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Date: Jan 01, 1994

Volume No

ASEAN

Statement of the leader of the Indian Delegation, ForeignSecretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, at the ASEAN-India Joint SectoralCooperation Committee Meeting in Bali, 6-8 January, 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 07, 1994 on a statement of the leader of the Indian delegation Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit, at the Asean-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee Meeting in Bali:

Mr. Chairman, Dato Ajit Singh, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of pleasure and satisfaction for me and my delegation to participate in this first ASEAN-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee meeting in Bali. This most beautiful and enchanting island brings back memories of the close and mutually rewarding relations that India and the Sub-region of ASEAN have had in the past - a past that enriched both of us, gave substance to our mercantile exchanges and impacted on our cultural heritage. It is only fitting that the new and particular reationship that we are working towards should have its first substantial exchanges and understandings in Bali. We are particularly conscious that what we are embarking on today will signify a new and productive phase in our ties with the ASEAN. Geographical proximity, cultural affinity and a shared ethos have come together to define a distinct Asian personality for all of us and this effort at coming together of India and ASEAN, two sub-regions of Asia, is an affirmation of our recognition of a common destiny.

- 2. To us it appears natural that this process of intensifying economic cooperation between ASEAN and India should come at a time when the ASEAN itself has been moving towards intensified cooperation and greater consolidation as a regional entity. While our formal relationship with ASEAN as a regional grouping is only beginning, India's long standing, multi-faceted and substantial relationship with individual ASEAN countries provides a sound basis for a quantum leap in IndoASEAN relations. Another convergence which augurs well for our dialogue is the economic and trade liberalisation policies that India has been vigorously pursuing. In this, we are emulating the trade, technology and investment driven growth models so successfully demonstrated by the ASEAN countries. We are heartened that India is now emerging as an economic powerhouse, with the world's fifth largest economy.
- 3. Economic liberalisation in India has already succeeded in bringing economies of scale, quality competitiveness and an

accelerated movement towards integrating the economy into the global economy. Inflation has been brought down to midmanageable levels. The tariff structure is down from peaks of 350% to 85% and the average tariff is 65%. In the core sectors of the economy which will invigorate developmental and productive capacities, the tariff structures are even lower with an average of 30% to 37%. The intention is to bring tariffs down to the most competitive developing country levels. This almost naturally means that they should be down to ASEAN levels at the end of the next 2 to 3 years. A greater degree -1>

of harmonisation of trade and investment policies is a distinct and logical possibility between us. India is offering considerable incentives to attract private investments in infrastructure and strategic industrial areas. This provides ample opportunity for linkages to develop between ASEAN countries and India. In turn Indian investment regulations for Indian investors in third countries have been significantly liberalised. This includes automatically taking investment decisions and for investment capital in equity. This should encourage setting up of joint ventures. I would like to reaffirm here that the economic reforms process in India is truly irreversible and on course.

- 4. India's technological growth and capacity to undertake large projects on a quality and price competitive basis offers an opportunity that should also be seriously looked at. India's large and growing middle class that on a purchasing power parity basis is today conservatively put at over 150 million, offers a major market opportunity which is attracting a rapidly rising trend in foreign and domestic investment. The middle class is rising again on a conservative basis at 20 million per annum.
- 5. At the establishment of ASEAN-India Sectoral dialogue relations in New Delhi in March 1993 we made a good and practical beginning by focussing on specific areas of cooperation in regard to the themes of trade, investment and tourism as well as science and technology. At this meeting our attempt should be to develop these areas of cooperation further, establish institutional linkages between India and ASEAN in these areas and as required set up mechanisms to follow up and implement what has been agreed to.
- 6. Trade liberalisation and facilitation is central to the charter of ASEAN. We would like our dialogue to promote a mutually beneficial interface between that and India's own process of trade liberalisation. Identification of trade opportunities and complementarities, combined with trade facilitation and liberalisation would enormously increase the efficiency and market scale of our respective economies. This in turn could enable us to operate with strength in the global market place. Our trade must build on intar se, complementarities in respect of commodities, manufacturers and services that India

and ASEAN have or may develop. Our cooperation must of necessity, include standardisation and quality management as well as an active and special consideration in the participation in projects. The dialogue on trade would also encompass consultations as required on issues relating to the multilateral trading system and our place in it with a view to evolving shared perceptions of our common interest and joint action. This calls for regular and wide-ranging interaction between India and the ASEAN - at the governmental, business, academic and expert levels.

7. Investment is increasingly becoming a motive force behind trade as the economic actors and market forces gravitate toward technological innovation, cost reduction and market expansion, thereby enhancing their comparative advantages. There is considerable scope for building our collective comparative advantages in relation to the rest of the world through stimulation of investment flows, joint ventures and intraindustry trade. If I may digress a little, India is fast becoming a major destinations for foreign direct investment and capital market flows. When the economic reform process commenced foreign direct investment jumped from US dollars 72 million in 1990 to US dollars 230 million in 1991. In the 1992 this reached over dollar 1.5 billion approval in the first 11 months of 1993 have already crossed the dollar 3 billion mark. These figures relate to commitments on equity and do not take into account the loan capital factor which would be close to 1: 3.5. Since 1992 when we took the first steps to permit institutional investment in our capital markets, a significant trend in capital flows has emerged. In 1993 the number of foreign financial investment institutions registered has risen to over 300 and an inflow of US Dollars 1.0 billion

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has been achieved. This is understandable. India's market capitalisation is today at US Dollars 75 billion. This is more than four times the comparable figure for China. India has 22 stock markets which are attracting foreign portfolio investments. While talking of the Indian economy, which today stands poised to achieving a dramatic upturn and growth, I must, however, mention that the reforms and liberalisation process has further areas in which it has to advance. The process of rationalisation and a further deepening of the reforms is proceeding in a phased manner. Here we can certainly take a leaf out of the experience of the ASEAN countries. It is a matter of some satisfaction to see that in 1993 we have three ASEAN states among the first fifteen investing nations in India. This is a welcome trend, a beginning, which we would like to encourage.

8. Another area of our cooperation, tourism, is part trade and part investment but in fact tourism is much greater than the sum of its parts. It is about bringing together of peoples, of sensitizing one another about national specificities and cultural

heritages and yet, as the success stories of ASEAN in this area have shown, the realization of the full potential of this sector of the economy depends on effective and comprehensive modernisation of the services and technological infrastructure. We hope that our collaboration in this area will indeed lead to even greater tourism among our countries and a closer networking of our travel trade and hotel industry.

- 9. India-ASEAN cooperation in trade, investment and tourism requires a strong underpinning of cooperation in the area of science and technology. We are very happy that science and technology an important sector has now become a part of our dialogue. We would indeed work on the technologies of the future such as advanced materials, bio-technology and information technology, so as to give our cooperation that cutting edge that we need in today's world, to meet the challenges of accelerated growth and development. In addition to those three areas, we see potentialities in pooling resources and exchanging experiences in laser technology, robotics and fibre optics for our mutual benefit.
- 10. We are aware that in this enhanced economic interaction between India and the ASEAN, the governments are enabling factors and that the real actors are the entrepreneurs in our trade and industry. It is they who will have to translate what we decide here into concrete action. We are resolved to extend maximum cooperation to our entrepreneurs on both sides to meet frequently and as meaningfully as possible, as well as to provide all support to their endeavours. We hope that as a result of such constructive cooperation between the government and the private sector at one level and the entrepreneurs of India and the ASEAN at another level, we will bring about a major involvement of our countries in trade, investment, tourism and science & technology.
- 11. Finally, may I suggest that we view this new enterprise as one where we will bring to bear our national and regional development experiences and activats cooperation with the objective of enhancing our strengths and creating as well as responding to the new opportunities that an increasingly globalised world economy offers. If we do succeed in this marriage of the most dynamic growth region of the world, ASEAN and one of the largest markets of the world, India, we would be writing a new chapter in the history of Asian development.

DIA USA RUSSIA CHINA

Date: Jan 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

BRITAIN

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs meetsMr. Meacher MP, Labour Party of Britain

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1994 on a meeting between Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and Mr. Meacher, MP, Labour Party, Britain:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, briefed Mr. Meacher, MP, Labour Party, Britain, on India's efforts to resolve all issues with Pakistan through dialogue. The issues involved were complex but we were determined to persevere. He also explained to Mr. Meacher the nature and extent of problems faced by India with terrorism, particularly in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. He referred to our success in the Punjab in Curbing violence and in restoring normalcy. In Jammu & Kashmir our efforts to initiate the political process were hampered by the threat of terrorist violence aided and abetted from across the border. Mr. Meacher expressed understanding of India's concerns related to terrorism. He also referred to the excellent relations between the two countries in general and the traditional good relations between the Labour Party and India in particular.

DIA PAKISTAN

Date: Jan 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

ITALY

Italian Foreign Minister calls on the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1994 on Italian Foreign Minister, (H.E. Prof. Beniamino Andreatta's) call on the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao:

The visiting Italian Foreign Minister, H.E. Prof. Beniamino Andreatta, called on Prime Minister this evening. The Prime Minister noted that relations between India and Italy were already excellent, but hoped that the Italian Foreign Minister's visit would lead to a new impetus in specific initiatives and in promotion of cooperation overall.

The Italian Foreign Minister underlined the need for concentrating on an increasing economic cooperation, especially bilateral trade. The Prime Minister fully agreed with this view and, in addition, invited Italian investment in India, especially in infrastructure such as power, roads and transport, etc.

The Italian Foreign Minister also gave an account of developments in Europe, with special respect to Yugoslavia.

ALY INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Jan 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Official Visit of Mr. Abdul Rahman Ebrahim El Houti Chairman of the Public Authority for Assessment of Compensation, State of Kuwait

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1994 on the visit of H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahman Ebraaim El Houti, Chairman of the Public Authority for Assessment of compensation, State of Kuwait to India:

His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahman Ebrahim El Houti, Chairman of the Public Authority for Assessment of Compensation, State of Kuwait, paid an official and friendly 3-day visit to India from January 15 to 17, 1994. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the National Committee for the Missing Persons and Prisoners of War, the Martyrs' office, the Centre for Studies & Research and other officials from the Authority.

During the visit, the Kuwaiti dignitary called on the Prime Minister to deliver the letter from His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdulla Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Crown Prince & Prime Minister of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti delegation also met the Speaker (Lok Sabha) and the Deputy Chairman (Rajya Sabha). Plenary talks were held with the Indian side led by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

Both sides agreed to coordinate their efforts to obtain just compensation for the victims of the Gulf Crisis on the basis of the relevant UN Resolutions and UNCC Guidelines.

H.E. Mr. El-Houti extended an invitation for a visit to Kuwait by an Indian delegation to continue the exchange of views.

H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahman Ebrahim El Houti expressed the gratitude of the Government and of the people of Kuwait for the principled support extended by India in implementation of relevant United Nations Resolutions for ensuring peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Both sides agreed that the observance of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions was the best way to ensure peace in the Gulf region. They believed that the recognition by the Security Council of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait would contribute to the stabilisation of the situation in the Gulf region.

The Kuwaiti side welcomed the resumption of the bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan and expressed the hope that this would lead to resolution of all differences between the two sides.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady growth in bilateral relations in the last three years. In 1992-93, the bilateral trade crossed the Rs. 3000 crore mark, having grown three-fold over the last year's figure. The number of Indians in Kuwait has reached 150,000. The ongoing liberalisation of Indian economy has boosted the prospects for greater Kuwaiti investment and joint ventures in India. The two sides noted that a Kuwaiti multi-disciplinary team is to visit India shortly to identify sectors for long-term cooperation between the two countries. -5>

WAIT INDIA USA IRAQ PAKISTAN

Date: Jan 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Tourism visits Mauritius

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

on Jan 17, 1995 on the visit of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Tourism to Mauritius:

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Tourism, visited Mauritius from January 14 to 16, 1994, at the head of a high-powered delegation consisting of senior officials of the Department of Tourism, Air India and representatives of the Indian Travel & Hotel Industry. He called on Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth and briefed him on the steps taken by India to promote tourism. He offered to assist Mauritius in the field of airport construction & management, including hotel management. Mr. Jugnauth welcomed the offer and expressed hope that there would be closer cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism. He also urged Shri Azad to consider extension of flight services from Mauritius to India and some promotional measures to increase tourist traffic between the two countries. Shri Azad agreed to consider these measures at the forthcoming Indo-Mauritian Joint Economic Commission meeting.

Shri Azad also had a meeting with Mr. Lee Cheong-Lem, the Mauritian Minister of Tourism to discuss ways and means for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. The meeting was followed by an audio-visual show entitled, "Images of India", before a select audiences of 250 people. Promotional brochures and tourist literature on India were distributed at the show.

URITIUS USA INDIA

Date: Jan 17, 1995

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Statement by Minister of External Affairs at the Closing Session of Indo-Mauritian Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 28, 1994 on the statement by Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs at the closing session of the Seventh Session of Indo-Mauritian Joint Commission on 28th January, 1994:

Your Excellency Dr. Nababsing, distinguished members of the Mauritian delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the close of the Seventh Session of the Indo-Mauritian Joint Commission. It is apt that we look at what has

been achieved.

In this Joint Commission we have perhaps, even more than in the past tried to respond positively to what Your Excllency described as your preoccupation with technological transformation - which ultimately is the single most important criterion and requirement for development. We have pledged our resources -technical, human and financial - in the services of the people of Mauritius with whom we have profound affinities. The Commission also marks the maturing of our relationship in tune with our changing development strategies and economic progress. On one hand there is a far greater involvement of the private sector and nongovernmental organisations in our common endeavour. On the other there is, as you have rightly pointed out, an affirmation of what development cooperation should be - a positive sum equation and a spur

to the opening up of new trade and investment opportunities.

That our cooperation is all embracing and touches upon so many aspects of direct interest to and impact on our peoples is axiomatic and is borne out by the range of technical projects that have been agreed to. We have made a new beginning in cooperation in agriculture and irrigation with the launching of a key irrigation project and the signing of the Agricultural Work Plan. We have taken upon two socially oriented projects one for the disabled and other for the visually impaired and seek to use NGOs in this effort. A significant step has been taken in setting up science and technological infrastructure in Mauritius with the pledging of equipment and expertise for the Rajiv Gandhi National Science Centre and the ground work for setting up a Science Research and Development Park in the University of Mauritius.

There is a major commitment towards providing vocational training and employment generation and to contribute to what you referred, Excellency, as the renewal and upgradation of your industry, particularly in the frontier areas of technology through our involvement in the upgradation of the Upadhyaya Trade Training Centre.

Our coopperation in education stands reinforced through the work set out for the proposed Complex of Archives, National Library and Documentation on Culture.

Excellency, these are but some important aspects of the gamut of issues we have covered in the realm of technical assistance. I am confident that as in the past, our foot soldiers of technical assistance - Indian experts in your country and Mauritian trainees in India will, no doubt, give substance to and carry forward our quest for fruitful interaction and development.

We have had a very useful interface on ways and means of

expanding our bilateral trade and investment to its full potential. Our discussions on other issues of cooperation such as civil aviation, tourism, avoidance of double taxation have been in an accommodative spirit. We have undertaken to exchange views on the Indian Ocean Rim Community idea in the light of the global trend towards regionalisation.

Excellency, in the tradition to which you in Mauritius and we in India are heirs, cooperation is the very embodiment of spiritual fulfilment. As our poet, philosopher Sri Aurobindo put it I have learned a close identity with all Carrying in me the universe's call I have wrapped the wide-world in my wider self And time and space my spirits seeming are

Excellency, India and Mauritius have traversed time and space to renew our close identities and in cooperating, agreed to transcend the boundaries of limiting consciousness.

Thank you.

URITIUS USA INDIA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Inauguration of Workshops on Climate Change by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of State for Environment and Forests

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 21, 1995 on the inauguration of Workshop on Climate Change by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of State for Environment:

The Minister of State for Envirronment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has

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said that the countries responsible for damage to the atmosphere due to their excessive emissions have to take the major financial burden of preventing the further damage. He said, the responsibility is in direct proportion to the contribution of each country to the harmful gases, and to the technological and financial means at their disposal.

Shri Kamal Nath was inaugurating here today a three-day workshop on "Joint Implementation of Abatement Commitments Under The

Framework Convention on Climate Change", organised by the Tata Energy Research Institute and Centre for International Climate and Energy Research, Oslo (CICERO) Norway.

Shri Kamal Nath pointed out the unsustainable lifestyles of the people in rich countries compared to those in the South countries who live sustainably create "Global Disbenefit". He regretted that the Cost-Benefit Analysis is being used to distract attention from the real issue. He said "we cannot allow legalistic wrangling to side-track the fundamental issue of international equity. Sustainable development globally is unachieveable without the removal of obstruction to equitable relations between and within nations."

Drawing attention to the dangerous proportions of Global Warming resulting from Climate Change due to excessive gas emissions, Shri Kamal Nath quoted a UN Report which says that the World faces a 3 degree centigrade rise in average temperature within the next century. To contain this atleast 70 per cent cut in human generated carbon-dioxide and other green house gases will have to be effected.

The Minister underscored that in the span of a single human generation, the earth's life-sustaining environment is now expected to change more rapidly than it has in any comparable period of human history.

He said, the bulk of the earlier C02 build-up is on account of industrial countries, which are even today the largest sources of gaseous emissions. In spite of this, in spirt of global cooperation, the developing countries, who have done little or nothing to create the problem, entered into negotiations and a large number of them, including India, signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the Earth Summit in 1992. It has now received the required number of ratifications and the Convention is expected to come into force on the March 21, 1994.

Shri Kamal Nath regretted that though the Convention gives great importance to the enhancing of carbon sinks but the issue has been pushed to the background. He said, we would be losing 3 years on this count as the forests are scheduled to be discussed by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development only in 1995.

A PERU INDIA NORWAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 21, 1995

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Italian Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Mnistry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 03, 1994 on the visit of Italian Foreign Minister Prof. Beniamino Andreatta to India:

Italian Foreign Minister Prof. Beniamino Andreatta is visiting New Delhi -8>

- (3-4 January, 1994). He is accompanied by the Secretary General of the Italian Foreign Office, Ambassador Salleo and other senior officials. This morning, he held talks with External Affairs Minister. He also met Finance Minister and called on the President. Minister of State (RLB) hosted a lunch in his honour. Mr. Andreatta is to call on Prime Minister tomorrow.
- 2. During the Italian Foreign Minister's meeting with External Affairs Minister, the two Ministers expressed satisfaction at the excellent relations existing between the two countries in both the political and the economic spheres. They noted that the two countries had similar perceptions of developments on the world scene. It was agreed that the two countries should intensify contacts at the highest level of their Foreign Offices. Views were exchanged on steps to increase bilateral economic relations. Italy is to participate in IETF 1995 as partner country.
- 3. External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Andreatta on steps taken by India to seek a peaceful and bilateral solution to all problems with Pakistan. He also referred to prospects for SAARC cooperation.
- 4. Views were exchanged on the situation in Central Asian Republics. The Italian Foreign Minister welcomed India's growing relations and cooperation with the countries of this important region as a factor of stability.
- 5. The two Ministers welcomed the recently concluded Cooperation Agreement and Joint Political Statement between India and the European Union, underlining the desire of both sides to intensify relations on both economic and political fronts.
- 6. Views were also exchanged on UN reforms, in particular expansion of the UNSC which is supported by both countries. Finally, views were also exchanged on UN peacekeeping operations with particular reference to Somalia.
- 7. In Mr. Andreatta's meeting with Finance Minister, views were

exchanged on the economic situation in both countries. Foreign Minister briefed Mr. Andreatta on India's economic reform programme and looked forward to the increased involvement of Italian business and industry in the Indian market taking full advantage of the new opportunities for investment and joint ventures. It was agreed that steps should be taken to intensify contacts between businessmen and disseminate greater information regarding the opportunities that had opened up.

DIA ITALY PAKISTAN MALI SOMALIA USA

Date: Jan 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Office Consultation between India and Italy

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi On Jan 04, 1994 on Foreign Office Consultations between India and Italy:

Foreign Office consultations between India and Italy took place today in New Delhi with the two delegations being led by Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs on our side and Secretary General of the Italian Foreign Office, Ambassador Ferdinando Salleo. The talks lasted for about 2 1/2 hours. There was an in-depth review of all bilateral relations. Both sides underlined the need to intensify efforts substantially to boost relations through greater economic interaction. It was noted that this process would get a further impetus through large scale Italian participation in the Indian Engineering Trade Fair of 1995.

Both sides agreed that it was important to have regular bilateral consultations which should be more and more institutionalised. -9>

They also discussed numerous regional and international issues, including India-Pakistan talks, Afghanistan, Central Asia, European security issues, UN reforms, the dangers posed through terrorism, and regional organisations such as NAFTA and APEC.

There was a considerable identity of views, concerns and interests on most issues.

The visiting Italian Foreign Minister, H.E. Prof. Beniamino Andreatta, would be calling on Prime Minister this evening.

DIA ITALY USA AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN

Date: Jan 04, 1994

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Query on a PTI Story on the US President's Letter to the Headof the Kashmir American Council

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1994 on a query on a PTI story on the US President's letter to the Head of the Kashmir-American Council:

In response to a query on a PTI story on the US President, Bill Clinton's letter to the Head of the Kashmir-American Council, the official spokesman stated that we have seen the PTI report. We trust that when the US President referred to respect for human rights, it was in the context of gross violation of human rights by militants and terrorists aided and abetted from outside India. We entirely share the growing global interest on the strict observance of human rights and we are committed to strengthening the institutions relevant to the upholding of human rights in India.

A INDIA

Date: Jan 06, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Head of the UAE Delegation to the Joint Commission - calls onthe 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 Jan 06, 1994 on a call on our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh by the leader of the UAE delegation to the joint commission talks, Mohd. Khaleefa Al-Suwaidi:

While briefing newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the leader of the United Arab Emirates delegation to the Indo-UAE Joint Commission talks, Mohd. Khaleefa Al-Suwaidi, called on the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, today. In the course of the meeting, he agreed that terrorism was a menace and a criminal action. He said that the conclusion of an extradition treaty would help in controlling this menace. Mr. Al-Suwaidi expressed satisfaction at the recommencement of the Indo-Pakistan dialogue and it was their hope that this would continue with patience and flexibility.

Mr. Dinesh Singh noted that substantial decisions had been arrived at the Joint Commission meeting and said that India would pursue the various specific initiatives vigorously.

Mr. Al-Suwaidi mentioned that the UAE looked forward to our Prime Minister's visit there.

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ITED ARAB EMIRATES INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Jan 06, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Queries on The Pakistan Foreign Minister's Statementabout possibility of nuclear war between India and Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1995 in response to queries on the Pakistan Foreign Minister's statement about the possibility of nuclear war between India and Pakistan:

In response to queries on the Pakistan Foreign Minister's statement about the possibility of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan the Official Spokesman stated that he had no formal comment to make at this time. Our Government's stand was crystal clear. He recalled the contents of our Prime Minister's letter to the Pak Prime Minister as the definitive statement underlining

our readiness to address issues through bilateral dialogue.

KISTAN INDIA

Date: Jan 11, 1995

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Development in Afghanistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1994 on developments in Afghanistan:

We are deeply concerned at the recent events in Afghanistan which have resulted in heavy loss of life and destruction.

The international community and the countries of the region in particular should urgently address the political and security situation in Afghanistan and undertake a renewed search for peace and stability in that country. India which strongly supports the unity, integrity and independence of Afghanistan will be willing to contribute to any such initiative.

GHANISTAN INDIA

Date: Jan 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Joint US-Russian Moscow Declaration on Non-Proliferation

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 15, 1994 on the Joint US-Russian Moscow Declaration on Non-Proliferation:

The Government of India takes note of the Russia-US joint declaration on nuclear issues made at Moscow on January 14th and particularly of those elements in the declaration appealing to countries in the South Asian region to further the cause of Non-Proliferation through different suggested steps.

India perceives that the basic orientation of the declaration and its appeal echoes the objectives emphasised and outlined by India at the Special Session on Disarmament of the UN in 1989 and the views expressed by Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao on the subject at the Special Security Council Summit in January, 1992, India views the suggestions in the Declaration in the context of its deep and abiding commitment to general and complete disarmament specially nuclear disarmament. India believes that the objectives of comprehensive test ban, initially controlling the production and dis--11>

semination of missile material and ultimately banning its production should be pursued expeditiously within a specific time frame applicable to all members of the international community. It is with this purpose in view that India pursues confidence building measures with its neighbours and has participated in a series of bilateral discussions with different countries. It is India's expectation that those efforts would further the cause we have in view.

As for the suggestion that the nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty should be extended indefinitely and unconditionally in its present form, India's view that the Treaty in its present form is discriminatory is well known. Hence there is need to alter NPT on non-discriminatory lines, taking into account international developments over the last three decades and the imperative necessity for general and complete disarmament to end all weapons of mass destruction.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date: Jan 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Second round of bilateral talks on nuclear and disarmamentissues between India and Japan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 17, 1994 on the second round of bilateral talks on nuclear and disarmament issues between India and Japan:

The second round of bilateral talks on nuclear and disarmament issues between India and Japan took place a Tokyo on January 17, 1994.

- 2. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dilip Lahiri, Joint Secretary of the Asia Pacific Division of MEA and included Mr. Rakesh Sood, Director of the Disarmament and International Security Division and officials of the Indian Mission at Tokyo. The Japanese delegation was led by Mr. Yukio Takeuchi, Deputy Director General of the Asian Affairs Bureau and Mr. Yoshitaka Kawamura, Deputy Director General of Arms Control and Scientific Affairs of the Japanese Foreign Office and other experts.
- 3. The talks were held pursuant to an understanding between the Indian and Japanese Prime Ministers during the former's visit to Japan in June 1992. The first meeting was held in Delhi in March 1993.
- 4. The discussions took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and covered the policies of the two governments on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the security environments surrounding the two countries, regional approaches to non-proliferation, global non-proliferation regimes and export control regimes.
- 5. The Indian side urged Japan to take concrete steps to take advantage of the opportunity in 1995 for removing the discriminatory nature of the NPT and moving towards a time bound programme for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. It expressed the conviction that progress towards genuine nonproliferation would only be possible within such a framework. In this context, the Indian delegation urged Japan, as the only country to have suffered the consequences of a nuclear attack to reconsider its abstention on the Indian initiative at the UN for a convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Indian delegation welcomed the Japanese support for the resolutions at the last UN General Assembly consponsored, inter-alia, by India and the US, on the early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty and an universal non-discriminatory convention on a cut-off in the production of fissile material for weapons purposes with effective international verification. The two sides agreed to work together on these matters.
- 6. The two sides agreed to meet again during 1994 to continue their dialogue on this sub'ject.

Date: Jan 17, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

International Appeal issued by Uzbekistan Government for Assistance to Alleviate the Crisis in the Social Sector

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 18, 1994 on an international appeal issued by Uzbekistan Government for assistance to alleviate the social sector:

Uzbekistan Government had issued an international appeal for assistance to alleviate the crisis in the social sector due to break-up of the Soviet Union and the difficulties in the current transition phase which Uzbekistan is passing through at present. An international conference on Urgent Human Needs in Uzbekistan took place on 12th & 13th of January 1994 in Tashkent at which the Indian Government made a commitment for the assistance of US \$ 500,000, equivalent in Indian Rupees. Part of the pledged amount is usable for ecological rehabilitation of the Aral Sea region, experiencing enormous difficulties on account of the drying up of the Aral Sea. The areas for assistance include medical supplies, employment generation & rural water supply; the details are to be finalised through mutual discussions.

It may be recalled that India has already supplied medicines and medical equipment worth Rs. 40 lakhs for Aral Sea relief, that was committed by our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, during his visit in May 1993.

The latest pledge was made as a mark of India's sincere desire to stand by Uzbekistan at a time when that country needs assistance from her international friends.

BEKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Jan 18, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Submission of Two Non-Papers by the Pakistan Foreign Office toour Ambassador in Islamabad

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1994 on submission of two non-papers by the Pakistan Foreign Office to our Ambassador in Islamabad:

Our High Commissioner in Islamabad was called to the Pakistan Foreign Office yesterday and handed over two Non-Papers titled "Modalities for the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir" and "Measures required to create a propitious climate for peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and other issues." We have studied the contents of these Pakistani Non-Papers.

India categorically states once again that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of Inndia. The question or the need for conducting any plebiscite in any part of India including in the State of Jammu and Kashmir simply does not arise. The people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir have exercised their democratic rights repeatedly as people in other parts of India, unlike the case in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and what Pakistan has labelled as 'Northern Areas'.

During the recently concluded Foreign Secretary level talks at Islamabad Pakistan had raised certain pre-conditions for continuation of further India-Pakistan talks. Pakistan through its Non-Papers has only restated these pre-conditions. We regret that Pakistan is attempting through this propaganda exercise to obfuscate the realities of the situation in J & K. There is a climate of violence in which the people of J & K have had to live through in the recent period. This violence is being generated by militants and foreign mercenaries who have been trained and equipped on Pakistani soil and who have infiltrated -13>

into India with the connivance and active support of Pakistan, with the sole objective of eroding the territorial integrity and political stability of India. We have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to desist from sponsoring trans-border terrorism which contravenes the very basic norms of inter-State conduct and good neighbourly relations.

Government have the will and a commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to counter the violence generated by militants with external support. While the Government's endeavour continues to be to provide full opportunities for the people of J & K to exercise their democratic rights and no efforts which could lead to this process is out of consideration, we will not spare any effort to oppose any moves directed against the country's unity

and territorial integrity. Pakistan should not have any doubt whatsoever on this score.

The level of security forces deployed in J & K corresponds to the level of violence created by the militants. Cross border terrorism is a major concern of the Government and a hurdle in India-Pakistan relations.

While our reaction to the proposals contained in the Pakistani Non-Papers is as stated above, India reiterates its readiness to discuss with Pakistan all issues pertaining to the bilateral relations in accordance with the commitments and mutual obligations of the two countries envisaged under the Simla Agreement.

KISTAN INDIA PERU USA

Date: Jan 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Calls by Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar on the Minister of External Affairs 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 Jan 20, 1994 on the call by Foreign Minister of Myanmar on our External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar, H.E. U. Nyunt Swe called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today evening. They discussed ways and means to strengthen relationship between the two countries for mutual benefit. Both Ministers also took note of the agreements to be signed tomorrow which will assist in this process. They also discussed some regional issues.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar expressed satisfaction at the delegation-level talks, which had been held in a very cordial atmosphere and were successful.

