India in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1993:

Excellencies, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you, distinguished Ministers of the G-15 countries. Our meeting is of greater significance, as it is being held in the shadow of the postponement of the 4th Summit of the Group of 15. India attaches great importance to the mandate which provides substance to the G-15. I must confess, frankly, that we are disappointed at the postponement of the Summit. It is for this meeting of Ministers to send the appropriate signals which would restore the credibility of the G-15 as a Group. As a serious partner in evolving the basis of a new world order which is equitable and just, we have to ensure that in issues of development, peace and security, the interests of the developing countries are taken fully into account.

I understand that Personal Representatives meeting before us have reflected on this issue and come to the conclusion that the insufficient quorum and the consequent postponement of the Summit occurred because of an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances. I would particularly value your views on this subject.

Dear Colleagues, India has offered to reschedule the 4th Summit and host it in New Delhi in the 2nd half of March. This is a reaffirmation of our faith in the G-15 process.

Our vision of the Group of 15 Developing countries for South-South Cooperation and Consultations is three dimensional. The first relates to its role as a mechanism for building economic and political relations between ourselves on a trans-regional basis. Bilateralism is the building block on which our multilateral edifice will stand and the stronger we make those, the greater will be the efficacy of our multilateral effort. The second dimension of G-15 is as an agent of change and progress in South-South relations. The third aspect of G-15's role is that of a credible, rational, moderate, and practical dialogue partner with the North on key issues affecting peace and development in the post cold war period.

The Fourth Summit will mark an important stage in the evolution of this three dimensional role. It must give an impetus to the existing bilateral relations between our countries. It should serve to create links and lay a secure foundation for a relationship covering trade, investment, technology, education and culture. The meeting of our Heads of State and Government provides an opportunity for valuable interaction at the highest political level, and the Business Forum and G-15 Exhibition as well as the determined projects would contribute to bridging the information gap on the needs and capabilities of each of our countries and the complementarities that need to be exploited.

We must reaffirm and strengthen G-15's role as a microcosm of the South and a pilot project for it. The G-15 has evolved modalities that bring the main concerns of development and economic growth into sharper focus and provide more realistic and implementable proposals. The viability and success of G-15 in terms of South-South Cooperation will spur such cooperation among the rest of the developing countries. The projects undertaken by us are either open to all countries of the South or aimed at ultimate extension of projects to them. The concerns on political, development and related issues in the new world order that the G-15 articulates would mirror those of the South in general.

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G-15's role as a mechanism for a dialogue with the North is particularly important at this critical juncture in international relations. The world is groping for a new equilibrium and stability and we as a representative group of countries from Latin America, Asia and Africa must make our views heard in the Councils of the North. In this past year my Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, carried forward the informal dialogue with the G-7 which was initiated by the President of Senegal and as a Group we have reason to be encouraged by the response that we received from G-7 and the interest that they evinced in holding informal consultations on topical issues of global concern.

Now that we are working on the basis of a postponed Summit, we can use this opportunity towards substantive preparations for it. The draft joint communique, seeks to identify the major themes, events, developments and issues, both economic and political, which should engage the attention of our Group and suggests the message that should go out to governments, business communities and peoples of G-15 countries, of those of the South and of the North. A key aspect would relate to recognition and reciprocation by the North of the courageous efforts that we in the South have made to restructure and open up our economies. A balanced and equitable conclusion of the Uruguay Round, negotiations on which are ongoing in Geneva would set up a non-discriminatory and viable multilateral trading system which would promote the interests of all, particularly of developing countries, who have so far been discriminated against in areas of their export

strength and comparative advantage. We must express ourselves strongly against new discriminatory barriers in the form of environment and labour practices and related conditionalities, thus undermining the very principle of comparative advantage which underlies all trade. This is an issue on which the G-15 must coordinate positions to pre-empt new barriers that could frustrate our trade driven economic reform programmes.

The restructuring of the UN, both of the institution and its agenda, on which there has been much cogitation in this session of the UNGA also deserves careful reflection and coordination amongst ourselves so as to ensure that the organisation fully safeguards the principles of sovereignty, sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of nation states is democratic in its structure and its functioning is based on the rule of law. Its agenda must lay as much emphasis on development as on maintenance of peace, and in dealing with human rights issues, the international community should focus attention on terrorism, which is the greatest threat to human rights, especially when aided and abetted from across national borders.

The Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo next year would require coordination of our position and perhaps the benefit of a pre-conference informal dialogue with the G-7. We could also reflect on the issues related to the World Summit on Social Development which is to held in 1995.

Finally, turning to the G-15 projects, which constitute the backbone of our effort on South-South Cooperation, we must bring to bear greater political, economic, and organisational commitment and coordination if we are to see these projects serve the purpose of taking our relationship to a new level of intensity, and if we are to establish our credibility as a Group.

Thank you.
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DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SENEGAL URUGUAY SWITZERLAND EGYPT

Date : Dec 11, 1993

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1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, I CONFERENCES I SUMMITS

Foreign Ministers of G-15 Countries Calls on the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1993 regarding call on the Prime Minister by Foreign Ministers of G-15 countries:

The visiting Foreign Ministers of the G-15 countries (from Indonesia, Chile, Egypt, Malaysia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Nigeria, Jamaica and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico) called as a group on the Prime Minister of India today. The Prime Minister in his remarks to the visiting Foreign Ministers dwelt on the need for the commitment to the G-15 goals and objectives to continue. He underlined the need for the Foreign Ministers and the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State and Government to continue their deliberations with all seriousness, as usual, regardless of the decision that had already been taken to postpone the summit itself. The Prime Minister mentioned that it happens some times that all Heads of State and Government cannot be present on an occasion, but this he knew was not to be interpreted as in any way lowering the relevance of the commitment of the Heads of State and Government to the G-15.

The Ministers present endorsed what the Prime Minister had stated, as reflecting the point of view of their respective Heads of State and Government.

DIA ALGERIA ARGENTINA CHILE EGYPT INDONESIA MALAYSIA ZIMBABWE JAMAICA MEXICO
NIGER NIGERIA USA

Date : Dec 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, I CONFERENCES I SUMMITS

G-15 Summit Postponed

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Principal Information Officer of the Press Information Bureau in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1993 regarding postponement of G-15 Summit:

On the suggestion of the previous President of the G-15 i.e. President of Senegal H.E. Mr. ABDOU DIOUF and the next President of the Summit who is the President of Argentina H.E. DR. CARLOS SAUL MENEM, the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, has decided to postpone the G-15 summit in New Delhi scheduled for December 13-15, 1993.

The reason for the suggestion, which came from both Senegal and

Argentina was that, apart from both of them a number of Heads of States and Governments were unable to attend the New Delhi summit because of some unexpected domestic developments in their respective countries. This information was conveyed to India only over the last 24 hours.

However the meeting of the personal representatives of G-15 Heads of States and Governments will commence tomorrow. The Foreign Ministers will also meet later this week. It is also expected that some of the Heads of States and Governments may arrive in New Delhi for consultation with our Prime Minister during the scheduled days of the postponed Summit.

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DIA USA SENEGAL ARGENTINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 07, 1993

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

India and Israel to Cooperate in Agriculture Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 20, 1993 on India and Israel to cooperate in Agriculture sector:

India and Israel have identified areas of cooperation in the agriculture sector. The Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar had detailed discussions with the visiting Israeli Agriculture Minister Mr. Yaakov Tsur here today. Welcoming the Israeli Minister and his delegation, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar said that Mr. Tsur's visit would give a new thrust to cooperation between the two countries. India and Israel will sign an agreement of cooperation in the agriculture sector later this week.

A number of areas have been identified for cooperation between the two countries in agricultural science and technology, research and extension and water and soil management. Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar expressed India's keen interest in sharing Israeli expertise in water resource and soil management. He said that the new concept of diversification of agriculture in India required a complete change from the present system of flood irrigation and water use.

Another area identified for cooperation is arid; semi-arid crop

production and vegetable and fruit production by the development of hybrid seed, greenhouses and energy saving technologies. The agreement also proposes cooperation. for postharvest technologies and animal sciences to improve livestock production. It is proposed to draw up work plans to take up specific proposals of cooperation in different sectors.