DIA USA

Date: Jan 20, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call by Secretary-General by SAARC, H.E. Yadav Kant Silwal onthe 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 Jan 20, 1994 on the call by Secretary General of SAARC, H.E. Yadav Kant Silwal, on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Secretary General of SAARC, H.E. Yadav Kant Silwal, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. External Affairs Minister stated that India remained strongly committed to SAARC. He assured the Secretary General of -14>

India's full cooperation and support. He mentioned that the Secretary General has always played a very useful and catalytic note in the development of SAARC and the programmes under SAARC. In this context, he emphasized that the SAPTA would need a good deal of attention of the Secretary General in order to make this operational at the earliest.

The Secretary General expressed his thanks to Shri Dinesh Singh for his expression of India's support & cooperation. He paid tribute to India's constructive role in SAARC. He said that even though SAARC was a relatively new organisation it was moving ahead steadily & surely in the right direction.

DIA USA

Date: Jan 20, 1994

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Grand Mufti of Syria and our 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 Jan 20, 1995 on the meeting between The Grand Mufti of Syria and our External Affairs Minister:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that The Grand Mufti in his meeting with the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, mentioned that he was a Sufi and noted that the fore-fathers of all the Sufis in the world came from India. He mentioned that he greatly valued India's principled stand on Palestine and hoped that India would continue its support. He said that there should be a greater involvement of India in the West Asia Peace Process, which is now nearing completion. He also referred to the very active cooperation between Syria & India on a whole range of issues and especially in the Non-Aligned Movement and also in the overall process of decolonisation. Our External Affairs Minister confirmed that India's policy with regard to the Middle-East & Palestine continued undiluted and this would remain the case.

RIA INDIA

Date: Jan 20, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar 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 Jan 21, 1994 on the visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar, H.E. U Nyunt Swe. (January 19-24, 1994):

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that H.E. U Nyunt Swe, Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar is on an official visit to India from January 19 to 24, 1994, at the invitation of our Foreign Secretary, Shri J. N. Dixit. This is part of our ongoing consultations between the two foreign offices which began in August 1992, with the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Delegation from Myanmar. Shri Dixit led an Inter-Ministerial Delegation to Yangon in March 1993.

The Dy. Foreign Minister is accompanied by an eight-member Inter-Ministerial Delegation. He met the External Affairs Minister, the Commerce Minister and the Ministers of State in the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence and Commerce.

Wide-ranging delegation-level talks were held on 20th & 21st January, 1994. Issues of mutual interest, bilateral as well as region were discussed. The main focus of interest of both sides was on expanding trade & economic relations for which both sides felt there is a tremendous potential. Discussions were marked by warmth and the consciousness of the importance of Indo-Myanmar relations for regional peace & stability. The outcome was a substantial

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understanding of each other's position on a number of issues and especially shared desire to step up bilateral contacts.

A Border Trade Agreement was signed between the Commerce Secretary, Shri Tejinder Khanna, on our side and Myanmar's Director General for Trade, Lt. Gen. Kyaw Nyunt. This will become operative once internal procedures are completed in both countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between civilian border authorities was also signed by Shri N. N. Vohra, Home Secretary on our side, and Ambassador of Myanmar to India, H.E. Mr. Wynn Lwin, on their side. This Memorandum is aimed at increasing people-to-people and civilian links on both sides of the border with the intention that greater confidence and understanding would develop, thereby encouraging peace and tranquillity along our long common border.

The visit represents the continuing and sincere endeavours by the two countries to improve and strengthen their bilateral relations particularly in the sphere of trade and commerce without allowing extraneous obstacles to mar their growth.

DIA USA BURMA

Date: Jan 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

President Clinton's letter to US Congressman Gary Condit aboutPunjab

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 23, 1994 regarding press report regarding President Clinton's letter to US congressman Gary Condit about Punjab:

We have seen the reports in the press regarding President Clinton's letter to US Congressman Gary Condit about Punjab. The full text of the letter has also been obtained by us from our Embassy.

This letter comes in the wake of a series of negative pronouncements, from India's point of veiw, by U.S. authorities, on such issues as Kashmir, human rights and Punjab.

Our Ambassador to the U.S. has been asked to express our concern on this matter to the U.S. authorities, and convey our objections to such views. While we await the U.S. Government's reactions, the Government of India wishes to make certain things abundantly clear.

First, the situation in the Punjab today is indeed peaceful. We reject any statement that speaks of a 'solution that protects sikh rights'. A solution has indeed been attained in Punjab by the people of Punjab by democratic means, where the rights of all Indians including sikhs are protected under the law, regardless of their religion.

Secondly, Indian's commitment to human rights and democracy is axiomatic to India's existence. We do not accept external prescriptions in this regard.

Thirdly, India's endeavour is to evolve a multi-faceted, friendly and cooperative relationship with the U.S., as we value our interaction with the U.S. for mutual benefit, and peace and stability in our region.

In this context, it is to be noted that official pronouncements and communications by the U.S. Government, including at the highest level, of the kind earlier referred to in this statement, cannot but have a negative impact on our bilateral relaions. We hope the U.S., as another democracy, will value India's policy of secularism and democracy, and make more positive moves in the context of our relations.

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A INDIA

Date: Jan 23, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting between Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and Singapore's Prime Minister, H.E.Mr. Goh Chok Tong

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1994 on the meeting between our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, and Singapore's Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Goh Chok Tong, and the delegation-level talks:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that H.E. Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, arrived in New Delhi on the evening of 23rd January, 1994, on an official visit to India. A ceremonious welcome was given this morning. He will be the Chief Guest during this year's Republic Day Celebrations. The Prime Minister, Mr. Goh has brought with him a high level delegation which includes Prof. S. Jayakumar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister for Trade and Industry, apart from senior officials as well as a 36 member business delegation who have a separate active programme.

Today, the two Prime Ministers met separately and immediately thereafter they led the two sides for the delegation level talks.

In the one on one meeting, they discussed mainly regional issues and overall prospects of economic cooperation. Our Prime Minister mentioned in an assessment of the development's in the subcontinent, the problems that India faced with regard to Pakistan, particularly, that country's aiding and abetting terrorism. He mentioned that we were open for dialogue and wanted good neighbourly relations. He referred to the Simla Agreement and India's desire to get a bilateral dialogue going under this Agreement. The Singapore Prime Minister also gave an assessment of APEC and the APEC Seattle Summit.

At the delegation level talks. our Prime Minister mentioned that India had embarked on an economic reform programme over the last 2 1/2 years. This had progressed successfully and attracted world attention. In this context, India desired to forge closer links with ASEAN countries, an important group which is close to us geographically. There are already numerous examples of successful projects including joint ventures. The Prime Minister of Singapore said that this visit was of great importance to them. Being a guest at Republic Day was an honour not just for him but for Singapore as a nation. He was gratified to note that India's focus of interest was turning towards the East also as India integrated its economy with the world economy. He referred to the Indo-Asean sectoral dialogue and said that the ambit of this should be extended in the future.

The two delegations also discussed regional issues including the

role of major economies in Asia, such as Japan, China and India and other developments, such as APEC. Specific areas of cooperation between India and Singapore that were discussed, include priority areas such as tourism, warehousing for exports, telecommunications, financial services and infrastructure. Both Prime Ministers agreed that experts and officials on both sides should take steps to draw up concrete programmes quickly. The role of the private sector was stressed.

There were three Agreements signed immediately after the talks. The first was on Avoidance of Double Taxation, which was signed by Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on our side, and Prof. S. Jayakumar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on their side. A Surface Transport Agreement was signed by Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler, on our side and Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister

for Trade and Industry, on Singapore's side. The third Agreement on Tourism was signed, on our side, by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, and Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister for Trade and Industry, on their side.

At the corporate level, a Strategic Framework for Cooperation was signed between the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Singapore Manufacturers' Association (SMA).

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA PAKISTAN CHINA JAPAN RUSSIA

Date: Jan 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Statement regarding rejection by Pakistan of India's PeaceProposals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1994 on statement of the Pakistan Foreign Secretary regarding the reported rejection by Pakistan of India's proposals:

In response to a query, the External Affairs Spokesman said that the Government had indeed noticed the statement of the Pakistani Foreign Secretary as reported in the press, regarding the reported rejection by Pakistan of India's proposals, which included a draft agreement on the maintenance of peace and

tranquillity on the Line of Control. This is the final proof if any were needed, that there is no truth in Pakistan's claim that it only provides moral, diplomatic and political support to separatists and terrorists in Kashmir. If Pakistan genuinely wanted peace and a dialogue, then there could be no objection to such a proposal, which is also a proposal without prejudice to the claims of either side.

While we have not yet received any formal response from Pakistan to the six proposals sent by India, if the press reports are correct, then it is clear that Pakistan's refusal to discuss this or other confidencebuilding measures gives the lie to their claim that they are not supporting terrorists on Indian soil Indeed, this is an acknowledgement by them that they would continue to try and send infiltrators and mercenaries in Kashmir and continue to support terrorist activities, as they have been doing, with finance, arms and training.

KISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Jan 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Indo-Singapore Agreement on Tourism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1994 on Indo-Singapore agreement on Tourism:

India and Singapore signed here today an Agreement on Tourism which envisages, among other things, the exploring of possibilities of joint-ventures in various tourism sectors.

The Agreement was signed by Shri Ghulam Nabi Abad, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation on behalf of -18>

India and by Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister for Trade and Industry, on behalf of Singapore.

Under the Agreement, the two countries have agreed to exchange information on tourism industries and tourism development projects and facilitate import and export of materials and documents for publicity on tourism, free from customs duties. India and Singapore too have agreed to encourage generation of

reciprocal tourism and to examine the possibilities of exchanging professionals for tourism training. The two countries will form a working-group consisting of members of private industry with the aim of achieving the goals of the agreement.

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA

Date: Jan 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshidvisits four countries of Southern Africa

The following is the text of a press statement issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1994 on the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid to four countries of Southern Africa:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid visited four countries of Southern Africa from January 11-24, 1994, namely, South Africa (Durban), Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana. He was accompanied by OSD (Africa), Mrs. Chokila Iyer, and Mr. A. Ramesh, Director (Economic Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs. A small business delegation also accompanied Minister of State (SK) during the visit.

SOUTH AFRICA

2. During his visit to Durban from January 12-14, 1994 Minister of State was warmly received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa Mr. R. Schoeman. Minister of State had meetings with leaders of all the major parties across the political spectrum of South Africa, including National Party (NP), African National Congress (ANC), Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Natal Indian Congress (NIC) etc. The meetings helped to strengthen existing ties and to establish new links with the various parties at a time when the country's historic first ever all racial elections are only three months away. In a keynote address at a large gathering of community leaders of the ethnic Indian population of the port city of Durban at a function to mark Swami Vivekananda's birthday, Minister of State stressed the relevance of the messages of Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi particularly in the current historical context in SA and hoped that reconciliation between different parties would result in a peaceful transition to a truly democratic SA. Minister of State

also met members of the business community of Durban and expressed confidence that economic relations between the two countries would grow.

MOZAMBIQUE

3. Minister of State (SK) arrived in Mozambique on January 14 and met Mozambican Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mme. Salome Molane. Discussions focussed on the peace process in Mozambique and India's assistance in the forthcoming multiparty elections this year, and in the task of national reconstruction thereafter. Minister of State stressed the need for the creation of a -19>

Joint Business Council between the two countries to tap and maximise benefits from the prevailing business climate in the two countries characterised by economic liberalisation and emphasis on market economy and free enterprise. He also offered the "food for work" model prepared by India for Kenya under ITEC Scheme which could be of considerable relevance to Mozambique as well. Minister of State (SK) handed over three ambulences manufactured by Tata as donation by India to Mozambique. The Mozambican side expressed appreciation for the gift and suggested that India could help provide training in health care and rehabilitation of hospitals destroyed during the long civil war. It was also felt that Indian firms could look at Mozambique as a place to manufacture drugs and pharmaceuticals for Mozambican market as well as the markets of the Southern African Region.

- 4. Minister of State visited and addressed the Indian contingent attached with ONUMOZ. He expressed appreciation on behalf of Indian Government and people for the significant role being played by them in the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations in Mozambique. He expressed hope that their contribution would generate goodwill and friendship for India in Mozambique and enhance India's international prestige. He found the troops in high spirits.
- 5. He also addressed Bharat Samaj Ved Mandir, a prominent Indian Community Association in Maputo.

ZIMBABWE

6. Minister of State reached Harare on January 16 to warm welcome. He met Acting President Dr. Joshua Nkomo, Foreign Minister Dr. N. Shamuyarira, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Mr. Simon Moyo, Minister of State for Finance Dr. Masiah and Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Water Development Mr. K. N. Kangai. Recalling the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, the talks focussed on bilateral ties as well as on the international situation particularly in the context of the recent developments in Southern Africa. The need for regular and periodical

consultations between the two countries was stressed. Recalling President Mugabe's visit to India last month (December 13-15, 1993), the Zimbabwean side expressed interest in intensified cooperation with India in the field of small scale industries. The Indian side expressed willingness to offer increased training facilities under ITEC to Zimbabwean nominees in the small scale sector and also in setting up projects in Zimbabwe in this field. The importance of participation in each other's trade fairs and greater interaction between the respective business communities and chambers of commerce was stressed to take advantage of economic liberalisation measures in both the countries with a view to setting up joint ventures. Tatas are trying to set up a vehicle assembly unit in Zimbabwe. Indo-Zimbabwean trade in 1992-93 stood at around Rs. 370 million (Indian exports Rs. 93 millionn and imports Rs. 277 million). The Zimbabwean side sought India's assistance in setting up projects in the agricultural and allied sectors.

7. Minister of State also visited model communal farm and a grain-storage facilities complex.

BOTSWANA

- 8. Minister of State visited Botswana in the last leg of his tour (January 19-21). He met Mr. F. G. Mogae, Vice President of Botswana, Mrs. G K T Chiepe, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. P M K Kedikilwe, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- 9. At various meetings the talks focussed on ways and means to strengthen and diversify bilateral relations between the two countries. The possibilities of expansion in trade and the setting up of joint ventures were also discussed. The level of India-Botswana trade is extremely low constituting less than 0.1% of Botswana's international trade (In 1992-93 India's ex-20>

ports were Rs. 250.35 lakhs, imports negligible): mainly due to the tariff protection the South African goods enjoy. It is expected that with the restoration of shipping links to South Africa the situation on our export front will improve. India is trying to negotiate trade agreement with Botswana which would help reduce tariff barriers. Botswana is a mineral rich country with per capital income of around US \$ 2600 and growth rate of 13% per annum.

- 10. Minister of State (SK)'s discussions with the Botswana Vice President focussed on matters of bilateral interest and on Southern African Development Community (SADC), since the Vice President is also the Chairman of its Council of Ministers.
- 11. He also met Mr. Peter M. Musi, Chairman of the Ruling Botswana Democratic Party and Dr. Kaire M. Buende, Executive Secretary of Southen African Development Community (SADC). They

discussed matters of regional interest.

- 12. Minister of State (SK) made a presentation of 40 books on the Muslim Heritage of India to the Botswana Muslim Association President Mr. A. S. Dada, a leading businessmen and the Deputy Treasurer General of the Ruling Botswana Democratic Party.
- 13. Minister of State (SK) also visited the north-western city of Maun, which is ecologically sensitive area critically affected by the drought of 1992.

CONCLUSION

14. Overall, the tour was successful as it helped establish and renew contacts with the leadership of four important countries of the Southern African region. South Africa in the post-apartheir era is poised to play a dynamic role in the Southern African region. A million-strong Indian ethnic community there provides a strong and continuing link with India. Mozambique has emerged from the throes of civil war and is gradually settling down to prepare for elections under UN supervision. It looks forward to Indian experience in the task of national reconstruction and rehabilitation. Zimbabwean and Indian experiences in economic reforms provide good opportunity for diversifying bilateral ties and to build on the wealth of goodwill which exists between the two countries. Botswana provides one of the rare examples of a stable, multi-party democratic polity with one of the strongest economies in Africa. Opportunities for further economic cooperation can be explored. Further, these countries are members of one or the other regional organisations such as the SADC, SACU, PTA etc. (SA to join soon), we can strengthen our links with these organisations as well.

UTH AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE ZIMBABWE BOTSWANA USA INDIA TOTO PERU KENYA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

UGANDA

Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs leads a 3-member delegation to Uganda

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 21, 1994 on the visit of a 3-member delegation led by Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External

Affairs to Uganda:

Shri Salman Haidar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, led a -21>

three-member delegation to Uganda from 17-19 January, 1994, for the first meeting of the Indo-Uganda Joint Committee for economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation. The Ugandan Delegation was led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. The Second Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda inaugurated the meeting. The two delegations reviewed the existing bilateral relations and considered several proposals to strengthen these relations in a multi-faceted manner, and several decisions were arrived at between the two delegations.

The two sides emphasized the importance of enhanced cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries. In this context, it was agreed that the setting up of the Joint Business Council should be expedited. Indian assistance for various projects was discussed including the setting up of a Phosphate Fertiliser Project in Eastern Uganda, development of a minihydroelectric project and manufacture of bicycles. It was mentioned that Tata Exports Limited will be expanding their services in Uganda. The Indian side agreed to examine Ugandan request for construction of ferry boats. Indian technical expertise for exploring the development of iron ore, mining and production of steel in Uganda could also be made available.

India agreed to extend training facilities for Ugandan nationals under ITEC Scheme. The number of slots for technical training under SCAAP for Uganda for the year 1994-95 will be doubled from 25 to 50. Ugandan nominees will be trained in dance, drama and music under the ICCR scholarship scheme. India agreed to provide assistance for a tourism school in Uganda and training and equipment for sports. Four agricultural scientists from Uganda will be deputed to visit IARI.

The next meeting of the Indo-Uganda Joint Committee is scheduled to take place in India in 1955.

ANDA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Jan 21, 1994

Volume No

UKRAINE

India donates medicines worth Rs. 50 lakhs to Ukraine

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1994 on donation of medicines worth Rs. 50 lakhs by India to Ukraine:

Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs today handed over to H.E. Mr. Georgiy I. Khodorovskiy, Ambassador of Ukraine to India, a consignment of medicines worth Rs. 50 lakhs being donated by the Government of India for children in Ukraine affected by the Chernobyl accident. The medicines being supplied are Histalong Jr., Norilet-P, Ibuclin Jr., Nospa tablets and Insulin Actrupid.

This gesture reflects the goodwill and friendship that characterises relations between India and Ukraine as well as India's continuing efforts to help mitigate the adverse impact of the Chernobyl accident.

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RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date: Jan 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The 7th Meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission held in NewDelhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 06, 1994 on the 7th meeting of Indo-UAE Joint Commission:

The 7th meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from January 4-6, 1994.

Shri K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and H.E. Mr. Mohammed Khalifa bin Yousef Al-Suwaidi, Director, Dept. of Economic Relations and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the respective delegations.

During his stay in Delhi Mr. Al Suwaidi called on the External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh and the Ministers of State for

External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia and Shri Salman Khursheed.

It was noted with appreciation that bilateral cooperation and exchanges have broadened and intensified after the State visit to India in 1992 of His Highness Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

With reference to the invitation from His Highness President Shaikh Zayed to Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao to pay an official visit to the UAE, the Joint Commission expressed the hope that this visit would materialise in 1994.

The Joint Commission discussed a wide range of issues relating to investment, trade, economic and industrial cooperation, justice, security, consular and man-power matters and interaction in the areas of water resources, power generation, agriculture, fisheries, post and telecommunications, banking, education & information and media exchanges.

An Agreement to counter trafficking in Narcotic drugs and the Cultural Exchange Programme for 1994-96 were signed by the two sides. The Narcotics Agreement, which provides for exchange of information and other cooperation between the designated agencies of the two sides, is the first which India has signed with any Arab country. The Cultural Exchange Programme comprises a specific action plan for cooperation in the fields of education, including higher education, art, culture, tourism, information, mass-media and sports.

Technical discussions were held and considerable headway was made on a bilateral Treaty dealing with extradition as well as other aspects of judicial cooperation. These discussions will be continued at the expert level in the Abu Dhabi at an early date. Both sides expressed interest in concluding a bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Guarantee Agreement.

Economic and commercial cooperation between India and UAE has increased significantly. Two-way trade has increased by 17% and India's exports to UAE have increased by 65% during April-September, 1993 as compared to the same period of 1992. India's exports to the UAE are estimated to touch US \$ 1 billion during 1993.

In terms of country-wise approvals for foreign direct investment in India the UAE was in the 5th position in 1993. The Abu Dhabi Investment Auhority has been registered as a Foreign Institutional Investor by the SEBI. There is interest in emerging investment opportunities in India, particularly in the petrochemical, tourism and portfolio management sectors. There are ongoing discussions between IOC and the UAE International Petroleum Investment

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Company (IPIC) regarding UAE investment in an oil refinery in India. During the Joint Commission meeting the UAE side indicated that it would like a feasibility study to be done on supply of bauxite from India for an alumina project which is under serious consideration in the UAE.

So far as the hospital-cum-hotel project is concerned the leader of the UAE delegation will visit Bombay after the conclusion of the Joint Commission meeting to inspect the various sites offered and facilities available for this project.

India will be organising an exclusive "India" exhibition in Dubai in September 1994. In addition, visits are planned this year by delegations from the Federal Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the UAE and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to India and by delegations from ASSOCHAM and FICCI to the UAE.

New areas for cooperation were identified during the Joint Commission meeting in the fields of electricity, water resources and agriculture. The UAE side showed interest in procuring from India spare-parts for steam and gas turbines and in deputation of personnel for supervision of the maintenance of their power projects. Discussions in this regard were held with the Ministry of Power. BHEL, NTPC, and Powergrid Corporation of India would be responding to these requests in the near future.

The UAE Minister of Agriculture is to pay a visit to India this year. It was agreed that both sides would work towards the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding providing for a work plan of cooperation in the agriculture sector which could be signed during this visit.

Since the last meeting of the Joint Commission, telecommunication rates have been reduced and telecommunication links have been strengthened between India and GCC countries in general and UAE in particular. It was agreed that in respect of postal services the two services would jointly conduct a quality of service exercise to identify and eliminate bottle-necks.

Consular and man-power questions were discussed in detail along with specific cases which require resolution. The UAE side expressed willingness to consider these matters sympathetically. It was agreed that the institutional cooperation which had developed satisfactorily between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries would be further strengthened.

The Eighth meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in Abu Dhabi in the middle of 1994 at mutually convenient dates. -24>

Date: Jan 06, 1994

February

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ECH REPUBLIC INDIA USA PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND MONGOLIA CHINA FRANCE

Date: Feb 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao calls on the Presidentof Czech Republic, H.E. Vaclav Havel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1994 on a call by our Prime Minister on the President of the Czech Republic:

Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao called on the President of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Vaclav Havel, today at Rashtrapati Bhawan. During the course of his discussions, the Prime Minister greatly appreciated what President Havel had said during his speech at the Investiture Ceremony earlier in the day.

The two leaders discussed the possibilities of cooperation between India and the Czech Republic in several areas with the Prime Minister emphasising that India was particularly interested in infrastructural development. They also felt the need for the business communities of both countries to interact more frequently, and towards this end the Prime Minister has proposed the visit of an Indian business delegation to Prague later in the year. President Havel and Prime Minister Rao also discussed the role and relevance of the United Nations. The Prime Minister stressed India's commitment to the United Nations and its democratisation.

The Czech President extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit the Czech Republic which has been accepted with pleasure.

ECH REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date: Feb 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

CZECH REPUBLIC

Banquet Speech by the President of India Dr. Shankar DayalSharma in honour of the President of Czech Republic, H.E. VaclavHavel and Madame Havlova

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1994 at the banquet in honour of the Czech Republic His Excellency Mr. Vaclav Havel and Madame Havlova by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma said:

Your Excellency President Havel, Madame Havlova. Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Presidnt of the Czech Republic and his wife on their first State visit of India.

Relations between our two countries are historical, going back to the medieval ages when the Kingdom of Bohemia traded with India in precious stones. In recent times, our two nations have established a substantial and many-cided relationship. Undivided Czechoslovakia was India's leading trade partner in Central-East Europe. Politically, we have always been appreciative and understanding of each others concerns. Our relationship in the field of Science and Technology has been characterized by active exchanges. Economic cooperation has also been an important segment of our bilateral ties.

Cultural interaction represents the most enduring aspect of relationships between different peoples. It is a matter of gratification for us that with the Czech Republic, this dates back to more than a century. The interest in Indian languages, philosophy, religion and culture in your country, Excellency, is a testimony to the

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desire of your people to reach out to a fellow nation which, though separated by distance, shares its basic values and beliefs. The history of our joint intellectual endeavours boast of names such as Rabindra Nath Tagore and Vincene Lesny. It is for us to nurture and strengthen this great tradition.

While it is natural that we should strive to expand the content of our bilateral ties, the extraordinary changes which have taken place in your region have forged a new common bond. We in India highly value the democratic, pluralistic way of life. The tradition of tolerance and openness of mind has been a historical strand in the evolution of Indian society. Ours is a society of extraordinary diversity, bound together by a shared history, the concept of a common civilisation and above all a tradition of reconciling and synthesising different views and positions. Such a country as ours naturally welcomes the advancement of pluralist democracy in any other part of the world, and the more so, when the change from a authoritarian to a democratic way of life takes place through democratic means, without violence or bloodshed. The "Velvet" revolution of your country, Mr. President, under your inspiring leadership, has renewed our firm conviction that truth and justice must ultimately prevail irrespective of the obstacles and difficulties in their path.

Excellency, you have recognised in your writings that hope, when lost, must be sought within oneself and the people around one. You have always rejected dogma and narrow doctrines. Your activities, both intellectual and political, reflect your belief that "Truth is guaranteed only by the full weight of humanity behind it". You have personified the philosophical basis for the changes which culminated in the establishment of democracy in your region. As proponents of non-alignment, non-violence, and human rights, we recognise the significance that your message carries as a basic underpinning of our common quest for a just and equitable international order, both political and economic.

I am confident that the discussions and exchanges of views which Your Excellency will conduct during your visit would prove to the productive and valuable. Your visit will no doubt further strengthen the close and abiding ties between our two countries.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, I invite you to rise in a toast:

- to the health of His Excellency President Havel and Madame Havlova,
- to friendship between the people of India and the Czech Republic.

ECH REPUBLIC INDIA USA NORWAY SLOVAKIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

CZECH REPUBLIC

Address by the President Czech Republic, H.E. Vaclav Havel atthe StateBanquet given by the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1994, by Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic at the State banquet given by His Excellency Shanker Dayal Sharma President of the Republic of India, and Shrimati Vimala Sharma:

Mr. President, Madame Sharma, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a great honour for me to step on the soil of India, a country with an ancient civilization, as the first President of the Czech Republic, a nation whose present state form is young yet, but whose traditions go a thousand years back.

I have always felt a profound esteem for the manifold ways in which the Indian civilization has been reaching out to us from the depth of the Vedic times, to convey its message of humanity through the works of countless geniuses of spirit and generations of the people of India.

"Na tam vidatha, ya ima jajana - <pg-26>

You do not know the creator of these worlds", says the Sanskrit text of Rgvedah, one of the first hymns of the human race.

Despite the barriers, geographical or spiritual, which were long keeping the various centres of culture separated, so that they had to develop apart from one another, the essence of the human spirit has always remained the same. Nowadays, toward the end of the twentieth century, the development of all civilizations of the world which, while gradually bringing them closer to each other, also gave them the means for destroying themselves, has reached a new historical phase. A phase of global coexistence and mutual inspiration.

Czech indology, whose foundations were laid by Professors Lesny and Pertold, played a very important role in advancing knowledge

of India's civilization and culture in Europe. The fruits of that effort have been valued throughout the western hemisphere. The Czech population is well informed of the intellectual and cultural heritage of Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as of Islam.

My fellow citizens have a high regard for the sense of responsibility for the fate of the world which is characteristic of Indian humanism. Many a time, they have applied the same principle in their own actions.

Our nation has not forgotten the attitude taken by Shri Rabindranath Tagore and Shri Mahatma Gandhi who openly warned against the danger of Fascism on the eve of World War II, at the time when the ominous Munich agreement was concluded. The legacy of Shri Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest minds of humankind, especially his consistent commitment to the principle of making non-violence the means of political resistance, has become a source of inspiration for those who were trying to find ways of removing undemocratic regimes. That was the case in my country too.

The foreign policy pursued by India as a recognized international authority and a prominent representative of the nonaligned countries, under the leadership of personages such as Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, played an important stabilizing role throughout the existence of the bipolar world in those moments when world peace was at stake, and has won universal esteem because of that. Now that the former unnatural world order has collapsed, the role of India in world politics may be more important still.

With the disintegration of the Communist system came also some adverse developments. After the masses were confronted with freedom and democracy, some, in many places, turned to nationalism, separatism, violence or ethnic cleansing.

I am proud to be able to present to you the Czech Republic as a stable democratic state with a rapidly advancing market economy. India - a country with an immense economic potential - is to us a much appreciated partner. Our relations combine past tradition with a great promise as we are seeking to develop still further our long-standing channels of cooperation not only in the cultural field but in economy as well.

Already in the pre-World War II Czechoslovak Republic, our indology helped establish a solid basis for our economic contacts with India. Bala, Skoda and ofher companies were among the best known pioneers of our cooperation then.

It is my hope that this State Visit will be instrumental in strengthening and intensifying the links between us with a view to a further advancement of our relationship. The contacts for the engagement of our companies on the construction of the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline and a number of new joint projects bear witness to my country's lasting reputation as a trustworthy partner for India.

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Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

Tomorrow I shall have the honour of receiving the Indira Gandhi Prize. To my mind, this award is meant to remind us of the ethical principles advocated by Shri Mahatma Gandhi, the global peace efforts pursued by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the principles for which they gave their lives, and from which courageous people in my country drew strength in their non-violent resistance against the Communist totalitarian rule.

I am confident that as new global ties and partnership are being built, India, with its spiritual wealth, can help bring into the world of technocratic and market-oriented pragmatism the so much needed elements of humanity, ethics and spirit.

It is in the spirit of these words that I propose a toast to your good health, Mr. President, to the good health of Shrimati Vimala Sharma and all those present here tonight, as well as to the cooperation between the peoples of our countries.

ECH REPUBLIC INDIA USA GERMANY NORWAY

Date: Feb 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Amnesty International

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, 1994 on a query on newspaper reports about an alleged change of policy on the part of GOI regarding Amnesty International:

In response to a query on newspaper reports about an alleged change of policy on the part of Government of India regarding Amnesty International, the official spokesman clarified that there was no change in Government's policy on this issue. It will be recalled that the Ministry of Home Affairs' statement of 19

July, '93 had mentioned that "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."

In the last few months pursuant to this decision, Amnesty International has, in fact, already visited Bombay and has also been told that it can visit Punjab. Discussions with them and others continue. Visits to different parts of the country, including to the state of Jammu & Kashmir, will, indeed, be decided on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the State Governments concerned. There is, thus, no basis for some newspaper reports which mention inter-ministerial differences.

DIA USA

Date: Feb 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Shri Dinesh Singh Meets the Foreign Ministers of the EuropeanUnion Troika

The following is the text of a press statement issued in New Delhi on Feb 09, 1994 on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the European Union Troika:

The 7th round of the India-European Union Troika dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers was held in Brussels on 8th February 1994. The meeting of the External Affairs Minister with the European Union Troika was the first held after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty under which the European Union has been established with a Common Foreign and Security Policy as one of its

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pillars. It was also the first meeting since the signing of the new Indo-EC Cooperation Agreement for Partnership and Development in December 1993. The dialogue between the two sides reflects the high priority attached to intensification of political relations which was formalised in the Joint Political Statement issued on December 20, 1993.

2. The European Union is India's leading economic partner in trade, investment, technology transfer and joint collaborations.

It accounts for almost one-third of India's external trade. During 1993, investment approvals from European Union countries to India totalled roughly US \$ 500 million or about 18 per cent of the total. The European Commission as well as individual European Union countries have also been providing considerable developmental assistance to India.

- 3. The Foreign Minister level dialogue provides the political framework for the enhancement of all aspects of India's multifaceted relations with the European Union. The participants at the talks on the European Union side were: Mr. T. Pangalos, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs from Greece, representing European Union Presidency Mr. Willy Claes, Minister of Foreign Affairs from Belgium; Ms. Ursula Seiler-Albring, Minister of State in the German Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Hans Van Den Broek, EC Commissioner for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers were assisted by their respective Directors General for Political Affairs and the Director General of the Council Secretariat dealing with Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- 4. The External Affairs Minister was assisted by the Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan, India's Ambassador to EC, Shri A. N. Ram, and other officials.
- 5. The Ministerial level talks were preceded by talks at the official level between India's Foreign Secretary and the Directors General for Political Affairs of the EU Troika countries.
- 6. The agenda for the talks covered a wide canvas including:
- 1. European Union Progress and Perspectives
- 2. European Security Issues
- 3. South Asia Regional Issues
- 4. Indo-EU political and economic relations; Follow-up action on Joint Statement on Political Dialogue
- 5. Indo-EU cooperation in areas of terrorism, drug trafficking and consular issues
- 6. Multilateral issues including UN reforms and Non-proliferation.
- 7. External Affairs Minister welcomed the opportunity for enhancing interaction with the European Union just as it was developing a distinct political profile. He stressed that Inda's secular and democratic traditions, its stabilising role in the region, its vast economic potential and the new opportunities for enhancing economic relations offered by India's economic reforms provide the basis for a longterm partnership between India and

the European Union. The European Union Foreign Ministers highlighted the importance of India as a dialogue partner and the need for extending the dialogue further. They also welcomed and expressed support for India's economic reform programme.

8. EAM spelt out India's priorities today which lie in strengthening secular democracy and accelerating economic reforms with full respect for human rights. In this context EAM referred to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in India. He outlined India's commitment to developing harmonious and good neighbourly relations with all countries in South Asia. He referred to India's offer of comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan and hoped the EU would call on Pakistan to desist from instigation of cpg-29>

terrorist activity in J&K. Details of India's proposals to Pakistan for resolution of outstanding issues and confidence building measures were provided to the EU Foreign Ministers. EAM referred to India's commitment to reviving the democratic process in Kashmir and urged that Pakistan's attempts to misuse the human rights issue for political ends, particularly at the UNCHR in Geneva should not be encouraged. EAM also noted that Pakistan's human rights record was poor and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan had itself issued a derogatory report on the human rights situation in the country.

- 9. The EU Foreign Ministers welcomed resumption of Foreign Secretary level dialogue with Pakistan and urged the two countries to create conditions to make this effective.
- 10. The Troika welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commission which addressed concerns over human rights. They noted that concerns over human rights were widely shared in international community and no country, including those in Europe, is free from human rights problems. They hoped a political process would be initiated in Kashmir.
- 11. The EC Commissioner for Foreign Affairs expressed the hope that India's economic reform programme and deregulation would be extended. He stressed that a great deal had been achieved between the EU and India, and India could, in future, play a major role in world trade. He highlighted the importance of the Cooperation Agreement for Partnership and Development between India and the EU which symbolises an upgraded relationship. EAM confirmed that Indian economic reforms would be carried forward and are fully supported by public opinion in the country.

He called on EU to increase support for India's structural reforms, provide better market access and enhance economic cooperation.

12. The EU side spelt out their perspectives on the progress of

the Union and its security architecture. EAM said India was following these developments with close attention. The EU Troika conveyed European perspectives on the Partnership for Peace and the evolution of the Western European Union.

13. Views were also exchanged on UN reforms and UNSC expansion. EAM conveyed our view that UNSC expansion should be undertaken on the basis of agreed criteria and should take into account the aspirations of developing countries. As provided for under the Indo-EU Political Statement, the two sides also agreed to promote cooperation and dialogue on terrorism and drug trafficking.

DIA BELGIUM USA MALI GREECE PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Mr. M. H. Ansari, Permanent Representative of India to UnitedNations, New York got elected President of the UNDP and UNFPA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1994 on the election of Permanent Representative of India to United Nations New York as president of UNDP and UNFPA:

Indian has become the President of the UNDP.

It may be recalled that in response to a call for revitalisation and restructuring of the UN system for more optimal functioning, it had been decided at the 48th General Assembly (Resolution 48/162) to reduce the size of the governing bodies of the executing agencies. The existing bodies were reconstituted into smaller Executive Boards for which fresh elections of member states were held on a regional basis.

India won both the elections to the UNDP-UNFPA (which as of now has a combined Board) and to the UNICEF. India had polled the maximum votes among the Asian candidates in the UNDP-UNFPA elections. The candidature of Mr. Ansari for the Presidency of the UNDP-UNFPA was endorsed by agreement in the Asian Group. He will be assisted by four Vice-Presidents elected from the four other regional groups (Africa, East Europe, Latin America and the West European and other Group).

India has played an active role in the UNDP in which she is both a recipient as well as a limited-donor country. The Indicative Planning figures for India for the fifth 4-year cycle ending 1996 averages around \$ 40 million annually and her contribution is around \$ 6 million. The new UNDP Administrator Gus Speth had recently visited India in Jan-Feb 1994 to witness first-hand the active programme content in the country.

DIA USA

Date: Feb 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

India's Stand on the Resolution to be tabled by Pakistan on the UN HumanRights Commission on Jammu & Kashmir

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1994 on India's stand on the resolution to be tabled by Pakistan on the UN Human Rights Commission on Jammu & Kashmir:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid briefed the Ambassadors of member - countries of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, who are based in Delhi, today in Vigyan Bhawan, on India's stand on the Resolution sought to be tabled by Pakistan on the UN Human Rights Commission on Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister stated that a country like Pakistan, with its own imperfect human righs record ably documented by the Pakistan Human Rights Commission, could have no locus standi on moving the Resolution.

The very fact that Jammu & Kashmir was being referred to in the

Pakistani Draft Resolution as a separate entity clearly showed that Pakistan's intention in moving the Resolution was not any genuine concern for human rights. Rather Pakistan was interested in creating the impression among the international community that Jammu & Kashmir was not an integral part of India. The Minister categorically rejected the Pakistani moves in this regard. He said that Jammu & Kashmir was an integral part of India, and also a symbol of India as a democratic, secular nation.

The Minister informed the Ambassadors that India was always ready to have a dialogue with Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement. In this context, India had conveyed six proposals to Pakistan on outstanding issues, in the hope that agreement on these issues would create an atmosphere of confidence between the two countries. India had no intention to bypass discussing its dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir in the context of the Shimla Agreement. The Government of India was disappointed that there had been no formal

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response as yet from the Government of Pakistan to the Indian proposals.

The Minister informed the Ambassadors that India was committed to human rights, and that this is not a principle which the Government of India had 'discovered' in the 1990s. The debates preceding the adoption of Constitution of India showed that India had a traditional commitment to human rights, which went back to the early years of its Independence and was rooted in its freedom struggle.

Referring to the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister conveyed to the Ambassadors that Government of India was committed to resolving the problems in the state through a revival of the political process. However, it was difficult for the political process to be revived unless the threat to public figures and normal life in Jammu & Kashmir from militants, added and abetted by Pakistan was stopped. The peaceful resolution of the Hazratbal episode, where India's judicial system had played a unique role in safeguarding human rights, had acted as an eyeopener to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. It established the bonandes of the Indian system in tackling such difficult issues while upholding human rights. Government of India had constituted a core-group of Ministers, chaired by the Home Minister, and established a Special Unit in the Ministry of External Affairs, to deal with the current situation in Jammu & Kashmir, where the unemployed youth had been malignantly and ruthlessly exploited by Pakistan to create violence and terror in the state. The Minister said that the effort of the Government of India was to create greater transparency regarding the actual situation in Jammu & Kashmir. Apart from the visit of the International Commission of Jurists and the Ambassadors of the European Union Troika, visits by a delegation of the International Red Cross and of other

Ambassadors were also being processed. There were no restrictions on the visits of journalists and individuals to Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, Government of India did not see any logic behind Pakistan's efforts to ask the UNHRC to appoint a fact fiding mission in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Ambassador of Germany, who visited Jammu & Kashmir as a Member of the European Troika, stated for the benefit of his colleagues present at the meeting that his delegation had been able to meet whoever they wanted in Jammu & Kashmir without restrictions.

The Minister thanked the Ambassador of Germany for confirming the fact that there were no restrictions on bonafids visitors interested in visiting to Jammu & Kashmir to see the situation there.

DIA PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND USA MALI GERMANY

Date: Feb 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

First Right of Reply Exercised by Dr. Farooq Abdullah at 50thSession of UNHRC at Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on first right of reply exercised by Dr. Farooq Abdullah at 50th session of UNHCR, at Geneva:

We have heard the Prime Minister of Pakistan talking about Azadi, Azadi means freedom. One third of my state is under the occupation of Pakistan and the Northern territories are governed by a resident commissioner appointed by Islamabad. Let them tell us where is the freedom in that part of my state and then tell us what azadi means. At the same time she was very candid and mentioned about human rights violations. Well I would like to also hear a point about the human rights violation that are going on in their country. What about Ahmadyas? They are muslims, they recite the same Quran that 1 do and all other muslims do. Why is it that their mosques are burnt, their schools are closed, they are tortured day in and day out, and on <pp-32>

top of it these very Ahmadyas are living in other countries as refugees. Not only this, what about the Shias, who are in

Pakistan, facing torture everyday. What about the minorities, how about the temples that they have burnt last year when there was trouble in India. Is it not true that India has the second largest muslim population after Indonesia.

Is it not true that you have trained our boys and sent them back to murder and to rape. Is it not true that you have given them weapons and taught them to burn our schools and still you say that you have not supported terrorism in India. You want Kashmir at the point of a gun. You have tried in the past, you have waged three wars, and now their ministers are threatening a fourth war. They first denied that they have a nuclear weapon and now they say they are using nuclear technology for betterment of human beings. If making at atomic bomb is for improvement of human being then God help you and God help us.

But at the same time I say, you go on threatening us with war but we will still come and tell you we would like to talk, we would like to talk across the table not by your force, not by the nuclear bombs that you have, but by the fact that we have before you. We have been a part of India, Kashmir has been a part of India for all these years, and will remain in fact a part of India

Whatever you may do, your people whom you have sent have done all damage that they could do. You not only trained our Kashmiris, you also trained Arabs. Its a fact. What happened in Egypt, what happened in Algeria? And God help the next Arab nation which is going to face this Trojan horse.

What we want is peace, peace with dignity, peace with honour. You talk of the UN resolution. Who is to be blamed about UN resolution not being accepted.

Is it not true, that UN resolutions said to Pakistan that their troops have to vacate aggression, that you have to leave, all your division have to leave Kashmir, also those whom you had sent across the border, those Kabalis, then only can the second step be taken. Did you take the first step?

Were you not the one who signed Simla Agreement which said all bilateral issues we shall discuss across the table and we will not take them to international fora. But you have not left a single international fora where you do not shout of Kashmir.

You destroyed us you destroyed our peace. You destroyed our industry; we had a thriving tourism industry, today what do we have? Those poor boatmen languishing and waiting for some tourist to come. What about those millions of Hindus and Muslims who had to leave their homes, for the boys whom you sent in, burnt their homes just because they would not go to Pakistan and they will not think of Pakistan. Did you spare them? Those are the people who are now suffering in tented colonies in Jammu, in Delhi and

other places. Waiting for the day when they would get back to their homes. And let me assure this house that Insha Allah before the year is out we will restore peace back and we will bring those people who are in those tents back to their homes safely away from your guns and away from your torture.

I again want you to know, we want to sit peacefully with you, we want to develop, we want to get on, we want the poverty to go, the disease to go, we want hunger to go. That will not be prevented by you. We will continue to succeed in doing our efforts, but we want you to know you will not succeed in Kashmir you will not succeed in these fora by lies that you perpetuate here, by telling them of the violations that we are doing in our part of the world. You are responsible for it and you must accept the responsibility firmly. Thank you.

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ITZERLAND INDIA PAKISTAN USA INDONESIA EGYPT ALGERIA

Date: Feb 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Second Right of Reply by Dr. Farooq Abdullah

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Second right of reply exercised by Dr. Farooq Abdulla at 50th session of UNHCR, at Geneva:

Chairman,

Very nice of the representative from Pakistan to have missed my points whereas he blamed me for having missed his Prime Minister's points. He never mentioned anything about the Azadi of the Kashmir they are holding.

Talking about the accession of Kashmir, let me remind him that Pakistan never waited for the accession of Kashmir. When the two dominions came into existence, India and Pakistan, it was then accepted by the British Government that when accession takes place of the States where the King is Hindu but the majority population is different, it will be the people's decision which will be taken as to which dominion they will join. And our great representatives of Pakistan at that time knew that Sheikh Abdullah, the Leader of those people, would never accede to

Pakistan. I am sure he knows that Qaid e Azam sent his men to ask him to join the dominion but he refused. So they never waited, they sent in the tribesmen, followed by their army and that is history.

That is about accession, they knew fully well that it is not going to happen and they waited till 1989 and 1990 to do what they are doing in Kashmir. Pakistan denies any involvement in terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, they denied it in 1947 and again in 1965 but it is well known now, documented by Pakistanis themselves, including Gen Akbar Khan and Gen Gulhasan that Pakistan masterminded these terrorist actions followed by military attacks. Going therefore by their track record, Pakistan's assertion of innocence rings hollow.

Also I have a repoort here from the Task force on Terrorism and Unconventional warfare of the House Republican Research committee of US House of Representatives. I quote "for insurgency in Indian Kashmir, the Pakistani training and support infrastructure is crucial and altogether some 20,000 young Kashmiris were trained and all armed by Pakistanis in recent years. And virtually all of the activities of the Islamic groups, short of recruitment, are carried out in the Pakistani Kashmir. Logistic support primarily weapons and ammunition is bought from Pakistan. Training organisation, propa ganda and indoctrination are carried out in the safety of Pakistani sanctuaries."

The call for the fact-finding mission to Jammu & Kashmir is unwarranted because J & K open, like any part of India, and anyone can go there including diplomats, journalists and foreign tourists. In the last one year over a 100 foreign journalists have visited J & K, not to speak of nearly 10,000 foreigners who go there annually, and not including countless Indian NGOs and media personalities. Therefore I would like to mention here to the Pakistani delegate himself and through him to his Prime Minister "for God sake, talk of peace now". Let us develop, let us bring ourselves out of poverty, out of misery. In Kashmir I have villages that still do not have clean drinking water, that do not have power, that do not have roads, that do not have hospital facilities. I beg of them. Stop this terrorism before it destroys them and destroys us. I beg of you, all of you who are here, for God sake, tell them enough is enough, let us call it a day. Thank you.

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DIA SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN USA CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 16, 1994

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Right of Reply Exercised by Dr. Farooq Abdullah

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 04, 1994 on the right of reply exercised by Pakistan in response to right of reply exercised by Dr. Farooq Abdullah:

The Indian delegate has asked very specific questions and I shall answer them one by one. Firstly, he has asked why we are talking only about Muslims. Plebiscite makes no distinction about religion or ethnic origin. It applies to the entire state and all of the people of J&K will have the right to say whether they want to join India or Pakistan.

Secondly, whether plebiscite will cover Azad Kashmir also. Yes, indeed it will cover both Indian held Kashmir and Azad Kashmir.

Whether Pakistan no longer wishes to proceed with the Simla Agreement. We want to proceed with the Simla Agreement. We have waited for 20 years to finally have the first round of talks under the Simla Agreement. These were unsatisfactory talks and they took place along with the worsening situation in Kashmir with incidents in Sopore etc. where large number of people were killed.

Finally, as to the references to Pakistani aggression and interference the Indian delegate had quoted a retired Pakistani General. Why should we ask Aslam Beg or any other person. Let us send a factfinding mission or a Special Rapporteur. They will come and tell us if these things are happening. It is no point repeating them over and over again. Thank you.

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Feb 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Summary of the Finance Minister's Press Conference on Feb 03, 1994at Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 4, 1994 on Finance Minister's press conference on February 3, 1994 at Geneva:

Dr. Manmohan Singh at the outset stated that the speech he had just delivered at the 50th Session of the Commission on Human Rights highlighted India's deep and abiding commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. Today there was a great threat to the democratic and secular fabric of India as a result of terrorist activities aided and abetted from abroad. The world community should note that interference in the internal affairs of democratic states posed a serious danger to the peaceful evolution of the world. India was suffering from the onslaught of terrorism. In dealing with this phenomenon, there may be aberrations. India had no desire to put them under the carpet. However, India's democratic traditions and institutions provided a credible mechanism to deal with all such aberrations. India had set up a high powered human rights commission which was being presided over by the former Chief Justice of India and other legal luminaries. Moreover, there was an independent judiciary. Special measures had to be taken to cope with terrorist activities. However, it has been ensured that credible legal remedies are available to all, including the use of 'habeas corpus'.

2. It was most unfortunate that the distinguished Prime Minister of Pakistan for whom we have great respect and regard had misused the august forum of the Human Rights Commission to convey a wholly erroneous view of the state of affairs in the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir. It was his hope that this forum would not be used to politicist Human Rights issues, but in utter violation of such norms the Pakistan Prime Minister had unleashed a totally unwarranted, one sided -35>

and false tirade against India. With a view to setting the record straight, he had been constrained to issue the press statement which had just been circulated.

3. In response to a question by Thomas Abraham of the 'Hindu' whether Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's request for independent observrs along the Line of Control was reasonable, Dr. Singh pointed out that terrorist activity in J&K was clearly aided and abetted from abroad. This was well documented in several reports including the one from the U.S. Congress that he quoted in his statement circulated at the Press conference in the day. The request for independent observers did not make sense as a better course would be for both countries to enter into a bilateral dialogue to see that the Line of Control was not crossed by unauthorised persons. In fact, among the package of proposals, India had recently conveyed to Pakistan, one proposal related to maintenance of peace and transquility along the Line of Control. Pakistan's response to it was an indication of its

lack of seriousness in the matter. The Simla Agreement provided the ideal framework for peaceful resolution of all differences bilaterally. In violation of it, Pakistan was now using force and was also seeking to internationalise the problem. The issue can be resolved only through meaningful bilateral negotiations.

- 4. In response to a question relating to the further basis of negotiations in view of charges and counter-charges being traded between the two countries, Dr. Singh stated that there was already a basis in the Simla Agreement which both countries had signed, for dialogue and normalisation of relations. Pakistan in the last 45 years had thrice taken recourse to war. In last 4 years, it had used terrorism as a technique to fracture and damage India's democratic set up. A meaningful and peaceful resolution of problems demanded the adoption of a step by step approach to build an atmosphere of mutual confidence and hope. Accordingly, India had recently conveyed six proposals relating to confidence-building measures which also included resolving the long standing Siachen Glacier dispute. Another proposal envisaged an agreement whereby both sides eschewed use of nuclear capability to attack each other's economic and civilian centres. J&K was just a symptom. Normalisation could take place on the entire gamut of the economic, cultural and other relations between the two countries. A Joint Commission was established for this purpose for the first time in 1983 and the last time it met was in 1989. This process should be revived in order to expand people-to-people contacts. In this regard he mentioned that there was close affinity between the two peoples. India had no aggressive designs. In fact it wanted to normalise trade relations with Pakistan but it was Pakistan which in violation of GATT was placing resrictions on trade with India.
- 5. Chitra Subramaniam of 'Indian Express' asked whether he agreed that the proposals, sent by India to Pakistan were a photocopy of the earlier proposals and whether the recent talks had failed. Dr. Singh replied that we recognise the domestic compulsions under which the Prime Minister of Pakistan had to operate but there was no alternative to negotiations. The problem could not be resolved by war as had been proved in 1947 and 1965. To negotiate was the only feasible option.
- 6. In response to a question whether India would accept a special rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission for J & K, Dr. Singh stated that we did not envisage a role for a special rapporteur in J & K, Recently there had been a visit by ICU to J & K and a visit by the ICRC was also being considered.
- 7. In response to a question about plebiscite in Kashmir, the Dr. Singh stated that it was a well recognised fact that plebiscite could not be undertaken as the aggressor had still not withdrawn from an area of J & K which it had illegally occupied. Till today it had not done so. Moreover, a part of J & K illegally occupied by it is ruled directly by a resident commissioner from Islamabad

and no elections have ever been held there. -36>

- 8. In response to a question whether a new war between India and Pakistan was likely, Dr. Singh responded that he sincerely hoped that there would not be any further war. The wars in 1948 and 1965 did not settle the Kashmir issue. The right approach would be to resolve all differences bilaterally as envisaged in the Simla Agreement.
- 9. In response to another question whether India would permit international mediation in J & K, Dr. Singh pointed out that there was no role for international mediation on this issue. There was an agreed mechanism under the Simla Agreement which had not been exhausted. No outside mediation was threfore needed.
- 10. In response to a question whether television crews could be allowed in J & K as mentioned in the Pak Prime Minister's statement, Dr. Singh stated that we had to proceed cautiously in this matter. Relating our own experience in Punjab, he pointed out that an obscure and lay preacher had become a big menace and the larer than life image that he had come to acquire was largely a creation of the media. As a result he developed illusions of grandeur and the prosperous state of Punjab went through a gruesome period of terrorism which now fortunately, was over. It was this aspect that worried us. India was, however, an open society and was waging a grim struggle against a group of terrorists aided and abetted from abroad.
- 11. In a response to a question by Chitra Subramaniam on his reaction about recent statements emanating from Washington, Dr. Singh stated that these were confusing. We hoped for a mature understanding of the problem of South Asia on the part of U.S. administration and hopefully wiser counsels would prevail.
- 12. In response to a questiton whether India would accept an expanded UN Security Council without India's membership, Dr. Singh stated that he hoped India would be there. It was premature to comment definitively on this issue at present and the matter would be dealt with appropriately when the occasion arose.
- 13. To a question about recent economic reforms and the effect of inflation on the budget, Dr. Singh stated that he could not give facts about the budget as it would mean a breach of parliamentary privileges. However, a document containing elements of our medium-term reform had been issued. The present inflation rate of between 8 and 8.4% was high. It was our effort to bring inflation levels down. The reform programme lays special emphasis on fiscal consolidation as a means of controlling inflation and adding to the viability of balance of payments. Reforms of the financial markets and the Banking systems were being carried out to make these services internationally competitive. Tax reform and a progressive reduction of levels of protection enjoyed by Indian

industry were also important components of the reform programme. Credible safety nets would be put in place so that adverse effect of reforms on the weaker sections of the population could be mitigated.

14. To the question whether India would sign the NPT, the Minister explained that NPT was a discriminatory treaty and hence India was opposed to it. India was, however, committed to the utilisation of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

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ITZERLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN MALI

Date: Feb 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

MONGOLIA

Mongolian President H.E. Mr. P. Ochirbat Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1994 on the visit of the Mongolian President to India:

The Prime Minister today met His Excellency Mr. P. Ochirbat, President of Mongolia.

Both felt that bilateral cooperation between the two countries should be strengthened. The Prime Minister referred to the Joint Committee that was being set up to promote cooperation in the economic, commercial and the science and technology area and felt that it should not only implement decisions but should also identify new areas of cooperation.

On the Kashmir issue, the President of Mongolia stated that Mongolia considered Kashmir an integral part of India. He said that any outstanding issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved within the ambit of the Simla agreement, bilaterally. Indeed, he felt that India's peaceful and non-violent approach was something to be emulated by the whole world.

They also discussed regional issues and felt that regional cooperation in Asia should be strengthened.

Mr. Ochirbat expressed Mongolia's gratitude for the exhibition on the Buddha which had been sent there by us last year.

Both the leaders also discussed the possibilities of cooperation in different areas such as mining and agriculture, and agreed that details should be worked out by the Joint Committee that was being set up.

Four agreements were also signed today between the two countries. These were:

- Agreement for the establishment of a Joint Committee for economic, commercial and science and technology cooperation;
- Avoidance of double taxation;
- Cultural Exchange Programme;
- Cooperation in health, 1994-96.

NGOLIA INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Feb 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United Kingdom

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1994 on the call by Shri David Gillmore, Permanent Under Secretary of the British Commonwealth and Foreign Office, on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today.

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mr. David Gillmore, Permanent Under Secretary of British -38>

Commonwealth & Foreign Office, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, as well as on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, today.

With the External Affairs Minister, the British Permanent Under Secretary reported on the very successful talks that he had had with the Indian official team led by Shri Grover, Secretary in the M/o External Affairs. At these talks, the whole gamut of bilateral relations had been covered. He expressed his

satisfaction that bilateral relations were extremely good & mature and allowed for a full & frank exchange of views on all subjects. Sir David expressed his country's appreciation at India's continuing, & even greater, transparency on Kashmir & hoped that Indian security forces would carry on showing the same sensitivity & restraint that they had shown while tackling the Hazratbal situation. He reiterated that his country's position continued to be that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally under the Simla Agreement. In the last year, there had been a number of high level exchanges. The British Prime Minister visited here and our President & Vice President visited the UK. The economic interaction was strong & getting even stronger with a very successful one year of the Indo-British Partnership Initiative. The two Co-Chairmen of this body are expected to make their reports shortly to the two Prime Ministers. The External Affairs Minister also expressed his satisfaction at the happy state of bilateral relations which were also now full of substance. He hoped that the impulses given at the high political level would lead to an even more successful interaction this year. He also referred to Kashmir & Pakistan's constant attempts to internationalise the issue & its continuing support to terrorists. He noted that the international community must act strongly against States who are guilty of cross border terrorism.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN USA

Date: Feb 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Mr. Fu Xuezhang, Leader of the Chinese Delegation to the India-China Expert Group, meets with Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for 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 Feb 03, 1994 on a meeting between Mr. Fu Xuezhang, leader of the Chinese delegation to the India-China Expert Group and Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs:

Mr. Fu Xuezhang, leader of the Chinese delegation to the India-China Expert Group, called on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State (External Affairs) on February 3, 1994.

2. The Expert Group has been set up to assist the India-China

Joint Working Group (JWG) in the implementation of the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas which was signed by Shri R. L. Bhatia for India on September 7, 1993 during Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China.

- 3. Mr. Fu reported to the Minister on the friendly atmosphere and discussions in the Expert Group. Shri Bhatia wished the Expert Group success in its first meeting which started in New Delhi this morning and is expected to continue its talks tommorrow (February 4).
- 4. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their determination to successfully carry out the tasks assigned to the Group.

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DIA CHINA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

First Meeting of India-China Expert Group held in New Delhifrom Feb 2-, 1994@

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on February 4, 1994 on the first meeting of India-China Expert Group:

The first meeting of the India -China Expert Group was held in New Delhi, February 2-4, 1994. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Shivshankar Menon, Joint Secretary (North East), Ministry of External Affairs. It consisted of representatives from the Ministries of External Affairs, Defenc and Home Affairs, the Army Headquarters and the Survey of India. The Chinese delegation, which also included experts from their concerned departments, was led by Mr. Fu Xuezhang, Deputy Director, Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic China.

2. The Expert Group has been set up to assist the Joint Working Group in implementation of the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, which was signed in Beijing on September 7, 1993 during Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit. The tasks assigned to the Expert Group include clarification of the

line of actual control (LAC) between India and China, reduction of military forces along the India-China LAC, other confidence building measures such as prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusions, and verification methods. The Expert Group will also recommend other measures to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC between the two countries.

- 3. In its first meeting, the Expert Group reached basic agreement on many issues relating to its mandate, future tasks and methodology. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the situation along the India-China LAC was peaceful. They also expressed satisfaction at the confidence building measures already in place between them and agreed to continue work on further such measures, as envisaged in the Agreement stablishing the Expert Group. Both sides adopted a constructive and forward looking approach in these discussions, which were held in friendly atmosphere.
- 4. The next meeting of the India-China Expert Group will be held in Beijing in a few months on mutually convenient dates.

INA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 2-, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Czech Republic

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1995 on the call by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia, on the President of Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Vaclav Havel, today:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, called on the President of Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Vaclav Havel, today. President Havel was accompanied by his Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ivan Kocarnik, and his Foreign Minister, Mr. Josef Zieleniec. He briefed our Minister of State on the progress of establing a formal democratic system based on pluralism in the Czech Republic. The President said this was being accompanied by major transitions in the legal system. The process of completing a market economy

as well as a process of privatisation was in an advanced stage. In the area of foreign policy, he said that while the Czech Republic wanted to be integrated with Europe, it did not imply that they would be Eurocentrist. He dwelt on the traditional good relations between our two countries. He acknowledged that the intensity of contact at the highest political levels had come down after the revolution. His visit was an indication of his desire to rectify that. He said his country owed a debt to India. Our Minister of State congratulated H.E. Mr. Havel on the peaceful division Czechoslovakia, which was credited to mature leadership. Our countries had been close in the past and now with democratic pluralism and market reform in the Czech Republic, we would be even closer.