RAEL INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Dec 20, 1993

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MISCELLANEOUS

Government Approves Foreign Investment worth Rs. 6580 crore in January-October 1993

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 20, 1993 on Government approval of Foreign investment worth Rs. 6580 crore in January-October, 1993:

During the first ten months of the current calendar year 1993, the total foreign investment approvals amounted to Rs. 6580 crore as against Rs. 530 crore for the whole year of 1991 and Rs. 3890 crore in 1992.

The unprecedented response by the foreign investors, to the new industrial policy is also reflected in total foreign investment of Rs. 10880 crore during the post-policy period (August 1991 to October, 1993).

There has been rise in investment from the USA from Rs. 185.85 crore in 1991 to Rs. 1231.50 crore in 1992 and Rs. 3229.36 crore in 1993 (upto October).

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Investments from U.K. rose from Rs. 32.1 crore in 1991 to Rs. 117.67 crore in 1992 and Rs. 601.62 crore in 1993 (upto October). There has also been an increase in investment from Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Thailand, Mexico, France, Japan, Singapore etc.

Similarly, NRI investments rose from Rs. 19.7 crore in 1991 to Rs. 439.13 crore in 1992 and Rs. 665.08 crore during the first ten months of 1993.

More, than 90 per cent of the total investments have gone to high

priority and technology industries. The major share of foreign investment is in sectors like power, oil, food processing industries, chemicals, electrical and electronics equipment, telecommunication, transportations, industrial machinery and hotel tourism industry.

A INDIA UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY FRANCE JAPAN MEXICO SWITZERLAND THAILAND
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Dec 20, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call by the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), on External Affairs Minister and Meeting of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister with Foreign Secretary

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman's of the Ministry of External Affairs on the call by Mr. Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), on our President, Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma, his meeting with the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Tang jiaxuan's meeting with our Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit:

Mr. Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), called on the President today morning. Both of them expressed their satisfaction at the improvement of IndiaChina relations in recent years. Mr. Li noted that the visit of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to China had taken India-China relations to a new level. The President renewed his invitation to Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China to visit India at his convenience.

During his meeting with External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, Mr. Li said that there was every reason for China and India to extend their cooperation. He said that the Chinese people and Government believed that India was a friendly neighbour which posed no threat to China. Similarly, China was committed to maintain friendly ties with India and posed no threat to India. The two countries must learn from each other and benefit from their respective experiences.

Shri Dinesh Singh agreed with Mr. Li and remarked that India and

China were faced with common tasks and common challenges. He expressed his happiness at the signing of the Peace & Tranquillity Agreement during Prime Minister Rao's visit to China.

The Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan had a separate meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit. At this meeting, the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and the Foreign Secretary reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993, including an exchange of views on the implementation of the Peace & Tranquillity Agreement. They agreed that the first meeting of the India-China Expert Group, which has been set up to deal with all questions arising out of the Agreement including determination of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), force reduction and confidence-building measures will be held in New Delhi early in 1994. They also agreed that the Expert Group will tackle these questions in a constructive and forward-looking manner.

At this meeting, both sides have finalised the composition of the Expert Group and the respective sides will be headed by Joint Secretary level officers in the Foreign Offices and will include members from the Ministries of Defence & the Armies. The representatives from the Foreign Offices will be Mr. Shivshankar Menon, Joint Secretary (North-East) on the Indian side and Mr. Fu Xuezhong, Deputy Director, Asia Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

INA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 20, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Visiting Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan and External Affairs Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 02, 1993 on the meeting between the visiting Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, H. E. Mr. Said kassimov, and our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mr. Said Kassimov, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan met the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today afternoon. The visiting Foreign Minister began by giving an assessment of the situation in neighbouring Tajikistan where a dangerous situation existed because of external interference. He said that external interference must be removed if peace & stability in the region was to be achieved. This external intervention was instigating religious and fundamentalist forces. Uzbekistan was totally opposed to fundamentalism and terrorism and wanted the international community to fight this vigorously. He stated that this was why troops from Uzbekistan and some other countries were at present in Tajikistan.