Shri Bhatia briefed President Havel on the process of economic liberalisation in India. On foreign policy, he stressed that our priorities included improvement of relations with neighbours. They also discussed re-structuring the UN system. Shri Bhatia also briefed President Havel on the problem of terrorism faced by India and Pakistan's role in supporting terrorism on Indian soil. He also referred to Pakistan's unnecessary and counter productive efforts to internationalise the Kashmir.

On Kashmir, President Havel said that they closely followed that situation. His country knows how complicated the history of this issue is. They believed that the ideal solution is by peaceful negotiations, as was done before in the Simla Agreement. They did not think it was necessary for one side to internationalise the issue and a solution lay through peaceful bilateral dialogue.

Finally, President Havel also stressed greater economic cooperation and mentioned that the new economic patterns that were developing would help towards achieving this.

ECH REPUBLIC INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NORWAY SLOVAKIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 07, 1995

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official

Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1994 on the visit garding the statement of Pakistan Foreign office following a television interview given by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid:

In response to a query regarding the statement issued by the Pakistani Foreign Office following a television interview given by our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed, the spokesman stated that the statement was abusive and personal and that we have no inclination to dignify it with any formal comment.

KISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Feb 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

France

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1994 on the visit of External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh to France:

Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, who visited France from February 9 to 11, 1994, met the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alain Juppe on 11 February, 1994, at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. External Affairs Minister was accompanied by India's Ambassador to France Shri Ranjit Sethi and other Indian officials.

The two Ministers discussed matters of mutual interest including the situation

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in the Indian sub-continent, the problem of terrorism, Indo-French bilateral ties and the situation in Bosnia.

External Affairs Minister told his French counterpart that he hoped that relations between India and France, two tries which shared a common heritage of secular democracy would be further strengthened.

External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Juppe' about continued

outside interference in Jammu and Kashmir, the problem of terrorism there and the human rights violations committed by the terrorists. He stressed the need for the international community to find a solution to this problem of terrorism. He told Mr. Juppe' of the Indian government's keenness to hold local elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest possible, but that this was possible only if terrorism stopped and there was peace.

External Affairs Minister told Mr. Juppe' about India's willingness to carry on the dialogue with Pakistan, and said that India had given some proposals to that country in this regard. But Pakistan did not seem to be interested in bilateral dialogue and appeared to be interested only in internationalising the issue.

Mr. Juppe' told Extetrnal Affairs Minister that the French position on this issue was very clear. France wanted the issue to be resolved through bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan and was against internationalisation of the issue.

Mr. Juppe' who had returned to Paris on February 11 after a day's visit to Sarajevo, briefed External Affairs Minister about the situation in Bosnia in the context of the recent decisions of the Council of NATO.

Mr. Juppe' said he looked forward to his forthcoming visit to India, and hoped that Indo-French relations would developed further in the economic field. External Affairs Minister said he looked forward to receiving Mr. Juppe' in India and also hoped that Indo-French economic ties would grow.

ANCE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 14, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh meets the FrenchForeign Minister Mr. Alain Juppe

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 14, 1994 on a meeting of External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh with Heads of Indian Missions in Europe and France Interior Minister:

The meeting of Heads of Mission in Europe taken by External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, concluded on 11.2.94 with a review of developments in both Eastern and Western Europe and prospects for cooperation with these countries. External Affairs Minister gave directions to the Heads of Mission to pursue intensification of political and economic linkages with Europe for which there were excellent prospects.

On 11 February, External Affairs Minister met Mr. Charles Pasqua, French Minister for the Interior. He outlined problms faced by India with terrorism and stressed that terrorism should not be encouraged through the Human Rights issues. Mr. Pasqua expressed full understanding of problems being faced by India, with terrorism and said that terrorism had to be countered effectively. He also stated that terrorism should not be encouraged from outside and said that france was prepared to cooperate with India in the field of combating terrorism.

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The French Foreign Minister Mr. Alain Juppe has made a special gesture in scheduling a meeting with External Affairs Minister at short notice on 11 February evening, immediately after his return from a flying visit to Bosnia.

On the same day, Foreign Secretary Shri K. Srinivasan also held a round of talks with Mr. Bortrand Dufourog, Secretary General in the French Foreign Office. Mr. Dufoursq affirmed French desire to en-Dufoursq affirmed French desire to enhance relations with India in all fields. With reference to Indo-US Troika talks at Ministerial level held on 8 February, Mr. Dufourcq said that it was important for EU to maintain a close dialogue and to enhance both political and economic ties with India. He conveyed that India and Pakistan should resolve all issues bilaterally and wecomed the initiation of Foreign Secretary level dialogue and expressed the hope that this would continue. He also welcomed India's proposals to Pakistan on confidence building.

DIA FRANCE USA PAKISTAN

Date: Feb 14, 1994

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1995

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Prime Minister's Address at the Plenary of the World EconomicForum at Davos

The following is the text of the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's address at the plenary of the World Economic Forum symposium in Davos, Switzerland today:

"It is indeed a privilege to address this august audience at the closing session of the Davos Symposium. I should like to thank Prof. Schewab and his colleagues for bringing about this interface of political leaders and functionaries of Government, with the corporate leadership of the World. The Symposium of the World Economic Forum at Davos has now come to be regarded as one of the global events every years.

The selection of the theme this year is both timely and thoughtful. In the closing lap of the century, it is but necessary to anticipate the challenges that face mankind as we move towards the next century. With every passing day', the concern becomes more urgent. However, in the continum of Time, the end or the beginning of a century is merely a means of calculation for convenience. Crossing the century could at best be considered a matter of subjective rejoicing to those whose life span happens to be so divided. Therefore, when we talk about the 21st century, we are merely looking into the future, with a fore-seable date-line; that is all.

Historic changes have taken place in the world within the past few years. Some of them have been dramatic in their swiftness - so swift indeed that it gives an illusion that the world had never changed before. This, of course, is very far from true and I would therefore not consider these changes totally unprecedented. In India on the other hand, we have always looked at human progression cycles of rise and fall and tend to take these changes in a stead. Stride, however, we live in a world dominated by Western ideas. The ideas may not necessarily have deeper insight in all cases, but many of them have succeeded - By their arms in the past and by technology in the present. We have to adopt, or adapt to, the technologis as well as all that is wise and humane in the West. Yet while doing so, we have -43>

to be securely anchored in our own tradition which is equally incisive, and much more relevant to our situation.

The cold war has ended and so has the bi-polar super power configuration. The universal acceptance of democracy as a preferred form of Government has had its impact. In shifting decision-making, the people, through their elected representatives, the prospect of the people themselves having the final word in shaping their own destiny in the real sense, is bound to create a new situation in the State structure itself. Thus, we have passed through a full circle in India starting with Village Republics or Assemblies thousands of years and going on to Kings, conquests, empires, cultural aggression, economic exploitations, Parliaments, State Assemblies and back to the

emphasis on Village Panchayats where the focus on decision-making again fast retuning. I am inclined to believe that in different forms it must have happened in many other societies.

Along with this change has come the rejection of the paradigm of the command economy based on communism. However, it is not always realised that the command economy itself was meant as a corrective to another system and it is not logical to assert that the rejection of the command economy ipso facto means a total acceptance of what it had sought to replace. In India, we recognise the change, but maintain a balance, which has come to be known as the Middle Way. The Middle Way is not just a philosophical postulate enjoined by the great Buddha; it has permeated India's life in a variety of ways. When communist ideas tended to overpower Indian thinking, Prime Minister Nehru adumbrated the concept of Mixed Economy. He was criticised in every quarter, right and left; but the mixed economy concept has saved India time and again, from political submission and economic dependence. Today, again, some seem to think that with the collapse of the communist system and the world having become uni-polar, there can be no middle way, since the world has only one way now. However, from what has happened, it does not seem to follow that there is only one single way for the development of societies for all time to come. The assertion is unrealistic. The Middle Way only reminds us that one should not accept a dogma even if it happens to be the only one in the field at given moment. Human thought can never be taken as so imbecile or immutable.. Change has to be accepted as a result of deliberate and objetive thinking. At the same time, those who wear the shoe and know where it pinches should have full say in deciding ho wto mend it. In the new-found enthusiasm for change, Government should not go overboard and plunge large chunks of their people into mass misery; they have no right to do so. Their scheme of change must take full note of such contingencies and make allowance for them. I am also clear in my mind that each society has to find its way "middle way" suited to its genius and circumstances; but find it must, eventually and find it in the spirit of the new changes in the world, if it has to succeed.

Almost throughout the world, the preferred model of market forces and primacy of individual initiative has gained acceptance. Liberalisation in trade, and pursuit of policies allowing capital, technology and entrepreneurship to move more freely across national boundaries have given a strong impetus to economic growth. New technologies of communication in particular tend to blur the relevance of national boundaries. They provide a strong stimullis to global integration. The remarkable advances in medicine, in bio-technology, nuclear science and cybernetics, promise to change human life beyond recognition provided, however, the new stimulus does not stop at the point of affordiability. Here I find India and a few other developing countries more fortunately placed. We do not find serious difficulty in the flow or absorption of technology, except when

our progress itself tends to create some uneasiness in some quarters.

It is perhaps this status of flux that underlines the current debate and is

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hind the effort to re-assess the coming challenges that face mankind in the new situation.

I am aware of the prognosis that the problems of mankind hereafter are going to be only cultural and civilisational. While I am impressed by the corollary of this thesis, namely that all economic anU ideological problems will just disappear, my realistic assumption indicates to me quite clearly that poverty will continue to be the most serious challenge to mankind during the greater part of the 21st century, if not longer. My reasons are simple, Poverty is as much a breeding ground of disunity and tension as any other factor one may cite. Those tensions are bound to dominate to such an extent that an effort to deal with poverty as the first priority will simply not succeed in many cases. Consequently, through the 21st century, they will continue to be vast numbers of people throughout the world who will still be unable to take care of their basic needs. New approaches and new programmes will therefore have to be formulated to solve this global problem, taking it as global. I feel that the fall out of mass misery would not affect specific groups, countries or regions only but would engulf the whole world. With growing integration any thought of insulating any part of the world from the problems of the other parts would be futile.

Alongwith poverty, many countries face widespear illiteracy. In a vast number of cases, though not all, the two seem to go together. Apart from other factors, there is also a correlation between illiteracy an unplanned population growth. A cooperative global effort will be required to fight this combination by harnessing some of the major technological developments, particularly those relating to communications, I am hopeful that a literate world could be ensured within the first quarter of the coming century, even earlier if determinded efforts are made.

The question of environment is assuming basic proportion impiring on the very survival of mankind, Here again, there is serious dichotomy between man's various approaches to Nature - Nature's resources legitimately available to him.

To go back a little into recent history, when modern Western civilisation set forth to discover the secrets of nature, its intention was to conquer it. We, in India an the East, on the other hand, had always looked upon ourselves as a part of nature and subject to its laws. Man was thrilled by hisNmastery over nature and exploited it excessively and mercilessly. However,

nature now threatens to commit suicide unless it obtains justice.

However, the growing consciousness of this challenge creates hope. "Sustainable Development" is no longer a mere slogan of some enthusiastic environmentalists. It has come to be accepted as a major determination of development policy. It is important that the adversarial attitude towards nature is replaced with a healing relationship between the Earth and human civilisation. Therein perhaps lies the solution, although it can only be in the long term.

Ladies and gentlemen, the major political events in the current decade, especially the disappearance of the bi-polar configuration, have created high expectation for a peaceful future. The emergence of two super powers was followed by the cold war, but it is also a fact that the super powers did no go to war directly. They managed to keep the cold war cold. But they were cerainly active on the chess board of proxies. The cold war exacerbated tensions at several flash points, vet looking back, one could realise today that the cold war tensions, by and large operated at points where the potential for con. flicts already existed, in some measures atleast. They had been created earlier through imperial strategies and other such causes. The result, we find that even after the end of the cold war, the points have not returned peaceful. In fact, the threat to peace has heightened. Thus, the end of the cold war is welcome for a variety of reasons, but it does not, by itself, usher in peace everywhere. It will no doubt pre--45>

vent a world conflagration; in addition, it can create conditions for the resolution of the regional conflicts, provided it fits the global strategy of the wielders of real power - one or more, it matters little. The question is: who will wield that real power.

I have already taken note of the forecast by some thinkers that only cultural and civilisational problems will beset mankind hereafter. If the forecast means that today's economic problems have now become solvable, one could agree to a large extent. But the prospect of their being actually solved is nowhere in sight in the short run. In addition, the ethnic-culturalreligious problems certainly threaten to get aggravated. What seems likely is a further complication wherein economic, social and ethnic cultural factors, combine to compound the threat to the political unity and peace of States. A variety of subidentities are surfacing, putting the concept of the Nation State to unprecedented stress. The spectre of low-cost proxy wars, transborder export of terrorism, clandestine encouragement to religious fundamentalism often through money and arms, disruption of public peace to create panic among the people, internationalisaticyn of local issues, recourse to blackmail of various kind - all this and much more is already in evidence and

indeed on the increase. Anarchy and total cessation of developmental effort state many developing countries in the face.

The challenging therefore is to see that the most natural and basic aspirations of mankind, for enhanced welfare and wellbeing, are preserved and encouraged so that the urge for human efforts is not destroyed. The task is to create, strengthen and fulfil the desire for, and the stake in, a better life in societies where religious fanaticism and hatred have completely clouded the judgement of the people and blinded them to their own future. It is by no means easy for the people to come out of this false stupor, since they are often left paralysed between an induced pseudoreligious frenzy and their own suppressed zest for a better life. However, the task is not elections in some States in India where politically motivated religious fanaticism had held complete sway in the past few years. With deligent and patient work among the people, their desire for socioeconomic development has been made to prevail over false religious slogans and tactics. Much more, of course, needs to be done to consolidate this gain. But what I wish to highlight here is that much of fundamentalist fanaticism prevailing today may, on a deeper analysis, be found to be traceableito causes very unrelated to religion. To discover and remove those causes will be the real challenge of the leaders of the world, since it may not always be possible to eradicate the malaise by individual efforts in the affected countries separately.

History teaches us that an unfettered mind is the basis of human progress. However, at all times there have been forces and interests that tried to come in the way, we see these forces today as well; they take myriad shapes. I recognise that there axe costs inherent in the free exchange of knowledge and ideas. Those who invest in furthering the frontiers of science and technology expect recompense. We do not necessarily argue against that expectation but we believe that when the price is paid there should be, no other extraneous and unreasonable restraints. In case of an unwarranted insistence on such conditionalities, the challenge would be to develop the necessary peaceful technologies at the national level. We must seek to reaffirm, as a matter of high Principle, the spirit of inquiry which is central to human progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it was not my intention nor was it possible for me to be exhaustive in dealing with all the challenges that are likely to face Mankind in the 21st century. I have dealt at some length on the challenges we are 'likely to carry from the past into the 21st Century -because in my view, these are fundamental and continue to be critical for the well-being of mankind as a whole. Realism demand that we recognise our responsibility to take on the challenges along with the old. -46>

In conclusion, I must say that I an, greatly encouraged by the

fact that solutions to the problems are in the process of being evolved. There is certainly a fresh willingness to come to grips these issues. I have faith in human ingenuity. I am fully confident that together, manking will triumph".

ITZERLAND USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

The Permanent Under Secretary of British Commonwealth & ForeignOfficeMr. David Gillmore meets Mr. V. K. Grover, Secretary in theMinistry of External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1994 on a meeting between the Permanent Under Secretary of British Common4wealth & Foreign Office Mr. David Gillmore and Mr. V. K. Grover, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs:

The Permanent Under Secretary of British Commonwealth & Foreign Office, Mr. David Gillmore, had a meeting with Secretary in the Mlo External Affairs, Shri V. K. Grover today. They expressed satisfaction at the intensity & frequency of exchanges between India & Britain. It was noted that the Ist year of the Indo British Partnership Initiative had been very successful & it was agreed that the present impetus should be sustained. In this context, Shri Grover noted the strong support given by both governments towards the strengthening of economic relations in General. It was felt that the private sector in both countries had a key role to play in this regard. Mr. Gillmore mentioned that the larger British companies, were already showing interest & it was time to involve medium & smaller enterprises in strengthening bilateral economic cooperation.

They noted that the extradition treaty was already in place & there was good cooperation in meeting the threat posed by terrorism. In this context, they also discussed the nexus between drugs & terrorism. Mr. Gillmore expressed his appreciation for the steps taken by India for greater transparency on the human rights isstie including providing increased access to outsiders. The setting up of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) by India was a positive step in this direction. Shri Grover emphasized that there was a large number of journalists who had visited the Kashmir Valley in recent times. Mr. Gillmore said

that Britain understood India's problem since she herself faced the problem of terrorism.

Shri Grover briefed Mr. Gillmore on the Foreign Secretary level talks between India & Pakistan and the peace initiative taken by India as embodied in the six proposals recently submitted to Pakistan. Mr. Gillmore reiterated the UK position that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally under the aegis of the Simla Agreement.

DIA USA PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Feb 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meeting of Ambassador of India to USA, Shri S. S. Ray with USCommerceSecretary, Mr. Ronald H. Brown

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 03, 1994 on a meeting of Ambassador of India to USA with US Commerce Secretary, Ronald H. Brown:

The Ambassador of India had a 45 minute meeting with U.S. Commerce Secretary, Ronald H. Brown yesterday (2 February).

Ambassador briefed the Commerce Secretary on the major economic changes underway in India and the tremendous opportunities for expanding economic coope. ration between India and the United States. He remarked that the US was already India's largest trading partner and the most important source of foreign investment and technology. However" the level of inter-action was very small in terms of the U.S.A.'s global trade and investment. He expressed the hope that the Commerce Secretary would visit India this year along with a business delegation. The visit would act as a catalyst in focusing business attention on India and enhance trade and economic relations.

Commerce Secretary Brown accepted the invitation with pleasure. He said that he looked forward to visiting India this year, perhaps before August.

Commerce Secretary Brown remarked that the U.S. had a great interest in India. The Department of Commerce had designated India as one of the 10 big emerging markets, world wide. The U.S.

would very much like to enhance commercial exchanges with India and he looked forward to working towards this end.

A INDIA

Date: Feb 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Senator and Chairman of the Finance Committee Mr. DanielPatrick Moynihan calls on the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi On Feb 14, 1994, 19, 94 on a call on our Prime Minister by US Senator and Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Daniel Patrick Mohnihan:

Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan" US Senator and Chairman of the Finance Committee" called on Prime Minister today.

At the meeting, he expressed satisfaction at the progress made in economic riberalisation in India. He also was happy that Indo-US economic and commercial relations were growing. Last year, the level of US investment was higher than that of the previous 40 years.

He asked Prime Minister about IndoPakistan relations. Prime Minister mentioned that a framework for dialogue already exists, which is the Simla Agreement. India had offered to continue the dialogue for good-neighbourly relations; but what Pakistan was doing, in terms of continuing its support for terrorism, and mounting anti-Indian propaganda worldwide, were major barriers towards any

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useful dialogue. He hoped that friends of Pakistan would persuade it to be more responsive towards our approaches for normalising and building up bilateral relations. He added that the Pakistani Prime Minister had heightened. anti-Indian rhetoric to unprecedented levels, on Kashmir" and this only makes progress towards a bilateral dialogue even more difficult.

On Bosnia, Prime Minister hoped that the conflict would end soon and that there would be a peaceful settlement acceptable to all sides.

A INDIA PAKISTAN MALI

Date: Feb 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Senator Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan calls on the fidernal Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 15, 1994 on a call by US Senator, Mr. Daniel Patrick Moynihan on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh:

The US Senator, Mr. Daniel Patrick, Moynihan, called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. The discussions focussed on Indo-US relations. Both felt that the economic relationship was being strengthened by the day that this was a happy developme"nt that should be taken even further. Mr. Moynihan mentioned that there had indeed been great increase in the United States economic engagement with India, which augurs well for the future. The External Affairs Minister also gave Mr. Moynihan an actuunt of the present situation in Kashmir and the aid that is being given to terrorists in Kashmir by Pakistan. There was a need for the two large democracies, India and the US, to cooperate together against terrorism for the promotion of peace. It was also necessary for Pakistan to desist from supporting terrorism if it was serious about normalising relations.

A INDIA PAKISTAN MALI

Date: Feb 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

India's response to President Clinton's reply to the remarks of the newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to the USA

The following is the text 6f a press statement issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1994 on India's response to resident Clinton's reply to Me remarks of the newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to the USA:

We have seen the text of President Clinton's reply to the remarks of the newly appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to the USA.

- 2. India shares President Clinton's strong interest in reducing tension in South Asia and especially in encouraging productive relations between India and Pakistan. The dialogue at Foreign Secretary level call be an important step in addrssing all outstanding issues between the two countries, including issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir. in this context, India has proposed several confidence building measures to Pakistan, which would have the effect of defusing tensions. We concur that swings of public opinion should not be allowed to deflect both countries from pursuing these talks.
- 3. India is committed to uphold human rights as part of her heritage and as enshrined in our Constitution and our laws. It is unfortunate that the President has made common cause with Pakistan in his

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remarks on human rights in Jammu & Kashmir and has not taken into account the proven role of Pakistan as a State sponsor of terrorism. We regret that no concern has been expressed for the human rights of the victims of the terrorists armed, trained and sent into Jammu & Kashmir by Pakistan.

4. Pakistan's nuclear intentions are well known and confirmed time and again. India neither has nor intends to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The real danger, therefore, is not of an Indo-Pakistan nuclear exchange but of nuclear adventurism, on the part of Pakistan. We feel that this factual perspective needs to be kept in view.

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A INDIA PAKISTAN **Date**: Feb 16, 1994

March

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WORLD BANK

GHANISTAN INDIA ARGENTINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IRAN USA POLAND CUBA KAZAKHSTAN PAKISTAN FIJI BANGLADESH SRI LANKA VIETNAM

Date: Mar 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Visit of Dr. Abdul Rahman, the Special Envoy of the PresidentofAfghanistan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1994:

Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. R. L. Bhatia received the Special Envoy of the President of Afghanistan, Dr. Abdul Rahman today at New Delhi.

During the 70-minute meeting they had a detailed exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan. Mr. Bhatia said that India is deeply concerned about developments in Afghanistan and hoped that external interference which is a major factor for the current instability would cease. Recalling Afghanistan's history as an independent nation and its resistance to foreign intervention, Mr. Bhatia expressed confidence that Afghan people will prevail in determining their destiny themselves.

Dr. Abdul Rahman appreciated the friendly and cordial relations between India and Afghanistan which, he said, should further strengthen in the interests of the two countries. Mr. Bhatia conveyed Government's decision to despatch urgent humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan consisting of medicines and tea. These supplies are to be effected through the UN relief agencies.

GHANISTAN INDIA

Date: Mar 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

ARGENTINA

Meeting between Indian and Argentinian Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1994:

An Indian and the Argentinian delegations met today for talks. The Indian side was led by the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and the Argentinian side by His Excellency Mr. Carlos Menem.

Prime Minister enquired about the economic reform programme in Argntina, on which the visiting President gave his assessment. The Indian Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, also gave an account of the liberalisation of the Indian economy that is ongoing and the outlook for the future.

There was a general review of the bilateral relations. Discussions also focussed on the proposal of "white helmets", a suggestion of the Argentine President, to create a band of dedicated young men to -51>

take part in the fight against hunger and poverty and to provide succow in disasterhit areas.

Both sides noted the high potential of further strengthening bilateral relations in a variety of areas.

The Prime Minister also referred to the cultural links between the countries and recalled Rabindra Nath Tagore's visit to Argentina in 1924. He also remembered vividly his own visit to Argentina, as External Affairs Minister, in 1983.

GENTINA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Mar 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

ARGENTINA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 31, 1994:

At the Invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narasimha Rao, the President of the Argentine Republic, H.E. Dr. Carlos Saul Menem, accompanied, by a high-level delegation, paid a bilateral State visit to India from 31st March to 2nd April, 1994.

During his stay in New Delhi, President Menem held wide-ranging discussions with the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao. High-level delegations from both sides also participated in the discussions held between Prime Minister and the Argentine President. President Menem also addressed a select audience at the India International Centre, and talked to a group of senior Pressmen. President of India hosted a Banquet in Dr. Menem's honour. The Vice-President of India called on the visiting dignitary.

The Argentine President is scheduled to leave for Agra tomorrow on his way to Bombay, where he will address a gathering of leading Indian industrialists organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM). The Governor of Maharashtra will receive the high dignitary and host a banquet in his honour.

President Menem in his talks with the Indian leaders had a detailed exchange of views on international and regional issues of mutual concern, besides having a comprehensive view of the bilateral ties. In particular, while President Menem briefed the Indian side on developments in Latin American region, including strengthening of democracy and benefits of economic opening and reform, on-going regional and sub-regional integration process, and the Organisation of American States. Prime Minister Mr. Rao, informed the visiting dignitary about developments in Asia, relations with neighbours, SAARC, dialogue with ASEAN and the situation in Kashmir. Both the leaders, similarly exchanged views on UN restructuring, human rights issues and President Menem's initiative on "White Helmets", an international corps of volunteers to fight against poverty and hunger. President Menem and Prime Minister Rao, from whom he has taken over the chairmanship of G-15, also dwelt upon the need to make G-15 an effective instrument of promoting South-South and North-South Cooperation.

In the bilateral context, both sides expressed a strong desire and determination to add a fresh impetus to the existing ties in diverse fields. Accordingly, it was agreed that concrete measures be taken to intensify cooperation in political, economic, cultural and scientific fields.

Amongst the initiatives taken to give a practical shape to the renewed interest on both sides to bilateral cooperation in various fields were:

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- setting up of a Mechanism of bilateral political consultations;
- establishing a Ministerial-level Joint Commission to oversee and promote trade and economic cooperation envisaged under specific agreements;
- signing of an intent to conclude Cultural Exchange Programme 1994-96;
- Opening of Consulates outside their respective Capitals;
- signing of a protocol on visa-exemption for official and diplomatic passport holders;
- encouraging increased levels of interaction between private sectors of the two countries to stimulate investment, joint ventures and technology transfer inter-alia through reactivating Joint Business Council existing between FICCI and concerned Argentine apex trade organizations.

To augment levels of bilateral trade and investment, both the Governments also decided specifically to initiate action towards concluding protocols for Promotion & Protection of investment, avoidance of Double Taxation and promoting cooperation between the EXIM Bank of India and its Argentine counterpart BICE.

It was, also, felt that in Science & Technology specific areas of Mutual interest should be identified based on which an activity programme of concrete collaborative steps be worked out.

With economic reforms and liberalization on both sides, prospects of increased commercial and trade exchanges between the two countries have brightened. Bilateral trade is already on the increase, and is likely to touch Rs. 2000 million (US \$ 66.6 millions) mark in the current year. Investment in the form of joint ventures has taken place, and there are several areas in which scope for joint collaboration exists. These include transport vehicles, textiles, chemicals, leather and leather goods, handtools & engineering items. With the expected improvement in shipping & banking links between the two countries, trade volume could go up several fold, as it has since 1988-89. Both the sides also felt that initiative by private sectors of the two countries would be of fundamental importance for further progress in forging a partnership for mutual good.

In the cultural field, both sides reviewed the implementation of the 1974 Cultural Agreement and agreed that a Cultural Exchange Programme be finalized early. The efforts in the field of cultural exchanges being supplemented by private institutions were appreciated.

President Menem's visit to India, taking place after considerable gap, marks a major step in the direction of consolidating, and expanding bilateral relations between India and Argentina.

GENTINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date: Mar 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

First professional Course for Foreign Diplomats in EconomicDiplomacy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1994:

After three very successful professional courses for foreign diplomats, the Foreign Service Institute began its first Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats in Economic Diplomacy from March 15.

The need to design and conduct a specialised course in economic diplomacy was not only projected from several quar--53>

ters but also takes into account Prime Minister's directives in this regard. Also many countries attending this programme have shown keen interest in our reform experience.

The four week long Course in Economic Diplomacy is being held from March 15 to April 19. It is being attended by 19 participants from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Slovakia, Belarus, Poland, Russia, Kyrghystan, and Kazakhstan.

This specially designed Course would attempt to provide (a)a better understanding of contemporary international economic issues along with a broad comprehension of political, and social realities which influence trade and economic work; (b) an introduction to financial and trade issues and investment practices; and (c) job specific training for a foreign service officer in the main categories of trade and economic activities.

Accordingly, the curriculum would be focussing on six main areas

relevant to this specialised Foreign Service activity, i.e. International Economic Environment, Access to Markets - Political Aspects, Art and Craft of Trade and Commercial Work, Communicating, Negotiating and Representational Skills and Database Management.

DIA TURKMENISTAN UZBEKISTAN SLOVAKIA USA RUSSIA KAZAKHSTAN POLAND

Date: Mar 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAN

External Affairs Minister's Visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1994:

At the invitation of H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs will be visiting Iran on March 5-6, 1994. He is expected to lead a delegation comprising Foreign Secretary, Secretary (Fertilizer) and senior officials of the Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce, Industry, Agriculture, Railways and Department of Science and Technology to the Seventh Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission, which he will be co-chairing with his Iranian counterpart. The visit is a major follow-up of Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao's visit to Iran in September, 1993. The aim of the visit is to consolidate bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Apart from his meetings with his Iranian counterpart, Shri Dinesh Singh is expected to call on H.E. Hojjatol-eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Hojjatol-eslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, Speaker of the Iranian Majlis.

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AN INDIA USA

Date: Mar 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Briefing given by Shri Salman Khurshid, the Minister of Statefor External Affairs to the Heads of delegation of Latin AmericanCountries

The following is the text of a press release issued in Now Delhi on Mar 02, 1994:

On 28.2.1994 the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid briefed the Heads of delegations of Latin American countries as well as that of Costa Rica, Indonesia and Cyprus. He said it was unfortunate that developing countries have started to attack each other and this could have serious repercussions. He highlighted the legality of accession of Kashmir to India and said that the only way that dispute of Jammu and Kashmir can be settled is through bilateral negotiations. He asked delegations to impress upon Pakistan the necessity of following the bilateral track and making use of the existing framework of Shimla Agreement for further discussions.

On 1st March 1994, the Minister met the Heads of delegations of Sri Lanka, Greece, Mauritius, Bulgaria and Ivory Coast. He also briefed the delegations of the Group of African countries.

In the evening of 1st March 1994, the Minister had a telephonic interview with the correspondent of the BBC World Service (Hindi News).

STA!!INDONESIA CYPRUS USA INDIA PAKISTAN BULGARIA GREECE MAURITIUS SRI LANKA

Date: Mar 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Europe

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on

Mr. Egom Klepsch, President of the European Parliament, today had meetings with our Extrnal Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh and the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. He is visiting India at the invitation of our Speaker, Shri Shiv Raj Patil from the 28th of February to the 6th of March. He is also to visit Udaipur, Agra, Goa and Bombay. His visit follows the Indo-European Parliament statements on political dialogue which calls also for parliamentary exchanges. We therefore, welcome this visit.

In his meeting with Shri Dinesh Singh today, they discussed intensification of cooperation with the European Union (EU), regional issues pertaining to the EU, on the one side, and the South Asia on the other, and also parliamentary practices particularly in the context of multiplicity of languages. Mr. Klepsch stated that the European Union had great admiration for India's consistent commitment to democracy right from independence. There are very few parallel of this nature where a stable democracy is maintained that covers -55>

almost 900 million people. The EU itself had 36 millions. India was a shining example and a symbol for the world. He indicated that parliamentary exchanges between India and the EU would be intensified through greater exchange of information, more exchange of visits of parliamentarians as well as staff members. Both sides would aim for regularity of exchanges, especially between the South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament and the Indian Parliament. Mr. Klepsch confirmed that the Indo-EU Agreement on Partnership and Development will be ratified by the European Parliament by April 1994.

Shri Dinesh Singh stressed the fact that India and the EU shared common values of democracy, tolerance and the secular society. India attached great importance to its relations with the EU both through the strenghening of economic cooperation as well as through the political dialogue. He recalled his visit to Brussels for his meeting with the Troika of the EU on 8th February which had opened up significant prospects for further intensifying our relationship in various fields. He underlined the fact that the EU plays an important role in the emerging world order. Shri Dinesh Singh briefed Mr. Klepsch on the problems faced by India with terrorism supported on Indian soil from across the border and underlined the need for the international community to take a firm stand against terrorism.

In his meetinv with our Prime Minister, Mr. Klepsch began by explaining the working of the European Parliament. He also gave an account of the new evolving equations between the EU, on the one hand, and Russia and East Europe, on the other, and also mentioned the assistance being given by the EU to them. He

complemented the Prime Minister on his economic policy which was being perceived as a big jump forward for India. He said that this would lead to very successful results despite competition from other countries. Our Prime Minister explained that change in India always comes through a peaceful process as this was part of India's ethos. Even in the freedom struggle, India had adopted a strategy abjuring violent change.

Mr. Klepsch mentioned that India's adherence to democracy and its achievements are in some senses a 'miracle'. He paid tribute to India's transparent policy with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister mentioned that India had nothing to hide in J & K and that we would like people to appreciate the position of the security forces who are faced with armed terrorists and are on the constant threat of losing their lives. He said that terrorism was a global menace and has to be tackled as such.

Among other subjects discussed were cooperation within South Asia basically developments in SAARC.

DIA USA BELGIUM RUSSIA

Date: Mar 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Call by European Union Troika. Ambassadors accompanied by the US Charge d'Affaires on our 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 Mar 03, 1994:

The European Union Troika Ambassadors accompanied by the US Charge d'Affaires called on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today afternoon, at their request. External Affairs Minister took the opportunity to convey once again our position on the Pakistani resolution in Geneva and requested further close cooperation on this issue in Geneva. He told the envoys that neither the letter nor the spirit of the Pak resolution would be acceptable to India nor would it promote

the human rights situation in J & K, which was the direct result of Pakistani sponsored terrorism. There was discussion also on

other issues before the UN Commission on Human Rights. Shri Dinesh Singh expressed the hope that their delegations would work closely with the Indian delegation in Geneva.

A INDIA PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND

Date: Mar 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Poland

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1994:

Mr. Andrzef Olechowski, Foreign Minister of Poland, today met our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. He said that Poland places special emphasis on its ties with India, given India's international role. They also discussed the ongoing reforms in the UN System. Shri Dinesh Singh emphasized the need of the UN System to be strengthened through greater democratization & greater emphasis being paid towards economic cooperation among nations. The two Ministers also discussed the need for strengthening economic relations & the Polish Foreign Minister, in this connection, mentioned the business delegation that is accompanying President Walesa.

Shri Dinesh Singh also briefed the Polish Minister on Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue through the guise of human rights. He mentioned that Pakistan's own record in this area was abysmal. He also said that the political process in Jammu & Kashmir could easily commence if Pakistan stopped aiding & abetting terrorism in J&K. The Polish Minister mentioned that Pakistan's resolution introduced in the Human Rights Commission in Geneva did not enjoy his government's support.

LAND INDIA USA PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND

Date: Mar 03, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Cuba

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 17, 1994:

The Cuban Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Roberto Robaina, called on External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh today. He mentioned that his visit was to reinforce the already excellent relations existing between India and Cuba. He also mentioned that the focus of his visit and the delegation-level talks would be to find concrete methods of implementing co-operation in the new areas that were identified during the visit to Cuba of the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed in November, 1993. Both Ministers agreed that the results of these delegation-level talks would be a useful input for the next (second) session of the India-Cuba Joint Commission meeting which is likely to take place soon (the first session of this Joint Commission took place in 1990).

The Cuban Minister mentioned that Cuba was going through a difficult period. His country was grateful for the assistance that it received from India in international fora, as well as the assistance given to Cuba bilaterally, especialy under the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) programme. He recalled that much of the assistance had been for training of large number of Cuban personnel, who were now ready to train others.

Shri Dinesh Singh agreed with the Cuban Minister on the continuing impor-

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tance of NAM, and mentioned that important issues would be taken up by the Foreign Ministers of NAM countries in the forthcoming Ministerial meeting of NAM countries in Cairo. Shri Dinesh Singh also expressed his satisfaction at the continuing sound relationship between the two countries.

The Cuban Foreign Minister also renewed the invitation already extended to EAM to visit Cuba.

BA INDIA USA EGYPT

Date: Mar 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Kazakhstan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 19, 1994:

Government of India have been following with interest the first ever parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan on a multi-party basis. As a people for whom democracy is a way of life, we welcome these elections. We believe that with this first step Kazakhstan is on course to a bright democratic future as befits their multi-ethnic and secular traditions. In this pursuit, we are supportive of the friendly people and the leadership of Kazakhstan.

ZAKHSTAN INDIA

Date: Mar 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1994:

Foreign Secretary Mr. K. Srinivasan conveyed today to the High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Riaz Khokhar India's formal reply to Pakistan's "comments and counter-proposals" on the six Indian non-papers. Foreign Secretary regretted the negative approach adopted by Pakistan and reiterated India's desire for a dialogue with Pakistan under the Simla Agreement on all outstanding issues. He expressed the hope that talks at Foreign Secretary-level could be resumed either in Delhi or Islamabad and sought an early positive response from Pakistan in this regard.

Date: Mar 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Restrictions imposed on the Indian Consulate in Karachi

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1994:

Foreign Secretary Mr. K. Srinivasan took up today with the High Commissioner of Pakistan the restrictions imposed on the Indian Consulate in Karachi in the nature of impeding access to the Consulate for the local public. He expressed the hope that the Pakistani authorities would allow the Indian Consulate to carry out its functions normally.

Referring to Pakistan's decision to close down their Consulate in Bombay. Foreign Secretary expressed surprise and disappointment. He recalled that Government of India and Government of Maharashtra have consistently tried to create a congenial atmosphere for the Pakistani Consulate in Bombay to perform its official functions and drew attention to the assistance given by Maharashtra Government for the Pakistani Consulate to hold its National Day reception in Bombay on March 23. Foreign Secretary pointed out that it was always open to the Pakistani -58>

Consulate in Bombay to acquire property or rent premises as India had done in Karachi and Islamabad. In fact, Government have given necessary information to the Pakistani Consulate for renting or acquiring certain properties in Bombay but regrettably this has not been acted upon. Pakistan has no cause to blame India for the closure of their Consulate in Bombay.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Mar 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Fiji

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 24, 1994:

The Government has noted the statement of the President of Fiji on March 21, 1994, at the opening session of the Fiji Parliament, that the Government of Fiji will move quickly to resume the process earlier set in train to review Fiji is 1990 Constitution. As is well known, the 1990 Constitution contains certain provisions directed against Fiji nationals of Indian origin which have proved unacceptable, both within the country, and to the international community by and large. A review of the 1990 Constitution, and its amendment to make it acceptable to all the communities in Fiji, is essential for Fijis long-term stability and welfare. We are glad that the Government of Fiji has decided to make this one of its central priorities. We hope that the review process will be accelerated, with a view to achieving an early solution acceptable to all sections of the Fijian population.

2. We have further noted from President Mara's statement that the Fiji Government seeks to resume full diplomatic relations with India, and will invite the Government of India to reopen its Mission in Fiji as soon as it is practicable. He has also expressed the commitment of the Government of Fiji to seeking Fiji's early re-entry to the Commonwealth. For the present progress in the constitutional amendment talks is important. Other issues can be taken up at a later stage.

JI INDIA

Date: Mar 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

Apprehension of Pakistani and Bangladeshi Nationals by IndianPolice

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi On Mar 08, 1994:

In response to a query about the four Pakistani and one Bangladeshi nationals who had been apprehended by our police recently, the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed that the Ministry had taken up the matter with the Pakistan and Bangladesh Government respectively on 7th March, 1994. The Ministry has lodged a strong protest through their Missions in Delhi, at this latest and dangerous manifestation of Pakistan's policy of indulging in terrorist activities in India.

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NGLADESH PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Mar 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Meeting between External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singhand the Polish President, H.E. Mr. Lech Walesa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 03, 1994 on a meeting between External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh and the Polish President H.E. Mr. Lech Walesa:

Our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, called on the visiting Polish President, H.E. Mr. Lech Walesa, today evening. Their discussions dwelt on the need for strengthening Indo-Polish bilateral relations. Mr. Walesa expressed his admiration for the spiritual values of India In this context, he also spoke of Mahatma Gandhi who has always been a source of inspiration for him. They also discussed issues relating to the emergence of the new international order and the case for democratisation of the United Nations.

LAND INDIA USA

Date: Mar 03, 1994

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Delegation level talks between India and Poland

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1994:

The delegation level talks between India and Poland took place today. The Polish side was led by President Lech Walesa and included, among others, Minister of Industry and Trade and the Foreign Minister of State for External Affairs, our Prime Minister and included the Minister of Commerce, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, and Ministers of State for Coal & Power. Besides, Shri Arvind Netam, Minister in Waiting, the Defence Secretary and the Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Salman Haider were present from our side.

The discussions focussed on ways and means for strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic field. It was noted that the economies of both the countries were undergoing a process of liberalisation which envisaged greater role for the private sector. This opened new opportunities. Our Prime Minister referred to the earlier relations between India and Poland and stressed that there were a lot of commonalities on which India and Poland could build up. A Joint Commission and a Joint Business Council already existed between the two countries which could go into specifics for strengthening economic cooperation. An Indo-Polish joint venture in the sector of power is already operating in Zaire. The possibility of setting up more joint ventures in third countries was discussed. It was agreed that the two countries could coordinate their approach towards multilateral agreements such as GATT and multi-fibre agreement.

On the political side, discussions took place on restructuring of the United Nations.

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LAND INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM ZAIRE

Date: Mar 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Meeting between our Prime Minister and Polish President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 04, 1994:

The visiting Polish President, H.E. Mr. Lech Walesa, met our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, today. They exchanged views on the emerging international order in the wake of collapse of the socialist system in the Eastern Europe and the far reaching changes unleashed by it. The two leaders agreed that both India and Poland had a lot to contribute to the emerging world order. They also discussed the issue of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Our Prime Minister emphasized the need for complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The Polish President expressed his agreement and said that the two countries should work together towards achieving this objective. Issues relating to bilateral cooperation between the two countries were also discussed and the two leaders were in agreement over the need to strengthen India-Poland ties, the full details of which would be worked out by concerned officials on the two sides.

LAND INDIA USA

Date: Mar 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

SPEECHES

Message from Indian Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Occasion of Pakistan's National Day

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 23, 1994:

Excellency,

On the occasion of Pakistan's National Day, I have pleasure in extending felicitations on behalf of the Government and the people of India and on my own behalf, to you and to the

Government and people of Pakistan.

The Government and the people of India remain committed to the establishment of good neighbourly and harmonious relations with Pakistan within the framework of the Agreement on Bilateral Relations between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan signed by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Janab Z. A. Bhutto at Shimla on July 2, 1972, and I look forward to your cooperation in achieving this objective which shall be to the mutual benefit and welfare of the peoples of both our countries.

I avail myself of this opportunity to extend my best wishes for your well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Pakistan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) -61>

DIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Mar 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

SPEECHES

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech

The following is the text of the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's speech on the occasion of the visit of H.E. Lech Walesa the Polish Presiddent:

Your Excellency President Lech Walesa and Madame Walesa, and distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, President Walesa and Madame Walesa, on your first State visit to India.

I trust you would have a pleasant and fruitful stay in my country.

Excellency, relations between India and Poland have always been characterised by the tradition of mutual understanding, goodwill and friendship.

In the period of India's struggle for independence, our great leaders, particularly, Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, viewed the people of Poland as compatriots in a great cause: the cause of human dignity and freedom to which both our nations stood committed.

When the dark forces of fascism had engulfed Poland, the courageous resistance of the Polish people evoked admiration in India.

Equally, there has been deep appreciation in my country, of Poland's distinctive contribution to the treasure house of human knowledge and achievement. Your mathematicians and scientists, your astronomers - among whom the name of Copernicus shines brightest - your artists, writers and musicians, have a position of respect in our country. We also value greatly the tradition of Indological studies in Poland and the cultural interaction of India's thinkers, academicians, poets and writers, with the people and institutions in Poland.

The dramatic developments that occurred in Poland over the last decade, have been an important catalyst in changing not only the face of Europe but in ending the Cold War and thus, fundamentally transforming internatitnal relations. Your own contribution to the Polish revolution, Excellency, has been of crucial significance. Democracy and pluralism are not new ideas and the search for human dignity is as old as humanity itself. Yet, the Polish people, in their own struggle for these values under your inspiring leadership, have added a new chapter to the pages of history. They have renewed the world's awareness of the importance of solidarity among the people, and faith in the common man, who instinctively distinguishes between right and wrong, justice and injustice, and is invincible when aroused and inspired.

Excellency, a sense of identity and affinity vitalizes the multidimensional growth in the bilateral ties between India and Poland. Economic and industrial cooperation is a major facet of this relationship, which has benefitted both countries. The collaboration between us has covered a wide range of areas; from mining and industrial machienery to chemicals, metal products and agricultural equipment. Joint projects in science and technology have been to mutual advantage. Bilateral trade has been substantial and the Joint Commission and Joint Business Council have been institutional mechanisms to encourage our economic contacts. The changes which have taken place in both countries however call for fresh and innovative approaches and we have been encouraged to note the role of the Joint Business Council in bringing the entrepreneurs of our countries together.

We in India are deeply committed to our open society. Our tradition and ethos of pluralism, harmony and oneness gives us an

atmosphere naturally conducive to the growth and development of democracy and to endeavour to build a better world for all.

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Committed as both our countries are to the democratic way of life, it is only natural that the extraordinary changes which have taken place in Poland should augment and enhance the bonds of friendship between our two countries based on shared values and beliefs. We look forward to the further development of friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation in the varied spheres of our interaction. Your Excellency's visit will, we are confident, give fresh impetus to the close, and abiding friendship and cooperation between India and Poland. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to joint me in a toast:

- to the health and personal well-being of His Excellency President Walesa and Madame Walesa;
- to the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Poland; and
- to the ever-growing friendship and cooperation between Poland and India.

DIA USA POLAND

Date: Mar 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Discussions between India and Sri Lanka over the problems offishermen

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1994:

An Indian delegation comprising senior officials visited Colombo on 8th and 9th March 1994 for official discussions on the problems of fishermen of the two countries. The discussions were held as a follow up of the earlier meeting between the Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries in September-October 1993.

The Indian delegation called on Hon A. C. S. Hameed, Foreign Minister and Hon. Joseph Michael Perera, Minister of Fisheries and Aouatic Resources of the Government of Sri Lanka at the Official Level Talks. The two sides were led by Mr. Bernard Tilakarmina, Foreign Secretary and H.E. Mr. Nareshwar Dayal, High

Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka.

The Indian side conveyed its strong concern over the recent incidents affecting Indian fishermen. The Sri Lankan side noted this and expressed its position on this matter including its own security concerns. The two sides agreed to implement effectively the measures devised earlier to prevent such incidents.

The two sides also had an informal exchange of views on various other measures to resolve the problems faced by fishermen. They agreed to continue the dialogue.

The discussions were held in a friendly cordial and informal atmosphere.

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I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Mar 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Official visit of Mr. Budimir Loncar, Special Representative of UN Secretary General to NAM

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 02, 1994:

Mr. Budimir Loncar, Special Representative of UN Secretary General to NAM is on an official visit to India at the invitation of Foreign Secretary from March 1-4, 1994. Mr. Budimir Loncar is a distinguished career diplomat turned politician. He has served as Yugoslav Ambassador to FRG and the USA. From 1984 to 1988 he was the Deputy Federal Secretary or Foreign Affairs and in 1988, he was unanimously elected as Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia. Mr. Loncar has participated in five Nonaligned Summit Conferences and has lectured extensively on foreign policy issues. He was appointed to the present position of Special Representative of UNSG to NAM last year.

Mr. Loncar had detailed discussions with Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan on 1.3.94 on a whole range of issues concerning NAM. He called on the External Affairs Minister on 2.3.94. Mr. Loncar's discussions with his Indian counterparts covered issues such as the Nonaligned Movement's efforts to shape a new and better international order, better cooperation and coordination

between UN and the NAM, the venue of the next NAM Summit, the agenda for the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting to be held at Cairo, etc. These talks have been very useful and cordial.

NTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA EGYPT

Date: Mar 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Release of book entitled "Cham Temples in Vietnam"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 25, 1994:

At a ceremony organised in Hanoi on 24.3.94, a book entitled "Cham Temples in Vietnam" by Shri J. C. Sharma, former Ambassador of India to Vietnam, was formally released by Prof. Nguyen Zuy Quy, Member of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Vietnam and the President of the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities. The ceremony was attended by the Indian Ambassador Shri S. L. Malik and Vietnamese Vice Minister of Culture and Information, Mr. Vu Khae Lien.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Malik referred to the close ties of friendship & cooperation between India and Vietnam which are deeply rooted in history. The surviving Cham Temples and Indian Motifs in many Pagodas in Vietnam bear testimony to the close interaction between the two countries in the ancient times. He pointed to the need for restoring & preserving these symbols of our ancient cultural heritage. The book on "Cham Temples in Vietnam" published by the Social Sciences Publishing House besides documenting the highly developed Cham Architecture, would also contribute towards greater mutual understanding between the people of India & Vietnam.

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ETNAM INDIA MALI USA

Date: Mar 25, 1994

Volume No

WORLD BANK

Negotiations between the World Bank and the Indian Authorities

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Mar 01, 1994:

The World Bank and the Indian authorities on March 4, 1994 successfully completed negotiations on the Maharashtra Earthquake and Reconstruction Credit amounting to US \$ 246 million. These negotiations were held from the 26th of February to the 4th of March in Washington, D.C. The Bank team was headed by Mr. Robert Panfil, Division Chief, Infrastructure Division, and the Task Manager, Mr. Richard Scurfield. The delegation from the Government of India included Mr. S. Padmanabhia, Secretary, Urban Development, and Mr. N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, while the delegation from the Government of Maharashtra was led by Mr. N. Raghunathan, Chief Secretary and included Mr. S. Sidhu, Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation. The object of the credit is:

- a. To assist rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas affected in the recent earthquake by restoration of assets and basic services. and
- b. To increase the earthquake resistance of buildings and infrastructure and construction to develop the ability to respond more effectively to natural disasters.

The total cost of the project is approximately Rs. 1100 crores (\$ 327 million) and the project would be financed with an IDA credit of \$ 246 million which would cover 75 percent of the project cost. The Government of Maharashtra and other donor agencies would be providing the balance of resources needed for the project.

One of the main components of the project is the housing component amounting to Rs. 634 crore under which rehabilitation and reconstruction of 2300 houses would be provided for new sites in about 49 villages. In addition, reconstruction on existing sites of 29,000 houses which were destroyed or substantially damaged by the disaster also comprises part of the project. The project also provides for repairs, reconstruction, and strengthening of public buildings and infrastructure amounting to Rs. 298 crores including schools, health centers, and social service facilities, roads, bridges, and repair of irrigation facilities.

The project includes a program for social rehabilitation, with particular emphasis on needs of women and children, including shelter for destitute women, orphans and handicapped children, and construction of homes for the elderly. A village development fund is being set up for providing opportunities for self-help income-generating activities.

The project also includes an important component on earthquake monitoring and research, comprising financing for relevant earthquake monitoring equipment including portable strong-motion instruments.

With the successful completion of these negotiations and the provision for reconstruction financing, work can now speedily proceed for effective rehabilitation of the earthquake affected victims and for addressing the infrastructure and social needs of the people in that area.

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DIA USA LATVIA

Date: Mar 01, 1994

April

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Date: Apr 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

BAHRAIN

20-Member Trade Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 13, 1994:

A 20-Member Trade Delegation from Bahrain led by the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ali Ben Yousuf Fakhro called on the Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed here today. They discussed matters relating to bilateral trade between India and Bahrain in the wake of the economic reforms in India. Shri Ahmed said that the level of bilateral trade between the two countries did not fully reflect the complimentarities that existed between the two economies and there was a vast potential for trade that remained to be exploited.

India exported goods worth Rs. 119.58 crores to Bahrain in 1991-

92 as against Rs. 62.86 crores in 1990-91. Imports from Bahrain amounted to Rs. 853.52 crores in 1991-92 as against Rs. 462.31 crores in 1990-91. Major Indian exports to Bahrain include traditional products like meat, tea, coffee, spices, rice, fruits and vegetables. Non-traditional export items are textiles, cotton fabrics, readymade garments, sanitary fittings etc. Bahrain is an important source of supplies of crude oil and industrial products like sulphur and ammonia. The other import items from Bahrain are aluminium and aluminium alloys, scrap metal, paper waste etc.

HRAIN INDIA USA

Date: Apr 13, 1994

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group:

The first meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group took place from Mar 29-31, 1994. The Group composed of senior officials of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs and others concerned had been set up following the visit to Dhaka of India's Home Secretary in October, 1993.

2. The Working Group held discussions in a very cordial atmosphere on a range of issues pertaining to the mutual concerns of the two sides. Discussions aimed at developing a set of agreed recommendations for appropriate action in due course. It has been agreed that the Joint Working Group would meet in Dhaka in near future.

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NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Mar 29, 1994

Volume No

BELGIUM

Visit of H.E. Mr. D. De Winter, Ambassador for ImmigrationPolicy of Belgium

The following is the statement made by India and Belgium to curb illegal immigration and facilitate the re-admission of Indian illegals on Apr 22, 1994:

Delegation level talks were held between India and Belgium on 18-19 April, 1994 to establish active cooperation between the two countries to curb illegal immigration and facilitate the readmission of Indian illegals. The talks were held in a cordial and purposeful manner. Both sides agreed to a set of arrangements for expediting and streamlining the existing procedures in this regard. The Belgian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. D. De Winter, Ambassador for Immigration Policy and the Indian delegation by Mr. Deb Mukharji, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. During their stay the Belgian delegation called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia; the Foreign Secretary Mr. K. Srinivasan and the Home Secretary Mr. N. Vohra. The Belgian team also visited Punjab.

LGIUM INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Apr 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

GATT

Speech of Minister of State for Commerce to Group of ForeignJournalists

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1994 to Foreign Correspondents call on Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce Multi-lateral rule based transparent trading and GATT:

The Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, has reiterated India's faith in a multi-lateral, rulebased, transparent trading system which the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) seeks to ensure. Speaking to a group of foreign journalists here today, Shri Ahmed stated that the GATT Agreement was on the whole beneficial to India.

He however, called upon the developed countries not to link

extraneous issues such as labour standards and environmental concerns to world trade. The developed countries should not raise these issues so as to deprive developing countries like India of their comparative advantage, he said.

The delegation of journalists which called on the Minister included Mr. Daniel Basten (France), Makato Kawasee (Japan), Jochem Reinert (Germany) and Ms. Sara Cristaldi (Italy). Expressing happiness at the overall growth prospects of the Indian economy, the Minister said that the economic reforms programme launched by the Government had been a success.

High foreign exchange reserves, increasing levels of foreign direct investment (FDI) and reasonably good rate of GDP growth were indicators of the fact that the economy was now on the verge of take off, he stated.

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DIA USA FRANCE JAPAN GERMANY ITALY

Date: Apr 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL

Foreign Investment of over Rs. 200 crores

Extract from a press release regarding Government approval of 49 more foreign investment proposals worth over Rs. 200 crore in New Delhi on Apr 29, 1994:

The Government has approved 49 more proposals envisaging total direct foreign investment of over Rs. 200 crore. These proposals were cleared at the meeting of the Empowered Committee, held here today, under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

With this, the Committee has, since its constitution in September, 1992, cleared proposals envisaging direct foreign investment of around Rs. 5,500 crore in its 30 meetings.

The units approved today, have projected export earnings of around Rs. 1500 crore, over a period of five years.

Ten of the projects approved today, are for setting up 100 per cent export oriented units for the manufacture and export of

items such as shrimp and shrimp seeds, cut flowers and flower buds, selenium, refined nickel sulphate, refined copper sulphate, cotton swabs, bandages and other related products, polywood yarn, readymade garments, etc.

Four other proposals are for setting up units under Electronic Technology Park Schemes for manufacture and export of track balls, wide format fax machines and photovoltaic modules and systems.

SSIA

Date: Apr 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL

Trade Agreement with 10 Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 29, 1994:

During 1993-94 India has signed Trade agreements with the following 10 countries:

- 1. Belarus on 14.5.93
- 2. Slovak Republic on 14.5.93
- 3. Uzbekistan on 24.5.93
- 4. Sultnate of Oman on 15.6.93
- 5. Lithuania on 2.7.93
- 6. Latvia on 10.9.93
- 7. Estonia on 15.10.93
- 8. Slovenic on 7.12.93
- 9. Myanmar on 21.1.94
- 10.Indo-EC Cooperation Agreement on 20.12.93

No items have been specified in the agreements. No trade targets

have been fixed under the agreements. Earning of Foreign Exchange under the agreements, therefore, is not quantifiable in advance.

All the agreements except Indo-Myanmar are signed for 5 years. Indo-Myanmar agreement is signed for 2 years. This was inndicated by the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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DIA USA UZBEKISTAN OMAN LATVIA ESTONIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Apr 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Smt. Krishna Sahi, Minister of India discussion with IranianMinister of Heavy Industries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1994:

The Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi had an official level discussion with Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries, Mr. Nezhad Hossennien, in Tehran.

Smt. Sahi, who is on a three-day visit to Iran, took up specifically the offers submitted by BHEL to manufacture insulators, and by HMT to supply heavy mechanical presses and sophisticated machine centres. Mr. Nezhad Hossennian was full of praise for Indian response in the area of industrial cooperation after his visit to India in April last year.

Iran's response to BHEL's offer was very favourable and they indicated that formal acceptance of the same was likely without any delay. HMT's offer to supply 1000 T press also was being favourably considered. HMT had also made an offer to supply sophisticated machine centres. The Government of Iran is keen for cooperation in the area of heavy diesel engines, heeavy earth moving equipment and mining machinery.

Iranians had also expressed their happiness in increasing business with Indian private sector companies. The Minister also took up the case of the proposal submitted by an Indian firm to supply rear axle assembly for supply rear axle assembly for buses and mini buses to Ms. Pars Khodro, an Iranian Government company.

Smt. Krishna Sahi also had detailed discussions with Mr. Khamoosi, Managing Director of Industrial Development and Renovation Organisation (IDRO) and Ex-offcio Deputy Minister. Officers of other companies having business with India were also present.

Smt. Sahi is accompanied by a highlevel delegation comprising S/Shri A. P. Singh, Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Industrial Development, Gavidasappa, Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL, and V. M. Deshpande, General Manager (Marketing), HMT (International) Ltd.

AN INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Statement made by Vice President of India on Nuclear Policy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 08, 1994:

Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India has said that India has been in the forefront of peace and disarmament in the world and has based its nuclear policy on peaceful development of nuclear energy. In this context, he underlined the need for the big powers to demonstrate their intentions for global denuclearisation. He also said that present Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) needs to be made -70>

non-discriminatory in order to have a just international order. These views were expressed during the meeting between Shri K. R. Narayanan and Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, M.P., former Prime Minister of Japan and Hon. Chairman of India Japan Study Committee (IJSC).

Expressing satisfaction on the fact that relations between India and Japan have grown in depth and in diverse fields Shri Narayanan appreciated Japan's extremely supportive role in changes India were endeavouring in the economic sector. While stating that India would be broadening and deepening the economic reforms Shri Narayanan emphasised the need to support and enhance the living standards of the poor masses to sustain the whole process.

Referring to the emerging regional scenario the Vice President said the balance of forces in Asia is now determined by Asian Countries themselves due to emerging powerful Nations in the region. Shri Narayanan said under the able chairmanship of Mr. Raifu, the India Japan Study Committee would be imparted with both intellectual and practical leadership for further expansion in our economic relations. Mr. Kaifu said India had played a key role in establishing peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and hoped greater bilateral cooperation in economic, political and cultural field would take place in the future.

PAN INDIA USA

Date: Apr 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Meeting of Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force

The following is the text of a press release issued on the meeting of Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1994:

The Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force established by the two Prime Ministers in October, 1992 to review Indo-Nepal projects met in New Delhi on 15.4.1994.