Shri Dinesh Singh mentioned that India faced a virtually identical problem in Kashmir where terrorism was being fomented and supported from outside. He agreed that state-sponsored terrorism and cross-border terrorism must be fought at all costs.

on the bilateral side, both Ministers exchanged views on the kind of agreements that should be aimed at between the two countries to concretise cooperation in different fields and what contacts to organize to have this in place before President Karimov's visit in early January '94. The visiting Foreign Minister also mentioned that Uzbekistan would like to open an Embassy in New Delhi very soon. The Uzbekistan President, according, to the Foreign Minister attached the highest importance towards developing strong and cooperative relations with India. Shri Dinesh Singh welcomed this and offered whatever assistance India could provide for this Purpose.

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BEKISTAN INDIA TAJIKISTAN USA

Date : Dec 02, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

G-15 Meeting of Personal Representatives OF Heads of Stateand Government of G-15 Countries

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 08, 1993 on G-15 meeting of Personal Representatives:

The Personal Representative (PRs) of the Heads of State &

Government of the G-15 countries commenced their meeting at 10 AM this morning in Vigyan Bhavan. It was attended by PRs of all the fifteen countries. There was a reaffirmation by all speakers that each member country attached great importance to the G-15 agenda and activities. They emphasized that the postponement should not be looked upon as an indication of a lack of commitment to the G-15 goals. They noted that this was an unfortunate coincidence of events, which prevented a number of Heads of State & Government from coming to the Summit. They also unanimously stressed that they wanted the Summit to be re-scheduled in India. The PRs of those Heads of State & Government, who were unable to attend, also expressed the regret of their Governments at the inconvenience caused to the host country.

The meeting, as a whole, expressed their sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the Ivory Coast at the passing away of President Houphoeut Boigny, as well as to his family. A minute's silence was observed. It was decided at the meeting to recommend that the G-15 Foreign Ministers may pass a Condolence Resolution and forward it to the Ivory Coast.

With the postponement of the Summit itself, the PRs discussed the modification of the agenda with the objective of looking at the future course of action till the next Summit. A proposal was agreed upon that there should be a special declaration at the level of the Foreign Ministers re-affirming the commitment of the member countries to the G-15 and also focussing on any positive issue on which action was indicated in the period before the next Summit. The PRs also agreed that the Foreign Ministers meeting would take place as presently scheduled (i.e., Friday 10th December and Saturday, 11th December).

DIA USA

Date : Dec 08, 1993

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Second Meeting of the Personal Representatives of the G-15 Group of Countries

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 09, 1993 on meeting of the Personal Representatives of the G-15 group of countries:

Today, 9th December, 1993, the Personal Representative of the G-15 group of countries met again in two full sessions in the morning and the afternoon. Both sessions were chaired by Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit. There was a very useful exchange of views on concrete programmes of cooperation and activities to be undertaken by the members of the group in the near future.

The bulk of the discussions focussed on detailed project presentations given by most of the countries present, on projects that they are handling in the context of the G-15.

Some of the project demonstrations that were given were: establishment of gene banks of medicinal and aromatic plants, solar energy applications, establishment of a vocational training centre in Senegal and some other developing coun
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tries, and establishment of a computer training centre in New Delhi (India); establishment of the South-South renewable energy promotion centre, cooperation among developing countries in the field of design, execution and management of petroleum, gas and petro-chemical projects (Egypt); population and family planning, exchange of information and technical assistance regarding external debt, promotion of self-propelling growth schemes (Indonesia); South Investment, Trade and Technological Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC (Malaysia); business and investment forum (Zimbabwe); poverty alleviation (Mexico).

There was satisfaction among the PRs that the range and relevance of the various projects demonstrated indicated the commitment of the member countries and developing countries in general to South-South cooperation, and that the projects actually demonstrated the excellent prospects that existed for such cooperation, which was a major facet of the G-15's work.

Other subjects that were discussed related mainly to financial and administrative matters, including the 'technical support facility' which is based in Geneva and is a small and compact secretariat which services the group's activities.

DIA USA SENEGAL EGYPT INDONESIA MALAYSIA MEXICO ZIMBABWE SWITZERLAND

Date : Dec 09, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1993 on the last session of the Personal Representatives of the G-15 Group of countries:

The last session of Personal Representatives (PRs) finished at 1.30 PM today.