- 2. The Indian delegation was led by Shri A. N. Varma, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Nepalese delegation by Mr. Madhusudan Prasad Gorkhali, Chief Secretary, His Majesty's Government of Nepal. The mandate of the Task Force is to ensure successful completion of Indian aided projects in Nepal and to look into new projects in Nepal that may be proposed.
- 3. The High Level Task Force noted with satisfaction the progress that has so far been achieved in implementation of on going cooperation projects previously agreed between the two countries. The Indo-Nepal agreement on the B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan was signed on 10.3.1994 during the visit to Nepal of the Health Minister of India. The Telephone Exchange at Rangeli has been commissioned and the museum building al Hetauda and the Lumbini Museum have been handed over to His Majesty's-Government of Nepal. The Industrial Estate at Rajbiraj has also been completed. The High Level Task Force also reviewed the water

resources sector and attached priority to the completion of the detailed project reports on Burhi-Gandaki and Pancheshwar projects.

4. The Nepalese delegation to the High Level Task Force will be calling on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, on 16.4.1994. Their discussions are continuing.

PAL INDIA SUDAN USA

Date: Apr 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of French Foreign Minister to India

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on the visit of Mr. Allain Juppe, Foreign Minister of France:

The French Foreign Minister, Mr. Allain Juppe, met our Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, today. He expressed great interest in India's economic reforms and said that France was very impressed with the spectacular results obtained so far. He underlined the intention of France to intensify economic relations and said that French companies had noted the changed atmosphere and were now ready to strengthen their presence in the Indian market.

He suggested that the economic relations, especially in the area of investment, should be given an impetus through a bilateral investment protection agreement.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said that India would be happy to enter into such an agreement with France, and create a hospitable climate for French investments. He also conveyed India's views about keeping extraneous issues, such as social and environmental clauses, out of discussions on a multilateral trading system.

He stated that if the issues such as labour standards and social dumping were raised, this would constitute a major setback to the international trading system as well as the success of our economic reforms. The French Foreign Minister responded that the European Union's position was clear as it had opted for the liberalisation of trade on the basis of a level playing field.

They opposed unilateralism in world trade. They also did not support any regressive systems which might impede trade. France wanted to maintain certain minimum norms under the ILO.

Finally, the Foreign Minister also mentioned the visit by a high-level delegation from the National Confederation of French Employers (CNPF), and agreed with our Finance Minister that the Joint Commission meeting between the two countries should be held about the end of this year.

DIA FRANCE USA PERU

Date: Apr 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of French Foreign Minister to India

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on visit of French Foreign Minister to India:

The External Affairs Minister met the French Foreign Minister this morning. Both agreed on the need to give a new impetus to our bilateral relations, especially in the economic field. It was mentioned that a high-level delegation of the National Confederation of Frenah Employers (CNDF) would visit India this year.

The External Affairs Minister explained the situation regarding India's relations with Pakistan and also situation in Kashmir, and reiterated that the problem in Kashmir is a creation of cross-border support to terrorism.

He said we would be ready to discuss this matter bilaterally with Pakistan.

The two Ministers agreed that terrorism was a major problem in today's world and the two countries as well as the international community as a whole must cooperate to combat it.

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DIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Apr 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Angola

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on Apr 06, 1994 on the visit of Mr. Venancio de Silva Moura, Foreign Minister of Angola:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, Mr. Venancio de Silva Moura, met our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. He gave a detailed account of the situation in Angola, including the efforts being made towards the resolution of the problems being currently faced.

Both the Ministers felt that bilateral relations should be further intensified, especially in the economic and commercial spheres. Shri Dinesh Singh expressed the hope that peace and normalcy would be returned to Angola at the earliest, so that the nation addresses the basic task of national re-construction and development.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid led the Indian delegation for official talks with the delegation of Republic of Angola led by H.E. Mr. Venancio De Silva Moura, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola in South Block today. Minister welcomed the opportunity for substantive discussions with the Angolian Minister, and recalled the historic visit of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Angola in 1986 and the visit of President Dos Santos to India, which had laid strong foundation for the growth of our bilateral relations. India had greeted the liberation of Angola and was confident that the peace talks current ly underway in Lusaka would culminate in an agreement to end the internal conflict in Angola. The Angolan Foreign Minister reiterated his country's commitment to develop all round bilateral relations with India. He supported India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and said that Angola strongly opposes any attempt to destabilise India. He reaffirmed Angola's commitment to cooperate with India both at bilateral and multilateral forums to counter the dangers posed to territorial integrity and sovereignty of modern states by forces of cross border terrorism and fundamentalism.

Date: Apr 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on Apr 07, 1994 on staff strength of Indian Consulate General in Karachi:

Foreign Secretary conveyed today to the High Commissioner of Pakistan Government's decision to agree to Pakistan's request for augmenting the strength of its High Commission in New Delhi by 20 personnel.

While conveying this, Foreign Secretary recalled that Pakistan's response is still awaited to our request for augmenting the strength of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi.

Foreign Secretary pointed out that in comparison with the period upto December 1992 when Pakistan unilaterally sought a reduction in the staff strength of the Indian Consulate in Karachi from 64 personnel to 20 personnel, at present the Indian Consulate is equipped to handle only 10 percent of its normal visa work load. This has caused delays in the granting of visas, resulting in hardships to people, especially of divided families, who wish to travel to India, and has the effect of restricting people-topeople contacts between India and Pakistan.

KISTAN INDIA FRANCE USA

Date: Apr 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of laos to India

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman in Apr 08, 1994 on the visit of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos, Shri Soubann Srithirath, to India:

The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos, Shri Soubanh Srithirath, who is in India to attend the ESCAP meeting called on Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia today. During the meeting, he expressed strong support for India's position on Kashmir.

In his meeting today with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, the Laos Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, said that Laos fully supports India's position on Kashmir. Mr. Srithirath said that India has sovereign rights over Kashmir.

- 2. The Laos Minister said that there were two reasons because of which Laos supports India's claim:
- (i) Kashmir belongs to India
- (ii) Laos strongly opposes foreign interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country. Some powers may want to create autonomous provinces for their own purposes, but Laos opposes such policies anywhere.

DIA LAOS USA

Date: Apr 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Ms. Strobe Talbott toIndia

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Deputy Secretary of State Ms. Strobe Talbott:

US Deputy Secretary of State, Ms. Strobe Talbott is presently on a two-day visit to New Delhi. He is accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State Robin L. Raphel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Einhorn, Executive Assistant Victoria Nuland and Special Assistant John Willies.

2. The programme in Ministry of External Affairs today included

discussions with Foreign Secretary and a call on the External Affairs Minister, who was assisted, among others, by Ambassador S. S Ray. A lunch was hosted in honour of Mr. Talbott by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed. In the afternoon, Mr. Talbott called on the Finance Minister.

- 3. During the course of discussions at Ministry of External Affairs, both sides considered that there were great potentials for further cooperation between India and the US bilaterally and internationally. Mr. Talbott reiterated President Clinton's invitation to Prime Minister to visit the US at a mutually convenient date, and conveyed that the USA saw the visit as opening a new chapter in Indo-US relations, given the opportunities to work together in the post-Cold War scenario. They wanted the visit when it took place to have a wholly positive fall-out.
- 4. Mr. Talbott said that USG are aware of the reach of India's foreign policy and security concerns. Our position on India's territorial integrity and security considerations were emphatically stated. Sophisticated weapons acquired by Pakistan have been used only against India and, therefore, transfer of F-16s to Pakistan would be a matter of deep concern to India. It was emphasized that India stands for a non-violent and just international order. Our opposition to regimes which were discriminatory in character, whether on non-74>

proliferation matters or trade issues, was also conveyed. The concept and form of a multilateral forum for discussions on disarmament issues were discussed, and it was agreed to continue these discussions further.

- 5. On Jammu and Kashmir, the US side endorsed the disirability of an Indo-Pakistan dialogue under the provisions of the Simla Agreement.
- 6. Mr. Talbott's discussions with Finance Minister focussed on current optimism for further growth in economic and commercial relations. It was conveyed to him that addition of environmental issues and a social cause would endanger the already negotiated Uruguay Round package and complicate its implementation.
- 7. The US side communicated a request for Government of India's agreement to the next US Ambassador to India. The Indian side undertook to give very early response.
- 8. In all the discussions held today, both sides expressed their desire to build on the many areas of positive convergence while continuing frequent dialogue on all issues where a common approach was found wanting.

Date: Apr 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of PapuaNew Guinea to India

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on Apr 08, 1994 on the Ministerial Conference in increasing technical Cooperation:

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Julius Chan, called on our External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh today. He focussed on increasing technical cooperation with India and sought assistance in various economic and technical areas including human resource development. He invited investment from India in Papua New Guinea especially in the areas of fisheries and food-processing. He also suggested a greater involvement of the private sector and invited a team from a representative business Chamber of Commerce in India to visit Papua New Guinea at the invitation of their Chamber of Commerce. Our External Affairs Minister mentioned that India would do all it can to promote bilateral relations.

INEA INDIA USA PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Date: Apr 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1994:

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salem Basendwa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of

the Republic of Yemen, visited India (April 1013, 1994) at the invitation of Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister for External Affairs. This was the first ever visit by a Cabinet Minister to India from unified Yemen.

At their meeting today, the two Ministers recalled age-old, frindly relations between Yemen and India and expressed their keen desire to further strengthen them in the coming years. They exchanged views on regional and international issues. -75>

The visiting Minister expressed the desire of the Government of Yemen for an intensive interaction in the economic area, especially to increase trade and technical cooperation. During the discussions it emerged that there is a great scope for strengthening mutually beneficial relations in the field of irrigation, telecommunications, health sector, agriculture, trade training of Yemeni students in professional institutions in India in the areas of engineering managements, electronics etc.

The Yemeni Foreign Minister invited investments from India in the development projects being carried out there. Our External Affairs Minister welcomed the suggestion. It was agreed that India and Yemen would jointly explore the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in the field of oil exploration, extraction, refining, distribution and marketing, development of Aden Free Port, civil construction etc.

India extended its best wishes for the success of multi-party democracy introduced in April 1993 in the Republic of Yemen, and hoped that the long-felt, cherished dream of the Yemeni people, to see their unified country proceed further on the path to peace and development, would be realised soon.

Yemen expressed its concern at the menace of growing fundamentalism and terrorism in the worled. Yemen supported India's concern on cross-border terrorism and the rejection of interference in the internal affairs of any country by external forces. Yemen supports India's stand on Kashmir issue and hoped that it would be resolved through dialogue between India and Pakistan and not by resorting to polemics and violence.

MEN INDIA USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date: Apr 11, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Deputy Minister and Foreign Minister of Republic of Tajikistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1994:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid met the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Dr. Tajiddin Mardonov today. The Tajik Minister expressed his happiness at this opportunity to hold bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries. He recalled with gratitude the fact that India had been the first country outside the CIS to host the official visit of the head of the new Government of Tajikistan in February 1993. He expressed gratitude for the humanitarian assistance extended to Tajikistan by the Government of India. The two sides discussed ways and means to expand bilateral relations, especially in the economic, and commercial field. It was felt that the opening of the Indian Mission in Dushanbe and the appointment of an honarary consul general of Tajikistan in India would facilitate this process. On Kashmir, the Tajik Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterated his country's full support for India's position, which had been conveyed to Government of India by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan in February 1993 and said that Tajikistan was committed to India's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and strongly opposed cross border terrorism which was a destablising force in the region. He added that any dispute on Kashmir should be resolved in keeping with the Shimla agreement. -76>

JIKISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Apr 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

A Delegation of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industries toIndia

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Apr 18, 1994 for signing of an agreement with Bahrain:

A delegation of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by H.E. Mr. Ali Ben Yousuf Fakhro called on Minister of State for

External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid today. The minister welcomed the visit of the delegation and felt that the agreement signed between the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and FICCI for establishing a joint business council yesterday was a very significant event, which would contribute to expanding Indo-Bahrain economic and commercial relations. Minister was briefed by the Bahrain delegation on areas of their interest, especially in investment in the power, manufacturing, Agro-Industrial and transportation sectors. The visiting delegation expressed its great happiness at the significant contribution made to Bahrain by over 100 thousand Indians working and residing in Bahrain.

HRAIN USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Kuwaiti Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Abdul Mohsin YousifUnder Secretary in Ministry of Finance

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman on the Joint Statement by the Under Secretary of Kuwaiti Finance Ministry and Shri P. M. S. Malik, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs:

Furthering the historical ties existing between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of India, and with reference to the cooperation Agreement signed between them in February 1992, a 15-member high ranking technical multi-disciplinary delegation led by H.E. Mr. Abdul Mohsin Yousif Al-Hanaif, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance paid an official visit to India on April 11-16, 1994. The visit was aimed at exploring the opportunities of boosting bilateral economic cooperation especially in the field of trade, investment, finance oil, petro-chemicals, public works, electricity, water, telecommunications and health.

The plenary meeting of the two sides on April 11 was marked by extensive, indepth and purposive discussions. The Indian side at the meeting was led by Shri P.M.S. Malik, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs. Shri Malik assured the Kuwaiti delegation of his Government's commitment towards the on-going liberalisation of Indian economy. The Kuwaiti delegation called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khursheed who briefed the Kuwaiti side of mutually advantageous possibilities for Kuwaiti investment in all

aspects of cooperaration, especially in the areas of foodprocessing, infrastructure (especially toll-ways) and services. He also stressed the need to hold bilateral economic seminars to promote investments.

The delegation held mutually constructive discussions with the Finance Secretary Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia including in particular Kuwaiti Fund operations in India both in respect of the ongoing and future projects. The Kuwaiti side assured the possibility of participation of Kuwait Fund in financing any infrastructure projects submitted to the Fund. In this regard Kuwait Fund has so far disbursed aid worth US \$ 300 million (approximately Rs. 950 crores) for eight projects in India.

The Kuwaiti delegation held detailed and invehtment-oriented discussions with the Apex Chambers (FIEO, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM). Separate meetings of sectoral interest were held with Indian Oil Corporation and Overseas Construction Council of India. In addition, various members of the delegation held sectoral meetings with their Indian counterparts.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady and impressive growth in bilateral economic and trade relations. The annual bilateral trade has touched nearly a billion US Dollars mark. Both sides took note with satisfaction that the strength of the Indian community in Kuwait has reached the vicinity of the figure of 172,000.

The two sides noted conclusion of the bilateral negotiations on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and agreed to sign the agreement in the very near future. The two sides agreed to take early action to negotiate a bilateral Investment Protection Agreement. It was agreed to promote and encourage interaction among private sectors in the two countries, including through organising fairs/exhibitions, trade weeks and exchange visits.

In conclusion, the two sides hoped to hold the first session of Indo-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission at a mutually convenient date, preferably by the end of 1994.

WAIT USA MALI INDIA

Date: Apr 18, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Ukraine Foreign Minister

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement on the meeting of Ukraine Foreign Minister and Indian External Affairs Minister:

The visiting Foreign Minister of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Anatoly M. Zlenko, called on External Affaffirs Minister today. Subsequently both the Ministers led their delegations in official talks.

In his meeting with Mr. Zlenko, Shri Dinesh Singh, while welcoming Mr. Zlenko, noted that both countries have engaged in regular dialogue at different levels on a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues. He said that India attached great importance to its relations with Ukraine, and recalled the visit of President Kravchuk to India in March, 1992, which was an important event in our relations. He also recalled the visit of the President of India to Ukraine in June, 1993.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the active nature of relations, especially in the economic sphere. Highlights of this cooperation in a concrete sense were: inauguration of direct Air Ukraine flights between Delhi and Kiev, progress towards a civil aviation agreement, exchange of delegations in the area of science and technology, and so on. Shri Dinesh Singh also mentioned the far-reaching process of economic liberalisation taking place in India and offered to share our experience in this area.

The visiting Minister gave an account of recent developments in Ukraine and also underlined the importance that his country attached to developing relations with India in as many spheres as possible.

At the delegation-level talks, both sides discussed various specific aspects of bilateral cooperation, including the need to have regular consultations.

Following the talks, three agreements were signed. These were: a Protocol on consultations between the Foreign Ministries; an Agreement on setting up of a Joint Commission between the two countries; and an economic and technical cooperation Agreement. -78>

RAINE UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date: Apr 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Official Spokesman's Statement on the Second Session of Indo-Sri LankaJoint Commission

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on meeting of Foreign Minister level on Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in New Delhi on Apr 21, 1994:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Second Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers began in New Delhi today. Our External Affairs Minister recalled that he had led the Indian delegation to the First Joint Commission in Sri Lanka in 1969 when he was Minister for Commerce. He mentioned that the bilateral relations over the past three years have been increasingly marked by understanding, friendship and co-operation. The Indian economy was moving towards a dynamic liberalisation. He noted that Sri Lanka was a pioneer in this area of the world. Both countries were following similar courses to open up trade and industry. On SAARC Shri Dinesh Singh stated that it was satisfying that it is increasingly becoming effective for economic cooperation in South Asia. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister mentioned that he looked forward to having meaningful discussions in all areas covered by the Joint Commission. Bilateral relations was proceeding very satisfactorily. Both Ministers shared the hope that the Joint Commission as well as the three sub-commissions would continue their work effectively as they had been doing before.

At the working session of the Joint Commission our side was led by Special Secretary (Economic Relations), Shri P. M. S. Malik. They discussed all those areas which are within the mandate of the Joint Commission. Of the three subcommissions the first one is, on trade, finance and investment, the second one is on social, cultural and education related matters and the third one is on co-operation in science and technology.

The two Foreign Secretaries met separately and had wide ranging discussions on various aspects of bilateral relations. Among the subjects they discussed were SAARC; bilateral issues which included discussions on Sri Lanka's candidature of the Security Council; the question of attacks on fishermen; and the question of the opening of a Sri Lankan bank in Madras.

I LANKA INDIA USA MALI

Date: Apr 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Shri A. C. S. Hameed toIndia

The following is the Official Spokesman's statement on International Situation in Sri Lanka:

The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Shri A. C. S. Hameed called on the Prime Minister in the forenoon today.

The Foreign Minister gave the Prime Minister an account of the current international situation in Sri Lanka and the various government initiatives in this regard.

He referred to different aspects of Indo-Sri Lanka economic and commercial relations, and hoped that these would be further strengthened. Mr. Hameed also briefed Prime Minister on the Sri Lankan side's perception of their discussions underway in the Joint Commission meetings, mentioning that these were proceeding very well.

Prime Minister shared the hope that India-Sri Lanka economic and commercial relations would be further strengthened. In -79>

the context of very satisfactory bilateral relations that we have had with Sri Lanka in recent years, Prime Minister mentioned that India would like to build up its relation with Sri Lanka in every sphere.

Prime Minister expressed the hope that efficient arrangements could once again be put in place for Sri Lankan pilgrims to visit ancient Buddhist shrines in India.

I LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Apr 21, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman on Apr 23, 1994 on Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission:

The Second Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on April 21-22, 1994. The Sri Lankan delegation was headed by Hon. Mr. A.C.S. Hameed, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. He was accompanied by Mr. B. P. Tilakaratna, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Sri Lankan Government. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs and included Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary and other officials.

2. During the visit, the Sri Lankan

Foreign Minister called on President, Shri Shanker Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and Minister of External Affairs Shri Dinesh Singh. He met Shri Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister and Shri Gulam Nabi Azad, Civil Aviation Minister. Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs called on him.

- 3. The Joint Commission reviewed the work of its three Sub-Commissions on Trade, Investment and Finance; on Cultural, Social and Educational matters; and Science and Technology and gave directions for their future cooperation.
- 4. The main highlights of the agreement that emerged on various areas of cooperation during the Joint Commission meeting are placed below:
- (a) Both sides acknowledged the complementary and essentially similar liberalisation programmes being undertaken by the two Governments and agreed on the need for greater involvement of trade and industrial representatives and diversification into new areas for optimal utilisation of the potential generated by such liberalisation, particularly in sectors like services and joint ventures.
- (b) An indepth review of the trends and measures to increase bilateral trade was undertaken. It was decided that an interGovernmental meeting would be held soon, to examine and consider measures for expansion of trade between India and Sri Lanka, and specifically the request by the Sri Lankan Government for enhanced market access for some of its products.
- (c) The Indian side assured the visiting delegation about its

intention to arrange restoration of preferential tariff margin on Sri Lankan cloves under the Bankok Agreement, as soon as possible.

- (d) Sri Lanka appreciated India's decision to extend a new line of credit to implement infrastructural development Projects through Indian participation in Sri Lanka.
- (e) Discussions centered on the prospects of industrial and economic cooperation, particularly of Indian participation in Sri Lanka's programme for development of Railways. The Indian delegation also indicated the growing interest of Indian companies in securing projects, consultancies and commodities supply contracts through tenders floated by Sri Lankan organisations.

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- (f) There was a shared view about the need to promote people-topeople contacts between the two countries through measures which would facilitate visits of tourists to each other's country.
- (g) Both sides acknowledged the fact of high seat factors achieved both by Sri Lanka and Indian Airlines and agreed on the need to hold early bilateral negotiations for the upward revision of capacity entitlement.
- (h) In the area of Science & Technology, both sides were satisfied with the progress of cooperation. They agreed in principle to collaborate for the setting up of the Institute of Technology and Management in Sri Lanka. Environmental protection and collaboration on issues like hazard waste management, air quality monitoring and environmental impact assessment hold potential for cooperation.
- 6. Apart from trade and economic cooperation, other issues of bilateral and regional nature which were of interest to both the sides were also discussed. There was an exchange of views on the Ethnic issue in Sri Lanka in the context of recent developments. Further, the Indian side also raised the issue of problems faced by Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and it was agreed that the dialogue on this issue would be continued.

I LANKA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA THAILAND

Date: Apr 23, 1994

Volume No

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Second Meeting of India China Expert Group

The following is the press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 23, 1994 on Indo-China Expert Group:

The Second meeting of the India -China Expert Group was held in Beijing on April 21-22, 1994. The Indian delegation, which was led by Shri Shivshankar Menon, Joint Secretary (North East), Ministry of External Affairs, included representatives from the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs, the Army Headquarters and the Survey of India. The Chinese delegation, led by Mr. Fu Xuezhang, Deputy Director Asian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also comprised experts from their concerned departments.

- 2. The Expert Group reviewed the progress made at its first meeting, held in New Delhi in February 1994, and continued deliberations on the tasks assigned to it under the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. The mandate of the Expert Group includes assisting the Joint Working Group in clarification of the line of actual control (LAC) between India and China, re-deployment of military forces along the LAC, other confidence building measures, and verification methods.
- 3. At the second meeting, the two sides reached agreement on the work regulations of the Expert Group. This document, which spells out the mandate, future tasks and modalities of the Expert Group, was signed by the leaders of the two delegations on April 22,1994.
- 4. Both sides also noted with satisfaction that the situation along the India-China LAC was peaceful. They also expressed satisfaction at the confidence building measures already in place between them and exchanged views on further such measures, as envisaged in the Agreement establishing the Expert Group. They also had indepth discussions on urgent questions relating to the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas.
- 5. Both sides adopted a constructive and forward-looking approach in these discussions, which were held in a friendly atmosphere. -81>
- 6. It was agreed that the next meeting of the India-China Expert Group will be held in New Delhi around end-1994. This meeting will be preceded by the seventh meeting of the India-China Joint Working group in Beijing around the middle of 1994.

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INA INDIA USA

Date: Apr 23, 1994

May

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Date: May 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

President Shanker Dayal Sharma State Visit to Bulgaria

The following is the text of Press release issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1994 on President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma state visit to Bulgaria:

The President of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma accompanied by Smt. Vimla Sharma will pay a State visit to Bulgaria from 26 to 29 May, 1994, at the invitation of H.E. Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The President will be assisted by Minister of Home Affairs, Shri S. B. Chavan, Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation Shri Arvind Netam and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed.

During the State visit, the President will be holding discussions with Dr. Zhelev and will also be receiving senior Bulgarian Ministers and leaders. The visit will contribute towards strengthening India's ties with Bulgaria. Several agreements envisaging cooperation between the two countries in tourism, agriculture and in combating organised crime, international terrorism etc. are expected to be signed in the course of the visit.

The President has been invited to address a Session of the Bulgarian National Assembly. University of Sofia will be conferring an honorary doctorate on President. The programme includes meeting with senior members of the academic and business communities.

LGARIA INDIA USA

Date: May 20, 1994

Volume No

INDIA

State-wise FDI Approvals During 1993-94

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1994 on statewise Foreign Direct Investment during 1993-94:

State-wise net amount of Foreign Direct Investment proposals approved during April 1993 to March 1994 is given below:

State	April, 1993 - March,
1994	

Investment crores) Maharashtra 1513.87 Delhi 955.80 Others 944.71 -83>	Number (Rs. in 109 89 61
Orissa 779.59 Madhya Pradesh 582.87 Tamil Nadu 558.78 Karnataka 355.94 Andhra Pradesh 348.99 Gujarat 303.39 Haryana 133.74 Rajasthan 75.77 Uttar Pradesh 63.79 West Bengal	11 17 78 43 43 30 38 24 16 21
48.30 Goa 36.59 Kerala 21.89	10 10

Chandigarh 3 20.02 2 Dadra & Nagar Haveli 7.43 7 Punjab 7.21 3 Himachal Pradesh 2.62 Pondicherry 4 2.18 Daman & Diu 2 1.42 2 Bihar 1.37 Andaman & Nicobar 1 0.90 2 Assam 0.27 Total 626 6767.43

The Reserve Bank of India has reported Rs. 1925.89 crore amount of actual inflow of foreign investment during the period from April, 1993 to March, 1994. Industry-wise distribution of actual inflow of foreign direct investment is not maintained.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi in a written reply to a question by Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan in the Lok Sabha today.

DIA USA

Date: May 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India's Election to the U.N. Commission on SustainableDevelopment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1994 on India's election as Vice Chairman of the Bureau of the U. N. Commission on Sustainable Development in New York:

India was elected Vice-Chairman of the Bureau of the United

Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at the Second Session of the Commission which began in New York on May 16, 1994. India has also been elected to chair an important working group of the Commission dealing with the question of transfer of technology and finance.

DIA USA

Date: May 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

New Indian Missions abroad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1994 on functioning of Indian Missions in Tajik and Kyrghyz:

Indian missions have started functioning in the Tajik capital Dushanbe and and the Kyrghyz capital Bishkek with effect from last week. The Embassy in Bishkek is presently headed by Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Shri Hans Raj; Shri R. S. Mukhija, the Ambassador designate is expected to arrive in Bishkek very shortly. The mission in Dushanbe is headed by Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Shri G. Dharmendra.

With the opening of these two missions, India has missions now in all the Central Asian Capitals - Almaty (Kazakstan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Ashgabat (Turkmenistan).

It may also be mentioned, that a Consulate General was opened in Istanbul on April 20, 1994. Shri G. P. Issar is the new Consul General there.

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DIA KYRGYZSTAN TAJIKISTAN USA UNITED KINGDOM KAZAKHSTAN UZBEKISTAN TURKMENISTAN TURKEY

Date: May 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Visit of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 31, 1994 on visit of parliamentary delegation to Japan:

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation under the leadership of Mr. Mahendra Prasad, Member of Parliament and Vice Chairman of Asian Forum of Population & Development met Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Hata on 25th May 1994 in Tokyo for half an hour and the Prime Minister and the leader of delegation exchanged views beneficial to both the countries.

Mr. Mahendra Prasad, the leader of the delegation, explained to the Prime Minister about the stability of the Government of India and economic liberalisation. The Prime Minister was very pleased to meet the Indian Parliamentary Delegation. The news of Mr. Mahendra Prasad meeting with Prime Minister Hata appeared in the local language dailies widely.

PAN INDIA

Date: May 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar Visit to Japan toattend a meeting on Natural Disaster Prevention

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1994 on a visit to Japan to Natural Disaster Prevention Conference by Dr. Balram Jakhar, Agriculture Minister:

Union Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Balram Jakhar, delivered his plenary speech at the world conference for Natural Disaster Prevention currently being held in Yokohama, near Tokyo, the speech was very well received, in his address the Minister pointed out the extensive experience that India possessed in dealing with natural disasters like floods, drought earthquakes etc. He laid stress on the human angle and drew the audience's attention to the efficient way in which India had dealt with the

relief works that were necessary to alleviate the suffering of the people after the Latur Earthquake of September'93. The Minister also laid stress on India's ability to feed its people even during the worst of droughts, in this context, he mentioned the efficient way in which the Government of India dealt with the drought of 1987. The minister made a special mention about the financial systems prevailing in India for dealing with natural disasters and explained the way in which the central and the State Governments Cooperate closely in this regard. He observed that the wealth of experience that nations of the world had gathered over the decades would be immensely useful for preparing societies to face the consequences of natural disaster efficiently. The minister appreciated that the very fact of the current meeting taking place itself showed the concern the world community had in regard to dealing with natural disasters. -85>

PAN INDIA USA

Date: May 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

KENYA

Signing of Cultural Agreement between India and Kenya

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1994 on signing of Cultural Agreement between India and Kenya:

On 26th May, Kenya and India signed the cultural agreement for the period 1994-97. It was signed by the Kenyan Minister for Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, Mr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, and the Indian High Commissioner in Nairobi. The Agreement seeks to build on and extend cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, Culture, Archaeology, Library Science, Tourism and Mass Media, and Technical training. After the signing, the Kenyan Foreign Minister said that the agreement "is only but symbolic of very close historic relations between the people of Kenya and India". He also highlighted that the programme will have provision for cooperation in text book production, exchange of lecturers and researchers etc.

NYA INDIA USA

Date: May 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

European Union Troika Group's visit to Jammu

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 05, 1994 on visit of European Union Troika Group to Jammu:

In response to a query on the press report of the visit of the European Union Troika Group to Jammu, the Official Spokesman stated that the Troika visit to Jammu was on their own. At the time of their last visit to J & K, they had said that they would like to meet a couple leaders detained in Jammu, viz., S A S Gilani and Abdul Ghani Lone. Since that was not possible on that occasion they had wanted to do it at a later stage. The visit was basically on their own and was not orgagnised by us. We simply facilitated their access to the persons they wanted to meet, in keeping with our policy of transparency.

In response to a query on the statement of the Ambassador of Iran, who was part of the group that visited J&K, the Spokesman replied that the programme for this visit and the earlier two visits had been identical. No other Ambassador had complained or expressed sentiments similar to the ones expressed by the Iranian Ambassador. Indeed, he recalled that the Jordanian Ambassador had spoken to the press and expressed his appreciation at the cooperation they had received and the openness with which the visit had been made. He had also clarified that the visit of the Ambassadors was in no way a "fact finding mission". The Spokesman also clarified that the Government of J&K had put no obstacles as far as meeting the Hurriyat leaders was concerned. The first to first two groups of Ambassadors had -86>

indeed met the Hurriyat. This time also a meeting was arranged but it was the Hurriyat who created problems by insisting on their own venue.

He also mentioned that MEA has conveyed to the Iranian Ambassador its disappointment about his statement, which was not consistent with the facts.

DIA USA IRAN JORDAN

Date: May 05, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bangladesh Cyclonic Storm

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 06, 1994 on Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's sympathy message to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to the families affected by cyclonic storm:

Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister, in their messages respectively to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, have conveyed India's profound sorrow and sympathy to the families of those affected by the recent cyclonic storm. They have also conveyed Government of India's readiness and willingness to extend whatever assistance that may be required by Bangladesh.

Once specific requirements of Bangladesh are ascertained, India's relief assistance will be arranged through the relevant organisations.

It is worth recalling that India had extended considerable assistance to Bangladesh at the time of the last cyclone in 1991 which had caused massive loss of life and destruction of property.

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: May 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Relief Assistance to Rwanda's Refugees

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1994 on relief assistance to Rwanda's refugees:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Government of India is sending relief assistance in the form of milk powder, biscuits and medicines for refugees from Rwanda. As most of the refugees are in Tanzania, the relief material is being sent to Daresalaam. The total relief is worth Rs. 5 lakhs.

The material which will be air-lifted via Addis Ababa will reach Dar-e-salaam today.

ANDA INDIA TANZANIA ETHIOPIA

Date: May 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Russia

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 18, 1994 on the meeting between the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, H.E. Mr. Anatoli L. Adamishin, delegation level talks and his call on our Vice-President:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that in the meeting between Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia and H. E. Mr. Anatoli L. Adamishin, our Minister of State expressed the Government of India's intention to preserve and build upon the best of the long-standing and close relationship that existed in the past and the desire to strengthen them further. The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister agreed fully with these sentiments. He said that in their policy, the strengthening of the relationship with India was accorded the highest priority given India's importance, its economic dynamism and the con-87>

gruence of views that existed between India & Russia on virtually all important issues. There was, therefore, not the slightest

doubt about Russia's intention to maintain the best of relations with India. He said the Russian Government was looking forward to the Indian Prime Minister's visit and this would give a major impetus to bilateral relations.

He gave a detailed briefing on Tajikistan especially on the talks that have sfarted between Government and the opposition groups in Tajikistan, with Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan as well as Central Asian Republics as 'observers'. The first round of talks had taken place in Moscow. He also mentioned that in view of India's position in Asia, Russia felt that India should also be included in this group. On Kashmir, he said that Russia's position continued to be one that supported bilateralism and a peaceful solution under the Simla Agreement. He said this was wellknown and had been reiterated. Russia was also against internationalising this issue. He also mentioned that this had been re-stated by him during his recent visit to Islamabad.

During Mr. Adamishin's call on our Vice President, the talks focussed on the whole range of opportunities available for cooperation, especially in the economic sphere. Both our Vice President and the Russian Minister stressed the role of the private sector with Governments on both sides continuing their catalytic role. Both noted that there were vast opportunities that had arisen following the liberalisation of the economy that had taken place in both countries.

They agreed that fundamentalism was a common danger to multiethnic societies such as India and Russia.

SSIA USA INDIA TAJIKISTAN AFGHANISTAN IRAN PAKISTAN

Date: May 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's visit to South Korea

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 24, 1994 on Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit to South Korea:

In September 1993, the Prime Minister visited the Republic of Korea. In his meeting with the South Korean Prime Minister, who also heads his country's Economic Planning Board (EPB), our Prime

Minister had suggested that EPB make a detailed and thorough study of India's economic system. The South Korean Government had responded positively to the proposal.

The Economic delegation that is visiting India from May 20 to 26, 1994 in pursuance of the agreement reached and would thus be the first high level Economic Delegation of its kind sent by the South Korean Government with multi-ministry representation. The 13 member delegation is headed by an Ambassador at-large, His Excellency Mr. Tae Hyuk Hahm, holding the rank of Vice Minister (Secretary) and is composed entirely of Government officials representing the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Industry, Energy, the Economic Planning Board, Construction. Finance the Korean Institute of International Economic Policy. (KIEP), the Korea Development Institute (KDI), Korea Telecom and Science and Technology Policy Institute. The delegation will be interacting with a wide section of officials in the Government of India drawn from several ministries as also with the major Chambers of Commerce and Industry based in Delhi. They are also visiting the New Okhla Industrial Development Area (NOIDA).

The Round Table was inaugurated by Minister of State (External Affairs) Shri Salman Khursheed on Monday, May 23, 1994. -88>

REA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: May 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Saudi Arabia

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1994 on setting up of information centre in the wake of tragedy during Holy pilgrimage:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Government of India has set up Information Counters both at Jeddah and Mina in the wake of the recent unfortunate tragedy during the Holy pilgrimage. The Saudi Government have also done likewise and our officials are in contact with them. An Administrative Team of 23 Officials is there to render all help and assistance in the task. In addition, 30 Indian doctors and 30 paramedicos have fannedout to Saudi Hospitals to elicit more

details and check for any who may have been affected. 25 Volunteers from various States are also engaged in helping the relief operations. Meanwhile, Indian pilgrims are returning and the first Air India flight arrived yesterday. Air India have planned 71 such flights to transport 21,500 passengers. In addition, 4,500 are to be ferried by sea in 3 sailings.

On Yemen, the Spokesman said that we have completed the evacuation of about 1700 Indians and in case others desire to be repatriated, these efforts will continue.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA YEMEN

Date: May 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

President's State Visit to Romania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 20, 1994 on a visit to Romania by President of India:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Ion Iliescu, President of Romania, the President of India Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma accompanied by Smt. Vimla Sharma will pay a State visit to Romania from 30 May to 1 June, 1994.

The President will be assisted by Minister of Home Affairs, Shri S. B. Chavan, Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of State for Agriculture and Cooperation, Shri Arvind Netam, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed.

During the State visit, the President will be holding discussions with H.E. Mr.Iliescu, and will also be receiving Prime Minister Vacaroiu and other senior Ministers. The visit will contribute towards strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and Romania. Agreements including a basic political document as well as those envisaging cooperation between the two countries in tourism and in combating organised crime, international terrorism, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are expected to be signed.

In the course of the visit, the President will address a joint session of the Romanian Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The

University of Bucharest will confer an honorary doctorate on President. The programme includes meetings with senior members of the Romanian academic and business communities.

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AN ROMANIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: May 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Indian Haj Goodwill Delegation Calls on Saudi Haj Minister and Supervises Arrangements for Hajis

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 19, 1994 on the visit of Indian Haj Goodwill delegation to Saudi Arabia:

17-member Haj Goodwill Delegation, headed by Dr. A. R. Kidwai, Governor of Bihar and former Chairman of UPSC is in Makkah to supervise arrangements made for Indian Hajis so as to make their pilgrimage as comfortable as possible. They have met Hajis coming from India and enquired about their welfare personally.

The Delegation also called on the Minister of Haj, Dr. Mahmoud Safar, who warmly welcomed the delegation and recapitulated the centuries old ties between the peoples of India and Saudi Arabia. The Leader of the Indian Delegation praised the elaborate arrangements made by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques for the comforts of the guests of God, the Hajis, The Delegation will also call on the Governors of Mecca and Madina.

Earlier, addressing a Press Conference the Leader of the Indian Goodwill Delegation said that 20,623 Hajis have come by air and 4,700 by sea. Foreign Exchange for these 25,323 Hajis has been released by the Government of India and arrangements for them have been made through Central Haj Committee. Also about 15,000 Indians have come for Haj on their own.

The strength of the Medical Mission has been increased by 25% which now consists of 65 personnel comprising 35 Doctors. As a new initiative mobile teams of Doctors have been formed who visit each building a day after the pilgrims occupy it and provide the medical service in the first instance at their doorsteps. About 300 weak and old pilgrims have been identified for special care. They will be given medicines to build resistance. The Medical

Team will move with the pilgrims from place to place.

The Delegation includes Justice (Retd.) V.Khaled who is the Deputy Leader. Other Members of the Delegation are Justice Fatima Beevi, Member of Human Rights Commission; Shakrulla Khan, Minister of Fisheries from Haryana State; Lal Muhammad Sabir, former Minister of Jammu & Kashmir; Moid Ahmad, former Minister from Lucknow; Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani, Member of Parliament. Dr. (Mrs.) Birjis Jehan of the General Council of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped; Mirza Ershad Beg, former MP; Muhammad Shafi Bhatt, former MP from Kashmir; M. Masud Khan, MP; Maulana Anzar Shah Kashmiri; M. M. Hashmi, MP; Ahmad Ali Quashmi; Salamatullah of the Central Haj Committee; G. R. Kar and M. Safi Pandit; Member Secretary.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC OMAN

Date: May 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan's Visit to South Africa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1994 on Vice-President's visit to South Africa to attend the inaugural ceremony of newly elected President Mr. Nelson Mandela:

Shri K.R. Narayanan, Vice President, of India shall visit South Africa from May 8 to 11, 1994, to represent Government of India on the historic occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President of post-apartheid South Africa. He will be accompanied by his wife Smt. Usha Narayanan. Other members of the delegation will be Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Shri M. K. Mangalmurti and other officials.

This will be the first high level official visit since India restored diplomatic relations with South Africa on November 22, 1993, during South Africa Foreign Minister, Mr. R.F. Botha's visit to India. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid visited South Africa in January this year,

preceded by the visit of Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister and followed by the visit of Minister of State for Commerce.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date: May 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Felicitates Dr. Nelson Mandela

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 04, 1994 on Prime Minister greeting on his election as President of South Africa:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao has felicitated ANC President Dr. Nelson Mandela on the ANC's victory in the elections in South Africa. In a message the Prime Minister said, "We learn with great pleasure that the Africa. National Congress, under your inspiring leadership, has secured a majority of the votes caste in last week's elections in South Africa.

This is a triumphant culmination of the long and arduous struggle of the people of South Africa for equality, justice and dignity in their own land. It is a historic moment for the people of South Africa, whose struggle aroused the conscience of the whole world

The ANC's victory is testimony to your able leadership of the orgnisation. Your sacrifices and dedication consecrate the courageous and ultimately successful struggle of the people you now lead into the dawn of a new South Africa.

Ever since the time of Mahatma Gandhi a century, ago, India has considered the struggle of the oppressed in South Africa her own struggle. Our long history of support for the campaign to secure the rights of all South Africans now makes us rejoice at the success of this righteous campaign.

The Government and people of India join me, Excellency, in felicitating you and your colleagues for your historic victory. We wish you and the valiant people of South Africa success in all the important nation-building task that lie ahead, and we will, as always, stand by you in your efforts to build a prosperous multi-racial

South Africa. We also look forward to working with you to further strengthening the relations between our two countries.

With assurances of my highest consideration and my warmest personal regards.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date: May 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Opening of Indian Embassy in Pretoria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 06, 1994 on the opening of Indian Embassy in Pretoria:

The Embassy of India in South Africa has started functioning in Pretoria as of today. Mr. Talmiz Ahmed has taken over as Charge d'Affaires.

It will be recalled that India has already established a Consulate General in Johannesburg, where Mr. Harsh Bhasin has been stationed for some time as Consul General.

UTH AFRICA INDIA

Date: May 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Statement of Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister of External Affairs,on the Occasion of Swearing in of the New National Government inSouth Africa

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

on May 10, 1994 on Shri Dinesh Singh, Foreign Minister's statement on the occasion of swearing of the New National Government in South Africa:

A National Government consisting of the elected representatives of all the people of South Africa was sworn in today. The Government and People of India greet this historic occasion with joy that comes from a sense of fulfilment along with all those in South Africa, the African continent, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and others who carried the torch of freedom and equality these long years of struggle against the Apartheid system.

The destinies of the people of India and South Africa have been closely interwoven. The crucible of South Africa had a formative influence on Mahatma Gandhi. His ideals of peace, tolerance and nonviolence and their use as instruments of fundamental political and social change had inspired generations who fought nonviolently for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

While saluting the people of South Africa we highlight the vision and perseverance of one of the great men of this century - Nelson Mandela, who stood in the forefront of the struggle against Apartheid. History will also mark the contribution of those who, in the spirit of reconcilation and compromise for the greater good, made possible the peaceful emergence of a democratic, united South Africa.

Many people from India have made South Africa their home and country. The fight against minority domination has also been their struggle and cause. We are confident that they will contribute to and partake in equal measure with all the peoples of South Africa in the challenges of development and in the road to prosperity.

With the emergence of a new South Africa, history has put behind itself an era marked by colonial exploitation and racial domination. The release of the spirit and genius of millions long suppressed would contribute to the emergence of an invigorated South African Nation that would not only make its contribution to international peace, security and development but also to further human progress. It is with this hope that we look forward to relations of friendship and cooperation with South Africa that we contribute to the betterment of the lives of our peoples.

UTH AFRICA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: May 10, 1994

Volume No

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Address by Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India toa Joint Meeting of the United States Congress

The following is the text of the press release issued in Washington on May 18, 1994 on Prime Minister address to joint meeting of U.S. Congress:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished Members of the Congress of the United States.

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honor that I address you today. Standing in this August Hall, as two great Indian statesmen did before me, is an inspiration to all who hold democracy and freedom above all else. If, as Thomas Carlyle once wrote "the history of the world is but the biography of great men", then much of the world's recent history is owed to these chamber

The histories of our two nations have been intertwined by the words and deeds of great men and women. Christopher Columbus set off to discover a new route to India, only to discover a new world. Out of that unintended discovery was born a great nation. Undaunted by the rather big difference he discovered in his destination, Columbus remarked, this time with perfect accuracy, that the more you go east, the more you are assured to come upon the west. Thus America has a special place in the Indian thinking, as a continent found further east of the known east. This direction is significant in its own way.

In his final inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson spoke of Freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of person under the protection of Habeas Corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected." When India gained independence, we accepted these fundamental freedoms, and looked to the declaration of independence and the Bill of Rights while formulating the Constitution of the world's largest democracy. Now, both countries are forever jointed by the shared values of secularism, political pluralism and the rule of law.

The spirit of America's declaration of independence so moved Indian spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda that on July 4th, 1898, he wrote a poem titled, "To the Fourth of July."

Move on, O Lord, in the resistless path, Till the high noon overspreads the world, Till every leand reflects thy light, Till men and women with uplifted head behold their shackles broken, and know in springtime joy, their life renewed.

Author Henry David Thoreap was influenced by early Indian philosophy and thought, from which he drew his inspiration for the essay, "Duty of civil disobedience". He wrote, "if the law is of such a nature that it requires you to be an agent of injustice to another, then I say break the law, let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine."

His essay influenced Mahatma Gandhi tremendously while he was in South Africa, and in fact gave him the inspiration for the great non-violent civil disobedience he was to practice in the subsequent years so effectively. I am sure his spirit showers his choicest blessings on free and democratic South Africa today.

In turn, Gandhi inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, who learned from Gandhi that "non-violent resistance paralyzed and -93>

confused the power structure against which it was directed." Dr. King wrote that "Gandhi was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals, to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale. It was in this Gandhian emphasis on love and non-violence that I discovered the method of social reform that I had been seeking for so many months."

Thus the United States and India have learned a great deal from each other throughout history. Distances did not matter. Indeed distances never mattered in the transmission of ideas, because their medium is the mind. They travel at what is known as "manovega" in the Indian tradition, meaning the speed of the mind, higher than anything anyone has ever imagined or can ever imagine.

So ideas, and born of them ideals, have echoed back and forth between India and America. Some perceived them, some experienced them, others did not, as often happens. Swami Vivekananda, Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Thoreau, Emerson. Martin Luther King and many others, known and unknown all these names seemed to belong to one nation of humans. Hundreds of American missionaries spread into the remotest tribal areas of India, learned their complicated languages and numberless dialects and served the people there with unparalleled devotion. I am personally acquainted with some of their sons and daughters, and a few who were born in my own district.

For over a century grew this great friendship, a relationship purely between the peoples, with no trace of domination or selfish motive of any kind. Americans rejoiced in India's political freedom. India for ever acknowledges the debt we owe to Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his role in pleading with the British for India's independence. Everything looked fine.

We had the unique opportunity of shaping the history of the post-war world - a history which could have offered the peace dividend to all, East or West, North or South, by enabling countries to attain their full potential by giving their peoples the better life they deserved, but which they had been deprived of, for ages.

THEN CAME THE COLD WAR

That great opportunity seemed to be slipping through our fingers, even as we tried to hold it in our hands. Today, we have to worry about the fingers.

Mr. Speaker, I shall now skip the Cold War, Not being a historian, I am under no obligation to recount it. Being transient, term-bound representatives of our peoples, you and I have neither the time nor the need to review what we do not wish to repeat. It is the future we have to think about, in fact worry about. And, of course, the fingers.

The fingers are, simply, democracy and development. From my own personal experience, I have no doubt that this is an extremely difficult combination - and equally essential, in India's view.

India has undertaken the first steps to shaping our history for the next generation. After decades of centralized economic policies, India recently embarked on a reform program designed to modernize our economy, liberalize trade and realize our economic potential. We welcomed private investment and competition and encouraged free market growth. As a result, India is becoming globally competitive and the standard of living of our citizens is gradually on the rise. The momentum of these reforms will carry India into the next century as the single largest free market in the world.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of India's ambitious economic reform program is the smoothness with which the transition from a closed, protected economy to an open, export-oriented economy has occurrd. Far-reaching changes have been undertaken in a short span of three years, at the same time devising prompt and effective steps to obviate severe social consequences which could have threatened -94>

future reforms. With these steps, coupled with popular support and a broad consensus across India's diverse political spectrum, the reform process has now acquired a momentum of its own.

The impact of the changes in India has had a profound effect on Indo-US economic relations and has benefited both countries. American firms have been in the forefront of forging a new economic relationship. India's vast domestic market, huge

educated, skilled and semi-skilled work force, sound financial institutions and time-tested and democratic system offer tremendous investment opportunities for forward-looking companies.

In shaping our history for the next century, we must look ahead to greater trade between nations. An unfortunate by-product of the past half century was the introduction of weapons of mass destruction around the world. The difficult and complex question of nuclear weapons proliferation can be effectively addrssed only when we consider their global reach. requiring similar global solutions.

Every nation, large or small, rich or poor, is sovereign and possesses an inherent right and responsibility to it's people to ensure their security. I firmly believe that the way to ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction lies in creating a world order based on the universal principles of equality and non-discrimination as a means of enhancing security. The answer that we as nations choose will shape the destiny of the world in the coming century.

Progress has been made in establishing an international consensus for banning nuclear weapons testing and halting production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons purposes. India and the United States have worked closely together in helping to forge this international consensus. To consolidate these gains, further meaningful steps should be taken towards de-nuclearization which the international situation now allows.

And so much more remains to be done. A nuclear "no first use" agreement, indeed an agreement to outlaw the use of weapons is necessary in the short term by way of precaution, while serious multilateral negotiations are launched for nuclear disarmament, the objective being a nuclear free world.

President Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address on the 4th March 1861 had said:

"I hold that, in contemplation of Universal Law and of the constitution, the union of these states is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination physically speaking, we cannot separate. (This is in connection with the so-called self-determination slogans being heard today). We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other, but the different parts of our country cannot do this. They cannot but remain face to face, and intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them".

Indeed in 1968 your Supreme Court had to say "When Texas became one of the United States, she entered into an indissoluble relation ... all the obligations of perpetual union and all the guarantees of Republican Government in the union, attached at once to the state ... it was the incorporation of a new member into the political body. And it was complete and final ..."

India accepts this statement as truly characteristic of a multicultural, multiethnic and multi-religious republic like India or the United States and as totally unassailable.

It is the responsibility of nations to preserve the life and liberty of all their citizens under the law regardless of race, religion and ethnicity. We in India, like you here in this great democracy, are -95>

determined in our assertion that the rights of minoriy groups must be protected vigorously under the rule of law. Our Constitution provides for this, our people demand this and our heritage requires this.

The task that confronts democratic Governments today is to maintain protection of human rights in the face of the most dangerous threat to the violation of human rights, namely, the bullets of terrorists. India is committed to protecting its citizens from terrorism and no Government worth its name can shirk this responsibility. We are taking scrupulous care to protect the rights of individuals under due process of law and punish human rights violations wherever they occur. In this difficult and delicate task, we are doing all that is humanly possible.

As regards the United Nations, it has long been a strong defender of the rights of all the world's citizens. We must therefore promote, in all possible ways, the original mandate of the United Nations - namely to provide "collective security" as a means of achieving peace.

The UN framework for pursuing global security through international cooperation must be preserved, despite the problems and limitations that exist. The international community needs to strengthen the UN and provide more resources if we expect it to respond to today's challenges.

It is our strong feeling too, that the UN's decision-making bodies must more accurately reflect the regional situation of states in the world today. In order to chart a new course to navigate these troubled but exciting times, we need to recognize the role which many nations can play in the pursuit of peace.

Mr. Speaker, Indo-US relations are on the threshold of a bold new

era. We have seen unprecedented cooperation in a number of areas. Most recently Indian forces patrolled alongside U.S. and UN forces in Somalia. We share common interests in addressing global environmental crises, combating international terrorism and stemming the tide of international narcotics trafficking. In these areas, the United States and India have worked closely together.

Yet there remain areas where further cooperation is warranted. Export controls on technology, while once a useful means for controlling weapons technology, now hinder developing countries in their efforts to improve the lives of their people. Much of what is termed as dual technology in fact has vital applications in a modern civilian society. Many special materials and complicated computer processors found in missile control systems are also found in hospital intensive care units and global telecommunications systems.

In October 1949, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had stated, "It was necessary, even desirable, and, perhaps, inevitable that India and the United States should know each other more and cooperate with each other more." This was in 1949. Later that year, Prime Minister Nehru predicted that the next hundred years ... are going to be the century of America.

The Prime Minister was right. The 20th century will be known as the American century. Throughout the last 100 years of American and Indian History - through the peaks and valleys of Indo-US relations - Nehru's words have rung true and a bond has been forged based on affinity and understanding. The success of Indian-Americans in this country reflects the understanding and mutual respect between the world's two largest democracies.

As India stands poised to contribute to global prosperity and peace in the next century, we look forward to continuing our partnership with America and with the American people.

India is one of the developing countries in which the process of development

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is firmly established. We have realized that no quick fixes are possible and that there is no substitute for hard work with full involvement of the people. The results achieved in India are commended by some, derided by others, on the basis of physical statistics. In all these appraisals, however, one crucial element that has not figured as it should, is the fact that India's progress has been achieved in a democratic set up. This dimension, I submit, is extremely important. As an experienced activist in the community development process in India ever since it commenced in the early fifties, I can vividly recall the hurdles that we encountered in the path of development, for which many people blamed our democratic process. Many scholars and

experts, including some from this country, told us that we were attempting the impossible, and that at that rate, we were heading for nothing but failure and frustration by attempting development under democratic conditions. It almost be came a fashion to assert that democracy was inimical to development and was not suited to developing countries in their initial stages of development. It may also be recalled that several countries had deviated from the democratic system in those years in the name of ensuring development in the first instance as they put it. These are all facts.

I am not merely recalling history. I would like to submit to this august assembly that the agenda for democracy is by no means over, all over the world. The principle of the system is perhaps universally accepted now, but even this acceptance is not unqualified. In the ultimate analysis, the survival and acceptance of any system would depend crucially on its capacity to deliver the goods. This may not be so obvious in countries where democracy has become a way of life and the political process has got rooted in the principle for centuries, making it normal and unquestioned. But elsewhere, the temptation to cut corners for immediate benefits and the tendency to superficialize democracy while the real wielders of power only make it a mask these are phenomena that should make genuine votaries of the system sit up and think.

I may be forgiven for striking this new, if discordant, note in the orchestra of prevailing opinion. I submit, Sir, that the basic and most essential agenda of the world hereafter, perhaps through the next century, is the consolidation and concretization of Democracy. On this single plank, directly or indirectly, will depend the prospects of peace, disarmament and development - in one word, the survival of humankind. I am not referring to the processes of democracy, but to its content which should, in essence, mean that the will of the ordinary citizen, as it is and not as it is manipulated for a given occasion, prevails. I do realise that this is a tall order, yet nothing less will do, if the dangers to democracy are to be met effectively. The 21st century must prove that development is best assured when democracy is assured.

The crux of the matter is, how much is the real stake in democracy that has been created for all people of the world, not just some? How effective is democracy in solving the problems of the people where it has been newly adopted? This is a crucial question for the system to take root in what may be called somewhat alien soils.

In developing countries, Government is a serious matter. A much larger proportion of people are affected by changes in Government there than in affluent countries. This can easily be seen. It accounts for the heavier turnout of voters in developing countries when elections are held. By the same token, one could

imagine the frustration and consequent erosion of faith in the system if the system fails to deliver. The success of democracy is therefore a very important part of political stability everywhere. The question therefore is: Since the bloc configuration which did not, and perhaps could not, put any great value on democracy then, is not such a compelling necessity now, what can the established democracies do for the success of their system in the world so that Governments -97>

become transparent and are run according to the common aspirations of the common people everywhere? I have no ready-made answers, but I am sure that the task is worth taking note of. And I beseech your attention, as a tested and tempered person from the grass roots of a developing society who, in the footsteps of great stalwarts, struggled for freedom, attained freedom and has ever since been involved in consolidating that freedom - in a vast and complex country where nothing has been easy through the long centuries, where life has been a perpetual walk on a razor's edge.

There is another matter in which we come face to face with the need for responsibility, in thought and in action. It is a similar sense that must inform our tending of our planet's resources. The pace of development often prompts the appropriation - or misappropriation - of what is not ours, this generation's alone, legitimately. I recall the felicity with which I, in my campaign to be a state legislator, promised roads to my constituents forty years ago. We built the roads, but lost the forests. That, perhaps, epitomizes the dilemma of a development that must sustain itself and sustain the heritage within which it is rooted. Today's easy option could prove to be tomorrow's regrets, so it is in the quest for technologies that allow development with responsibility that we have yet another critical area for the partnership between India and America and our peoples.

Mr. Vice President, two years ago you authored a book which one critic, very aptly, described as remarkable for a political figure in that you wrote it yourself. Going through it, with an interest compelled as much by your style as your subject, I came across an anecdote about Mahatma Gandhi that I had not chanced upon earlier. It bears repetition and I hope you will allow me. Gandhiji, you write, was approached one day by a woman, concerned that her son ate too much sugar. She requested him to counsel her son about its harmful effects. The Mahatma promised to do so but asked her to return after a fortnight. This she did and Gandhiji advised the boy as he had promised. The mother was profuse in her gratitude but could not conceal her puzzlement as to why Gandhiji had insisted on the interval of two weeks. He was honest in his reply, and said: "I needed the two weeks to stop eating sugar myself."

We are now in the closing years of a century ravaged by war, made heroic by the scientific, intellectual and creative attainments of man, enfeebled by want and deprivation and yet made strong by our collective capacity to identify solutions that had eluded us in the past. We recognize those solutions, but like Gandhiji, we will have to take our two weeks to practice them before we acquire the authority to prescribe them to others. That, in a sense, is what responsibility is all about.

Lala Lajpat Rai, one of the great fighters for India's freedom, had written of the "numberless American men and women who stand for the freedom of the world who know no distinctions of color, race or creed and who prefer the religion of love, humanity and justice". Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker and distinguished friends, the people of India count upon those numberless women and men of this great country to work together with them and their representatives to realize the vision that our shared experience and practice of democracy have made possible and the responsibilities of our times have rendered necessary.

I thank you. -98>

A INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA MALI SOMALIA OMAN

Date: May 18, 1994

June

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Date: Jun 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

BELIZE

Visit of Belize Deputy Prime Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 15, 1994 on the visit of Mr. Dean Oliver Barrow, Deputy Prime Minister of Belize to India:

Mr. Dean Oliver Barrow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize (Central America), who is on a three-day official visit to India, held official talks with Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs this morning. Mr. Barrow is accompanied by Dr. Ursula Barrow, High Commissioner for Belize to the United Kingdom.

The two leaders exchanged views on international issues of common interest, such as UN restructuring, NPT and disarmament and regional matters of sociopolitical importance. Strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in trade, technical, economic and cultural fields was the main focus of the official discussions.

The visiting dignitary briefed Shri Salman Khurshid about Belize's relations with neighbours, economic links with Caribbean community and the implications of NAFTA for Belize. Shri Khurshid similarly briefed Mr. Barrow on India's relations with its neighbours, liberalisation, SAPTA and the outcome of Prime Minister's recent visit to the USA.

Mr. Barrow referred to his country's proposal to establish an industrial estate Free Trade Zone and diversification of agriculture and sought India's technical assistance for these and other ventures. He also referred to the opportunities for Indan industrialists to set up production units in Belize for export to third countries.

Shri Khurshid expressed India's readiness to extend technical and economic assistance to Belize under the ITEC and other programmes in the form of training of Belize nationals in various fields like small scale industries, banking, textiles, tool room shops, vocational fields, etc. He also stated that India could depute a few experts to Belize to man important assignments or to train local people, besides offering to consider gifting of a pilot project.

At the conclusion of the official talks, the following two agreements were signed:

- i) Cultural Cooperation Agreement.
- ii) Agreement on Economic Cooperation.

The Cultural Agreement was signed between Shri Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resource Development and the visiting Deputy Prime Minister. The agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, art, education, science & technology, massmedia, sports, etc. The agreement is valid initially for a period of 5 years and is automatically renewable for further specified periods.

The Agreement on Economic Cooperation was signed between Mr. Barrow and Shri Salman Khurshid. It provides for cooperation in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector, participation in each other's trade fairs, joint investments training of personnel, cooperation between small and medium scale industries, parti--99>

cularly agro-industry, energy, machine tools, fertilisers, mining and light manufacturing. It also provides for cooperation in the tourism sector.

Mr. Barrow is scheduled to call on the Ministers of Commerce and Finance and address a meeting of industrialists being arranged by FICCI, on 16th June 1994. He will leave India on 17th morning. The Honorary Consul of Belize is already in position in India and India's Honorary Consul General is likely to be appointed in the near future.

There was a great deal of identity of views of the two countries on various matters of mutual concern. The visit is expected to be a landmark in consolidating the Indo-Belize relations.