The participants in their contributions expressed their sense of gratification that although the Summit had had to be postponed owing to unforeseen circumstances, the preparatory role for the next Summit had been carried out by the PRs. The meetings of the PRs had, in detail, gone through the whole gamut of issues relating to the Summit, including finalisation of the draft joint communique. The PRs at this final session reiterated with emphasis that the Summit's postponement was in no way a reflection of any reduced commitment to the objectives of the G-15. ON the contrary, the PRs were unanimous that the Summit should be reconvened in Delhi itself, where this commitment could be demonstrated in full measure to dispel any doubts on this. The PRs felt that although an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances of different countries had prevented a number of Heads of State and Government from joining in, all present urged that India should fix a new time-frame at this present moment so that concrete preparations could begin. The PRs noted with appreciation that this request from all the others had been responded to promptly by India, with some time in March 1994 suggested as the time for the next Summit.

On the subject of the draft communique, which was virtually finalised, it was agreed that suggestions for any fine tuning could always be considered, in terms of any future developments that may come up before the next Summit, and submitted for finalisation at the next Summit. The PRs finally put on record their satisfaction at the completion of all the preparatory business at hand, including the important business of reports and reviews on the projects that each individual member country has taken as its responsibility. This would form a major input in the G-15's continued role in promoting South-South Co-operation.

The same applied to the success of the business forum which was organised

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to coincide with the Summit preparations.

It was felt by all present that when the Heads of State and Government meet, the work that had been put in would facilitate their review of the international political and economic situation, and enable them to evolve a shared perception of the

G-15 on peace and development, the two most important points facing the world community, as well as specific NorthSouth issues and also interaction with the G-7 countries.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Dec 10, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Ministers of G-15 Countries meet to discuss whole range of G-15 Issues

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 11, 1993 on a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of G-15 countries:

The afternoon session was chaired by the Indian External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. The focus of discussions in this session was on a whole range of G-15 issues, including procedural and administrative matters deserving the attention of the Foreign Ministers. These discussions continued on the question of periodicity of the summits, the timing of the next summit to be hosted by India as well as the one to be subsequently hosted by the next chairman, Argentina. Virtually, all the Foreign Ministers expressed views on a broad range of issues.

The Ministers also focussed on the precise roles of the technical, ministerial as well as the summit levels of the G-15 decision-making process and agreed that improvements in streamlining and clarity were always welcome developments.

There were opinions expressed on the pros and cons of having a high level of a quorum with many members in favour of a two thirds quorum so as to underline the high political commitment to the G-15 agenda.

The meeting also heard a report from the Chairman of the Personal Representatives meeting, the Indian PR, on the individual projects that were undertaken by different G-15 countries. There were 18 such projects. The chairman of the PRs reported on certain recommendations made by the technical support facility, which had examined various projects. Among these recommendations were streamlining, avoiding unnecessary duplication, ensuring maximum participation in those projects which showed greater

relevance and promise, maximise the utility of existing projects rather than take on many new projects, consolidation rather than expansion for the present, etc. The question of financial support at the national and group levels was also addressed. The PRs also had recommended that maximum encouragement should be given to participation by as large a number of countries as possible.

Two other reports by the Chairman of the PRs group pertained to the ongoing consultations that are part of the G-15 process, with the PRs in New York and Geneva. These consultations focussed on important issues such as trade and development, human rights, restructuring of the UN, sustainable development, population issues, forthcoming world conferences, etc. Finally, the PRs also submitted a report to the Ministers on the functioning and the budgetary requirements of the technical support facility of the G-15 in Geneva.

It was also decided that the draft communique worked out by the PRs was also submitted to the Ministers and it was decided that this will be kept updated right upto the time this is submitted to the Heads of State and Government before the next summit is held.

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A INDIA ARGENTINA SWITZERLAND

Date : Dec 11, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States Republican Senators call on the Minister of External Affairs

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 13, 1993 regarding call on our External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh by United States Republicas Senators Thad Cochran, Larry Pressler and Hank Broun:

United States, Republican Senators Thad Cochran, Larry Pressler and Hank Brown called on the External Affairs Minister today at 1115 hours.

2. They discussed a wide range of global and bilateral issues. External Affairs Minister emphasised the importance of further strengthening Indo-US relations and underlined that bilateral

trade and economic ties were stronger today than ever before. External Affairs Minister also conveyed that India stood ready to cooperate with the United States to promote genuine disarmament and in this context, would work with the United States to promote non-proliferation through global and non-discriminatory arrangements.

3. External Affairs Minister reiterated that more visits by US Senators and Congressmen were necessary to enable them to get a first-hand impression of the working of Indian Parliamentary democracy and for a free and frank exchange of views on mutual concerns.

DIA USA

Date : Dec 13, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Malaysia

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 14, 1993 on the meeting between the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and the debegation level talks:

Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, had a meeting with our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, today. Our Prime Minister spoke about cooperation among developing countries in the context of the recent G-15 meetings. The objective of the Summit, which eventually was postponed, was for developing countries to consult together on their own concerns to find ways of fulfilling their aspirations. This was of great importance in a changing world which often had the habit of marginalising developing countries. Our Prime Minister welcomed close interaction with a country like Malaysia. Prime Minister Mahathir agreed that in a world situation like the current one, it was important that countries such as India and Malaysia should consult each other regularly. They exchanged views on developments in their regions. Both leaders emphasized the need to develop bilateral commercial and economic cooperation. The Malaysian Prime Minister mentioned that specific areas should be identified where cooperation showed promise and he mentioned the development of infrastructure as well as areas like professional

education. Both leaders noted that India and Malaysia were countries with a long historical and cultural background. Such countries had their own way of looking at things based on their own ethos and sometimes the native genius of their peoples could provide solutions to present-day problems more effectively rather than simply trying to graft solutions from the developed world.

The delegation-level talks were attended on our side by Commerce Minister,

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Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, and on the Malaysian side by their Foreign Minister, Datuk Abdullah Hj Ahmad Badawi. Our Prime Minister began by mentioning that there had been satisfactory and comprehensive discussions at the G-15 meetings of the PRs and the Foreign Ministers. It is necessary to follow up bilaterally to see that the outcome was not neglected through a lack of high-level attention. He said the present interaction with Malaysia was an example of a high-level follow-up between the two countries. The Malaysian Prime Minister agreed with these views and said that Malaysia had the same perceptions and concerns. Our Prime Minister mentioned that in the South Asian region, SAARC had made a slow and steady progress and had come to age. On his query about developments in the Asia and Pacific region, the Malaysian Prime Minister mentioned that although the G-15 Summit had been postponed, he was very happy to be here as Malaysia gives great importance to its relations with India. He said that we should build up our ancient historical links now to cooperate for mutual economic benefit. He stressed that specific areas should be discussed in the context of bilateral cooperation apart from infrastructure. He referred to cooperation and joint ventures in the areas of telecommunication and also the need for promotion of investment on both sides. He said that Malaysia had a good deal of experience in privatisation which had been a very successful exercise for them and this was an experience they could share with India. The Malaysian Prime Minister also dwelt on the current round of the trade negotiations (GATT Round of talks). He said this was crucial and its failure would be bad for developing countries. The results of the Uruguay Round may make some developing countries lose some advantages temporarily, but in the long-term, a successful conclusion of these negotiations would be favourable for developing countries as international trade would proceed on the basis of some accepted rules and regulations. Our Prime Minister elaborated on India's economic reforms. He mentioned categorically that these reforms would continue and there was no going back on them. He also agreed with the visiting Prime Minister about the need to focus on specific projects and asked the Ministers present on the Indian side to follow up on the suggestions made by the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Later five MoUs and one technical cooperation agreement were signed with the objective of promoting joint ventures between the private sectors on both sides. The areas are Railway construction, telecommunications, rubber (one technical cooperation agreement in latex rubber and one MoU), professional education and air-conditioning industry.

DIA MALAYSIA USA UNITED KINGDOM URUGUAY

Date : Dec 14, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Anglo-Irish Joint Declaration

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1993 on the Anglo Irish joint Declaration issued by the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, Mr. Albert Reynolds:

In response to a query on the AngloIrish Joint Declaration, the Official Spokesman stated that we have noted the Joint Declaration issued by the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major and the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, Mr. Albert Reynolds 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. We welcome this development and pay tribute to the courage and vision of the Prime Minis
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ters of the UK and Ireland and their willingness to see all avenues to end violence and secure peace.

We have noted that the Joint Declaration addresses issues in a manner that will build confidence by re-assuring all concerned parties that their fundamental concerns are recognised, enabling them to engage in negotiations, without prejudice to their respective positions, towards a practical accommodation to be reached through subsequent talks. We joint the British and Irish Governments in their hope that all concerned parties will now encourage the cessation of violence and seize this opportunity to opt for the path of political dialogue and democratic process.

We in India are more than conscious of the untold human suffering and devastation caused by terrorist violence and sympathise with the widespread yearning among the various communities for an end to the spectre of terrorism. While we are aware of the complex historical legacy, it is our hope that this initiative taken by the Prime Ministers of Britain and Ireland will contribute as a first step towards removing the causes of conflict and creating a framework for lasting peace that will bring an end to the cycle of violence that Northern Ireland has suffered for the past decades.

DIA IRELAND UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Dec 17, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level Talks

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, 1993 regarding comments on the success and out come of the forthcoming Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan:

In response to a query regarding comments on the success and outcome of the forthcoming Foreign Secretary level talks, the Official Spokesman stated that we are monitoring all such statements and comments and analysing their implications carefully, both for Indo-Pak relations as well as for the scheduled talks in January 1994. We shall not comment on them or articulate any value judgement. We want the talks to be held and our approach is practical and realistic. The implications of some statements is a matter of concern but we are committed to the talks.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 22, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Minister of Agriculture of Israel calls on the Minister of External Affairs

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1993 regarding Minister of Agriculture of Israel, H.E. Mr. Yaakov Tsur's call on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The Minister of Agriculture of Israel, H.E. Mr. Yaakov Tsur, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, at 11.30 AM today.

Just before this calls, the Israeli Agriculture Minister had signed the first ever agreement between India and Israel on cooperation in agriculture, with the Indian Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar.

The Israeli Agriculture Minister mentioned to Shri Dinesh Singh that already a joint venture had been finalised between two private sector parties for manufacture of irrigation equipment in Pune.

Both the Ministers had wide ranging discussions on agriculture and noted that
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there were various specific, promising areas of cooperation, such as drip and drop irrigation, dry land farming, aquaculture, floriculture and horticulture. They also discussed the possibility of both sides cooperating with each other for exporting agricultural products to third countries.

Shri Dinesh Singh, on the Middle-East peace process, mentioned that India fully supports it and expressed his hope for a successful conclusion.

The Israeli Minister of Agriculture also underlined that Israel fully and unambiguously supported India's stand on the Kashmir issue.

RAEL INDIA USA RUSSIA LATVIA

Date : Dec 24, 1993

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Release of Amanullah Khan in Belgium

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 30, 1993 regarding a query on the release of Amanullah Khan in Belgium:

In response to a query on the release of Amanullah Khan, the Official Spokesman stated that we had given comprehensive details of the case to the Belgian Government. This case was presented in the Court of appeal by a Belgian public prosecutor, as is there system, which is why we did not have our own counsel. The Belgian Justice Minister decided to refuse extradition and released him for what we believe are extraneous and political considerations. We, therefore, consider this decision regrettable.

LGIUM INDIA USA

Date : Dec 30, 1993

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Pakistan as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 07, 1993:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, left by a special aircraft for Islamabad today, as special envoy of the Prime Minister. Later this evening, he is expected to meet the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto and deliver to her an invitation from our Prime Minister to attend the 'Education For All' Summit, which is to be shortly held in New Delhi.

The Government of India had advance intimation that owing to certain preoccupations, the Prime Minister of Pakistan would not be able to attend this Summit but as a special gesture and to

contribute to the atmosphere of normalisation, the Prime Minister had decided to nevertheless send a special envoy to Islamabad to personally deliver his invitation to her.

The Prime Minister, it will be recalled, had earlier sent a special envoy to Bangladesh, although the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, had stated that she could not come for the summit owing to domestic preoccupations. Kumari Selja, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, had been sent to Bangladesh to deliver Prime Minister's invitation personally. This is in accordance with Prime Minister's wish that special courtesies should be extended to the heads of government of our neighbouring countries.

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KISTAN INDIA MALI BANGLADESH

Date : Dec 07, 1993