LIZE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date: Jun 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

CAMBODIA

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, His RoyalHighness Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Invites India to Participate in the Reconstruction of Cambodia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1994 on India to participate in the reconstruction of Cambodia:

Prince Sirivudh, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Cambodia, who is on an official visit to India, has invited Indian companies to bid in international tenders in infrastructure projects which are coming up in Cambodia under international and multilateral financing. The Prince said that the IMF, the World Bank, the ADB and other multilateral agencies are extending financial aid to Cambodia in its reconstruction and Indian companies have the right level of techninal expertise to be able to compete effectively for these projects. He further invited the Indian textile industry to use Cambodia and set up joint ventures there as there were no quota restrictions on Cambodia. Even though the labour was untrained, it was very cheap. Besides, the Cambodian Government has decided to offer tax incentives in many areas.

SETTING UP OF THE JOINT COMMISSION

India and Cambodia have agreed to institutionalise the mechanism of the Joint Commission between the two countries. This was agreed to during the delegationlevel talks between India and Cambodia on the occasion of the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia to India. The Indian side was led by Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAISES INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION IN THE RESTORATION OF ANGKOR VAT:

Prince Sirivudh deeply appreciated the efforts of the Indian

Government and the ASI in the restoration and conservation of Angkor Vat. India had extended assistance to Cambodia at a very difficult time when the other countries had hesitated. He invited the Indian Government to continue its efforts and extend all assistance to Cambodia for the further

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conservation of the historic monuments. He also requested the Indian Government to give training in the field of restoration and conservation to Cambodians.

The Prince also gave an assessment of Cambodia's relations with its neighbours, including Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Laos and the ASEAN countries.

INDIA AND CAMBODIA SIGN MOU ON COOPERATION

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between India and Cambodia was signed today in the presence of His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Cambodia, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

MBODIA INDIA USA BURMA LAOS THAILAND VIETNAM

Date: Jun 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Indian Science and Technology Exhibition opens in ShanghaiExhibition Centre

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1994 on Indian Science & Technology Exhibition in Shanghai:

The Festival of India in China acquired a new dimension today with the opening of a massive science and technology exhibition in the prestigious Shanghai Exhibition Centre. Organised by India's National Council of Science Museums, this exhibition projects the continum in the development process of Science & Technology in India over a period of 5000 years starting from the pre-India valley era to the modern times.

"The exhibition brings a message of goodwill from one great civilisation to another in the east and paves the path of

continued friendship and co-operation between the two countries, China and India". Remarked China's Assistant Minister of Culture, Gao Yinjia, while inaugurating the Exhibition".

The stress on this exhibition is that India does not live in the halo of her past glory, that development of science and technology has always been a continuous process. Four master craftsmen brought from India demonstrate how technology evolved as an art from to produce exquisite pieces of crafts in silver filigree, sola pith decoration, wood carving and marble inlay. Selt-reliance is projected through exhibits reflecting current researches and development in the areas of agriculture, energy, nuclear science and space.

INA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

DJIBOUTI

Visit of the Secretary General of the Ministry of ForeignAffairs of Djibouti to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1994:

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hassan Abdillahi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti, visited India from 24 to 29 June, 1994, at the invitation of the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs. He visited Agra as well as historic places of interest in and around Delhi. He paid -101>

courtesy calls on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs as well as the Foreign Secretary. An invitation has been extended to the Foreign Minister of Djibouti to visit India at his earliest convenience. The exact dates of the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channel.

2. During the delegation-level talk, the two sides had wideranging discussions on various regional and international issues of concern to the two countries. The Secretary General reiterated Djibouti's position supporting bilaterialism on Jammu and Kashmir, and settlement of all disputes through dialogue only. The two sides stressed their desire to strengthen bilateral

relations and agreed to set up a Joint Committee at the Secretary Level.

3. In response to an appeal made by the government of Djibouti, it was agreed to immediately despatch milk powder worth Rs. 10 lakh as drought relief to Djibouti. Despatch of other items like water-storage tanks, etc. is also being considered. India has also agreed to offer technical assistance under ITEC and slots under General Cultural Scholarship Scheme for students from Djibouti for studying in India.

IBOUTI INDIA USA

Date: Jun 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Significant Growth in Gem and Jewellery Exports

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1994:

The gem and jewellery sector in the NOIDA Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) has registered significant growth during 1993-94. The gem and jewellery exports went up from Rs. 54.84 crores during 1992 93 to Rs. 64.02 crores during 1993-94 accounting for 24% of the total export from the zone in 1992-93, the exports amounted to Rs. 7.87 crores. Jewellery from the zone is exported to Europe, USA, Gulf and Singapore. Studded Jewellery exports will also get a quantum jump with the opening of the MMTC office within the zone and commissioning of some units. The number of operating units have also risen from 12 in 1991-92 to in 1993-94 and 12 new units have come into production in 1993-94 itself.

The zone has developed two special exclusive jewellery complexes with 67 developed plots. Close proximity to international airport, supply of gold by MMTC within the zone and easy availability of skilled and semiskilled work force near NEPZ have been major factors responsible for attracting jewellery units to the zone. A proposal for providing support for design and market development is also under consideration with MMTC.

DIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE USA

Date: Jun 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

"India in ILO" Series Released

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 02, 1994:

"INDIA in ILO" is the first in the series of volumes being brought out to commemorate the 75th anniversary of ILO and India-ILO partnership. It has been edited by Shri P. A. Sangma, Minister for Labour and released today. It contains speeches delivered in the various International Labour Conference by 14 Labour

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Ministers and the address delivered by the former Indian President, Shri V. V. Giri and late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in the special sittings of ILO covering the period from 1969 to 1993.

The speeches represent a large number of major thrust areas, including creation of a just and equitable World Order; securing distributive justice concurrently with economic growth through creation of employment opportunities. workers' participation; human resource development; and poverty alleviation which were presented in different Sessions during this period the volumes covering the earlier period (1919-1943 and 1944-1968) are being taken up separately.

A number of leaders of working class movement, captains of industry, eminent jurists and civil servants of high reputation and standing, have also made lasting contributions to the ILO through its various Constitutional Bodies. Their contributions will find place in yet another volume covering various subjects and issues discussed and debated upon in the various fora of ILO since its inception in 1919.

DIA USA

Date: Jun 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

CSIR Scientist in UNESCO Expert Group

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1994:

Dr. Ashok Jain, Director, National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi, a constituent establishment of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), has been nominated to the expert group constituted by the Director-General UNESCO, to advise him on the future direction of UNESCO's programmes (1966-2001) from the perspective of Science, Technology and Society. Dr. Jain is the only expert from Asia in the twelve member group.

DIA USA

Date: Jun 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Textile Exports Register 21% Growth in Dollar terms

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1994:

Textile exports from India (including coir, jute and handicrafts) touched Rs. 25,014 crores or US \$ 7974 million during 1993-94 recording a growth of 21 percent in dollar terms and 31 per cent in rupee terms. The exports during 1992-93 were Rs. 19114 crores or US \$ 6600 million. while the total textile exports for 1990-91 were Rs. 9931 crores equivalent to US\$ 5524 million, the corresponding figures for 1991-92 were Rs. 14409 crores and US\$ 5797 million indicating a growth of 45% in rupee terms and 5% in dollar terms. During the three year period 1991 to 1994, the improvement in export performance of the textile sector thus amounted to 151% in rupee terms and 44% in dollar terms. The sub-

sector of readymade garments, which accounts for approximately half of the total textile exports, showed identical growth rates for the three-year period.

The government announced a longterm quota policy in September 1993 applicable from 1.1.94 to 31.12.96. This quota policy was for the export of textile and clothing covered by the quota system, governing the exports of Indian textile goods to the US, EU, Canada, Austria, Norway and Finland. In this new quota policy the number of systems of allocation for garments has been reduced from 4 to 3 and in the case of textiles, it has been re--103>

duced from 7 to 5. Besides, greater emphasis has been laid on encouraging the export of goods earning higher unit value. Overall, the policy aims at making the system of distribution of quotas simpler and more transparent.

DIA USA AUSTRIA CANADA FINLAND NORWAY

Date: Jun 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

ITALY

India Signs Agreement with FAO

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1994:

India and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations have signed an agreement to share India's expertise for increasing agricultural production and food security in Africa and other areas of the third world. The Agreement was signed by the Indian Agriculture Minister Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar and Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General, FAO in Rome yesterday. This is the first such agreement signed by the FAO since the election of the new Director General and will serve as a model of similar agreements that FAO hopes to sign with other countries.

Under the Agreement India will participate in the FAO scheme for technical cooperation among developing countries. The purpose of the FAO scheme is to faster technical cooperation among developing countries, on priority programmes in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, with a view to promoting the

individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries through exchange of experience, sharing of technical expertise and development of complementary capacities. FAO will bear the cost of the international travel of the approved experts while the domestic travel costs will be borne by the host country.

The Agreement with FAO is significant in that India's expertise in the field of agriculture and the importance of its role in increasing agriculture production and food security in the third world and Africa has been recognised on an international level.

ALY INDIA

Date: Jun 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Signing of a MOU with the Kingdom of Cambodia

The following is the briefing of the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1994 on signing of a MOU with the Kingdom of Cambodia:

While briefing newsmen, the Spokesman stated that a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Co-operation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was signed today.

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MBODIA INDIA

Date: Jun 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Developments in North Korea

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jun 11, 1994 on situation and Development in North Korea:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that we have been closely following the developments in the Korean peninsula. We trust that all the parties concerned will exercise the maximum restraint so that peace & tranquillity can be maintained in the region and existing tensions can be eliminated.

We follow with great interest the current mission being undertaken by former President Jimmy Carter of the USA and hope that the positive first steps which have been achieved can be further built upon. India abstained on the resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week, our view being that punitive measures adopted in the United Nations or elsewhere could exacerbate matters at this stage making a resolution of the issues more difficult. We hope that negotiations will continue through which a way will be found to peacefully resolve this crisis.

REA NORTH KOREA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jun 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Resolution on Kashmir by Pakistan

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1994 on resolution passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on resolution on Kashmir:

In response to queries on Pakistan passing a resolution on Kashmir at a Joint Session of both Houses of the National Assembly, the Official Spokesman stated that we had seen reports that the Pakistan Parliament had adopted a resolution in Islamabad on the J&K issue on June 28, 1994. We regret that the Government of Pakisan has taken an initiative in this direction. Such resolutions have been adopted by the Pakistan Parliament in the past also, which do not have any relations to the situation in J & K. We regard this as totally unacceptable. The resolution

call for outside interference in India's internal affairs.

In response to another query whether we had sent any formal note or papers to Pakistan, the Spokesman replied that India had not sent any papers formally to Pakistan.

KISTAN USA INDIA

Date: Jun 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Seychelles Minister of Finance, Communication and Defence to India

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Jun 22, 1994 on meeting of Seychelles's Minister of Finance, Communications & Defence with Minister of State Shri Salman Khursheed:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Seychelles Minister of Finance, Communications and Defence, Mr. James A. Michel, met our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khursheed today. Mr. Michel is the seniormost Minister in the Seychelles Government, second in command to President. He is also the Secretary General of the ruling Seychelles People's Progressive Front and is in-charge of the day-to-day -105>

functioning of the party. He had earlier come to India in October 1992 when he was Minister for Defence and Information and during the current visit he is accompanied by senior officials of their Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Trade. Seychelles has moved to a multi-party democracy and after the country's transition to a multi-party democracy, they have been taking a number of steps to liberalize the economy, particularly with public sector participation.

Mr. Michel is visiting India to learn from India's experience in the field of economic reforms and to seek India's assistance and guidance in planning projects with regard to off-shore financial activities and related areas.

During the meeting with Mr. Salman Khursheed, he thanked the Indian Minister for India's assistance in human resources development of Seychelles. It was mutually agreed to step up the

visits of delegations in various fields to bring about closer cooperation between the two countries.

YCHELLES INDIA USA

Date: Jun 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Meeting of the Secretary General of the Ministry of ForeignAffairs of Djibouti with Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East)

The following is the briefing by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1994 on meeting of Secretary General in the Foreign Affairs of Djibouti with Secretary (East):

The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, Mr. Mohammed Hassan Abdillahi, had official talks today at the Ministry of External Affairs with Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East).

- 2. Secretary (East) conveyed an invitation to the Foreign Minister of Djibouti, Mr. Mohamad Balad Abdou, to visit India, which the Secretary-General accepted with pleasure on behalf of his Foreign Minister. The visit will take place later in the year.
- 3. Both sides gave a assessment of the regional situations in their respective parts of the world. There was also discussion on a variety of bilateral matters. The suggestion of the Djibouti Secretary General to set up a Joint Committee at the Secreatry level for ongoing consultations between the two Foreign Offices, was agreed to by the Indian side.
- 4. India is also providing assistance to Djibouti a consignment of Rs. 10 lakhs worth of milk powder is being provided. Other assistance, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, is also being considered.
- 5. The Secretary-General of Djibouti is also going to meet Foreign Secretary Shri K. Srinivasan, and will call on Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia, tomorrow.
 -106>

Date: Jun 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Kamaluddin Ahmed Calls on Syrian Prime Minister

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1994:

The Minister of State for Commerce Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed called on the Prime Minister of Syria Dr. Mahmoud Al Zoubi in Damascus on Sunday. During the discussions, Shri Ahmed said that India could provide a wide range of plant, equipment and services to Syria. He mentioned that India had been able to surmount economic difficulties through its policy of economic liberalisation.

The discussions also covered possibilities of industrial joint ventures particularly in the field of fertilizer production. The Syrian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Al Zoubi conveyed his country's keen desire to promote closer political and economic relations with India.

RIA INDIA USA

Date: Jun 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

India-Thailand Investment Seminar held in Bangkok

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 01, 1994:

An India-Thailand Investment Seminar, organised jointly by the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI) and Foreign Investment

Promotion Board of India (FIPB), was held in Bangkok on May 30, 1994. This is a follow up to the decision taken to hold such a seminar at the last India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi in November 1993.

The Seminar was co-chaired by the Principle Secretary to Prime Minister Shri A. N. Verma, who is also the Chairman of FIPB and Mr. Staporn Kavitanon, Secretary General, BOI. The Indian delegation included Shri P. M. S. Malik, Special Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs and a 10-member business delegation sponsored by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and led by Shri R. C. Bhargava, Managing Director, Maruti Udyog Limited.

The Session was attended by over 100 participants from leading Thai companies, bankers and industry clubs. Also present were several prominent Thais of Indian origin and Non Resident Indians

The business delegations dwelt upon the various opportunities available and areas conducive to foreign investments. Sectoral group discussions were also held in four pre-identified sectors, namely, Fisheries, Agro & Food Processing Industry; Electronics and Telecommunications; Light Engineering including Automotive Industry and Construction and Real Estate. Members of the CII delegation subsequently held one-to-one discussions with interested investors. A number of enquiries have been generated.

The Principle Secretary Shri A. N. Verma, also called on H.E. Mr. Savid Bho-

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tivihok, Minister in-charge of investment in Prime Minister's Office; and also held discussions with the Secretary General, BOI. It has been agreed that both FIPB and BOI will continue the contacts established as also cooperate further in the promotion of investments in each other's countries. It has also been further agreed to explore opportunities available for joint investment cooperation in third countries, particularly, in Indo-China and Myanmar.

AILAND INDIA MALI USA CHINA

Date: Jun 01, 1994

Volume No

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statement by Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs at the Resumed Session of the UN General Assembly on South Africa on June 23, 1994

The following is the text of the press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 24, 1994 on statement by Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs in U.N. General Assembly on South Africa:

Mr. President,

It is with a sense of fulfilment and joy that I take the Floor today in this august Assembly to represent India. It is a historic occasion. Today's proceedings epitomize the fruition of a long and arduous struggle of the people of South Africa to and the ignominous system of apartheid in that country and to join the proud community of nations who have consistently supported the objective of establishing a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa. If the decision of General Assembly in 1974 not to accept the credentials of the delegation of South Africa represented the rejection by the international community of the inhuman crime of apartheid and its perpetrators, today's session rejoices over the success of the struggle of the South African people to end that inhuman system.

We welcome the new South Africa in our midst, as an equal member of this Organization and ready to participate in all its activities according to the purposes and principles of its Charter. The people of India join the courageous people of South Africa with joy, happiness and pride in celebrating their achievement and what it signifies for humanity. We pay tribute to President Mandela who symbolizes the aspirations of the South African people and the values of non-racialism, democracy and peace, and to the leadership of South Africa for their courage and steadfastness in pursuing a goal which, not too far back, appeared remote. We welcome the presence here of the Foreign Minister of South Africa, H.E. Mr. A. B. Nzo as a Representative of the new South Africa.

India can justifiably share the pride of the South African peoples in celebrating the dawn of the new era in South Africa. We see the end of Apartheid in that country as vindication of the human values we have always held in high esteem and pursued steadfastly and unwaveringly. India was in the vanguard of the anti-apartheid struggle; was the first to raise the subject in the United Nations in 1946, even before achieving our own independence, and we did this because we felt that it was our own cause and not just that of a distant neighbour.

In a way, the achievements of the South African struggle are a

homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation. About a century back, when he was in South Africa, he saw a link between the struggle for freedom in that country and ours. Our own freedom movement was guided by his experiences in South Africa. He said: "truly speaking, it was after I went to South Africa that I became what I am now. My love for South Africa and my concern for her problems are no less than for India."

The establishment of the non-racial and democratic government in South Africa represents the victory for universal human values. As Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said in his statement on the occasion of the inauguration of the government of National Unity in South Africa on 10 May 1994 (Document A\48\941-S\1994\577 dated 16 May 1994), "the South African struggle has shown that the strength of the human spirit, the strength of values of moral conviction, and the strength of uncompromising struggle against domination and exploitation are indeed formidable forces for change." Evidently, the restoration of equality amongst all races in South Africa is a matter of immense and direct satisfaction to the people and the government of India.

The change in South Africa has been made possible through the efforts of its brave people. The leadership provided by President Mandela and others has guided the broad-based negotiations in the last few laps, to the successful conclusion of establishing a Government of National Unity based on a democratic and non-racial Interim Constitution. The international community can justifiably be proud of itself in supporting the process of change at several critical junctures in the history of the anti-apartheid struggle. The various decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council including measures relating to sanctions served the useful role of putting pressure where it was needed. The positive approach of the General Assembly in the last few years of providing encouragement to the people of South Africa in step with the changes were taking place, channelled the efforts of the international community in the right direction. India has always joined these international efforts in the United Nations, in the Common wealth, and in the Nonaligned Movement on the basis of our own historic ties with South Africa and our firm belief in the universal human values of democracy and nonracialism. It was this belief and our commitment to support the countries in Southern Africa in their struggle against the consequences of apartheid that India took the initiative of establishing Africa Fund at the Harare Summit of Non-aligned countries in September 1986. Till 1992 when the Fund was wound up, it had provided substantial economic assistance to the Frontline States.

A sordid chapter in the history of South Africa has closed. The struggle has however not ended. The people and government of South Africa continue to face debilitating consequences of the system of apartheid in the shape of severe socio-economic inequalities currently existing amongst different segments of the South African population. The fulfillment of a political dream is

now reshaping itself in the form of increased expectation of the people of South Africa who have been suffering through many decades of socio-economic discrimination and disadvantages. The success of the South African experiment calls for effective measures to address these problems. The reconstruction and development plan now under consideration of the government of South Africa includes a number of policy suggestions in this regard. While we wish all success to the new government of South Africa in developing appropriate policy instruments to address the problem of socio-economic inequities and economic growth, the role of the international community as represented by the United Nations and individual countries, cannot be over-emphasized. We welcome the suggestion made in the report of the special Committee against Apartheid (A\48\22 Add.1,...-109>

We also welcome recommendation for the Secretary General to consider appointing, in consultation with the government of South Africa, a coordinator for United Nations development activities in the country in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly including resolutions 47\199 and 48\209.

At this stage, may I also congratulate the Special Committee against Apartheid for a task well done. Activities of the Committee and support from its members generated the international support for anti-apartheid movements in South Africa at a time when it was most needed. I must also applaud the Committee for deciding to terminate its mandate with the adoption of the resolution today.

Mr. President.

The commitment of India to South Africa does not end with the end of the political struggle and establishment of the government of National Unity. The greatest need for the South African people at the present juncture lies in the realm of economic growth linked to socio-economic development. India herself has gone through the stages of low growth and development. We are keen and look forward to sharing with the government of new South Africa, our own experiences. India has developed considerable expertise in development of entrepreneurship, human resource development through training etc., development-linked growth through small and medium industries etc. We stand ready to work with the government of South Africa in any of the areas where bilateral cooperation between our two countries could prove mutually beneficial. We are confident that such bilateral cooperation will contribute to the stability and prosperity in our common region.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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A SOUTH AFRICA INDIA ZIMBABWE

Date: Jun 24, 1994

July

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TAR BELGIUM CHINA INDIA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM IRAN PAKISTAN RUSSIA USA

Date: Jul 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

ARAB EMIRATES

Visit of Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia to Qatar

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 11, 1994 on Minister of State's visit to Qatar:

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L. Bhatia, visited Qatar on the final leg of his three-nation tour. On July 9, 1994, he called on the Amir of Qatar, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani. He was accompanied by Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Salman Haidar and India's Ambassador to Qatar Shri K. P. Fabian. On the Qatari side, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Heir Apparent and Defence Minister H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani, the Foreign Minister of Qatar, were present.

Shri R. L. Bhatia handed over to Amir a letter from our President renewing an invitation to visit India and conveyed greetings from the Prime Minister. He briefed the Amir on India's composite cultural and pluralistic society and our concern to safeguard and promote the rights of minorities. He pointed out that Pakistan's propaganda against India had no factual basis. The discussions also focussed on measures to strengthen bilateral economic relations. It was decided that the Indo-Qatari Joint Commission, which last met in 1988, would have its next meeting in New Delhi.

Shri Bhatia had a separate meeting with the Qatari Foreign Minister in which the Qatari side suggested conclusion of an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and another on Investment Guarantee. The response of the Indian side to this was positive and it promised to examine expeditiously the drafts to be submitted by the Qatari side.

TAR INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Jul 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

Indo-EC Cooperation in Maritime Transport

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1994 on visit of Indian delegation to attend the Maritime Transportation meeting:

An Indian delegation led by Joint-Secretary (Ports) visited Brussels last month for discussions with the Commission of European Community on issues relating to future prospects of Indo-EC Cooperation in the field of Maritime Transport.

During the meeting, it was agreed that under the total umbrella of trade facilitation between European Union and India, the projects relating to improvement of container terminal efficiency of Bombay Port Trust and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, improvement of the mainte-

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nance and the spares management of container handling equipment and introduction of Electronic Data Inter-change were taken up.

It was also suggested in the meeting that awareness programme might be organised by the Indian Shipping lines about the liberation going on in India. European Community would prepare a draft document on the project which would be considered by Indian side for necessary action.

LGIUM INDIA USA **Date**: Jul 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of Foreign Secretary to China for 7th India-China JointWorking Group in Beijing

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1994 on the 7th session of the India-China working Group in Beijing:

The Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan will be visiting China for the 7th Session of the India-China Joint Working Group in Beijing on July 6-7 1994. The Chinese delegation will be led by Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. Both delegations will include officials from the respective Foreign Offices and Ministries of Defence.

- 2. The India-China Joint Working Group was established as a result of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December, 1988. The work of the Joint Working Group has contributed to the improvement of India-China relations, the implementation of confidence building measures between the two countries, and the India-China Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control which was signed on September 7, 1993 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to China.
- 3. The occasion of the Foreign Secretary's visit to China will also be utilised to undertake consultations between the two Foreign Offices on bilateral, regional and international issues.

INA INDIA

Date: Jul 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Meeting of the India China Working Group

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 08, 1994 on the meeting of Indo-China Working Group in Beijing:

The 7th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question and Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister level consultations were held in Beijing on July 6-7, 1994. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, and the Indian delegation by the Foreign Secretary, Shri

K. Srinivasan.

The Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan, called on Chinese Vice Premier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen, on July 7, 1994. Mr. Qian Qichen said that he was looking forward to his official visit to India from July 17 to 19, 1994 at the invitation of the Government of India. Shri Srinivasan -112>

assured the Vice Premier of a warm welcome in India and informed him that the Indian authorities were looking forward to the visit as a factor which will considerably enhance bilateral ties.

During the 7th meeting of the Joint Working Group, the two sides continued discussions aimed at arriving at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the India-China boundary question.

Both sides held discussions on the implementation of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, which was signed on September 7, 1993 during the visit of Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to China. They reviewed with satisfaction the considerable progress made at the first two sessions of the India-China Expert Group, which has been set up to assist the Joint Working Group in implementation of the Peace and Tranquillity Agreement. Noting that the Expert Group has already reached agreement on its work regulations, Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Tang Jiaxuan and the Foreign Secretary Shri K. Srinivasan directed the Group to continue to adopt a constructive and positive approach in its future work.

Both sides were also pleased to note that the situation along the India-China line of actual control (LAC) was peaceful and that the confidence building measures already in place in the border areas were working well. Recognizing the importance of effective confidence building measures, they exchanged views on further such measures. They agreed in principle that additional points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries will be established. Specific details regarding these additional designated meeting points will be worked out in the India-China Expert Group.

The two sides held detailed discussions on priority questions relating to the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

There was also an exchange of views on all aspects of India-China relations. Both sides expressed happiness at the steady and perceptible improvement in bilateral ties, and reiterated a commitment to maintain this positive trend in the relationship. They noted with satisfaction that India and China have been able to finalise the text of the Agreement on avoidance of double

taxation. The memorandum of understanding on the establishment of banking relations and the Agreement on cooperation in the area of health and medicine are also being finished. These Agreements will be signed shortly by the concerned authorities of the two Governments at the appropriate level.

The two sides also noted with satisfaction that border trade via the Shipkila route on Himachal Pradesh-Tibet border will be opened around the middle of July, 1994.

It was also agreed that the two sides will carry out a joint study on enhancing the existing facilities for pilgrims to Kailash and Mansarovar and the opening of additional routes for the pilgrimage.

Views were also exchanged on regional and global issues of mutual interest. A close convergence of positions on several topics was noted.

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

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INA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jul 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of China to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1994 on meeting of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of China with Indian leaders:

H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China is visiting India from July 17-19, 1994 at the invitation of the Government of India. Earlier today (18.7.94), Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian called on the President Shri Shanker Dayal Sharma, and on the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. He also had meetings with the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherji, the Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and the Minister of State in the PMO, Shri Bhuvanesh

Chaturvedi.

- 2. Discussions during the visit covered a wide range of issues including improvement and consolidation of bilateral relations, implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993, the further development of trade, economic and the other ties, the international situation and India-China cooperation in multilateral and the international fora.
- 3. During the call on the President, the President recalled India's historic links with China and mentioned that Dr. Kotnis was a symbol of India's interest and attitude towards China. The two biggest Asian countries should work together for world peace and international cooperation, the President said. Vice-Premier Qian aggreed, and mentioned the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly initiated by India and China 40 years ago as providing a framework for international cooperation. The Vice-Premier also mentioned his admiration for India's progress during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's tenure and said that the Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993 had pushed bilateral ties to new levels.
- 4. In his other meetings, Mr. Qian spoke of the agreement between China and India as two big Asian nations on the significance of the improvement of Sino-Indian relations. Both sides also stressed their happiness at the progress and development of India-China relations in recent years. Mr. Qian also said that India-China relations should be seen in the context of the new international situation.
- 5. During discussions on bilateral relations, both sides reviewed developments in the relationship since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit to China. Both sides felt that the process of continuous improvement of India-China relations should continue while differences are gradually resolved. The development of economic and trade linkages would contribute meaningfully to this process. Both sides stressed the importance of implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993. Vice-Premier Qian said that the Prime Minister's visit had made progress on the boundary question, building upon the basis laid during the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1988. It was agreed to work towards turning the India-China border areas into areas of friendship and to open further points for border trade between the two countries.
- 6. In his discussions with the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister, Mr. Qian stressed Chinese side's desire to work towards strengthening economic and commercial relations between the two countries, and for direct contacts between business enterprises which could lead to identification of new joint ventures and opportunities for economic cooperation. The Vice-Premier said

that economic factors

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play a more important role in bilateral ties in the present international situation. It was agreed to hasten finalisation of agreements for direct shipping and banking links. Mr. Qian described conditions as now being ripe for the development of trade and economic relations, now that both Inndia and China are engaging in successful economic reforms.

- 7. During the meeting with the Finance Minister, it was agreed to enhance cooperation in the banking sector and to promote cooperation in the iron and steel sector. The Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh and the Chinese Foreign Minister also signed an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation. The agreement is expected to contribute towards the development of economic ties between the two countries and is expected to enhance investment by enterprises of each country in the other.
- 8. During the call on Mr. Qian by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral relations, and the work of the Joint Working Group on the boundary question was reviewed. Shri R. L. Bhatia mentioned India's efforts to improve and strengthen relations with all her neighbours which have borne fruit in every case except Pakistan where, despite our best efforts, Pakistan continues to reject dialogue with India and attempts to internationalise the Kashmir question. Mr. Qian reiterated the Chinese view that the Kashmir question should be resolved by patient dialogue between the parties concerned, namely, India and Pakistan.
- 9. The visit of Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian has provided a useful opportunity for a detailed exchange of views where both countries have expressed their determination to continue positive developments in India-China relations so as to establish mature, stable and long-term relations between these two neighbours, India and China.

INA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

Date: Jul 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1994 on meeting of Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister with Prime Minister:

The Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, called on Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, on the evening of July 18, 1994. The meeting took place in an extremely cordial and friendly atmosphere with both Prime Minister and the Chinese Foreign Minister recalling their earlier meetings in the course of the latter's three visits to India as well as in third countries.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao referred to the important events in the improvement of relations between the two countries starting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision to send an Ambassador to Beijing after a long gap,

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit to China in 1988, the Chinese Prime Minister's return visit to India, and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to China in 1993 and signing of the bilateral Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao described this process of improvement of relations as a mature way of handling relations despite the problems of the past and remarked that this is how the process should continue.

The Chinese Vice Premier also dwelt on the changes taking place in the economic sphere around the world in the context of which both countries have embarked upon their respective economic liberalisation programmes. Prime Minister agreed with Mr. Qian Qichen that both countries had amassed sufficient experience by now

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with regard to their economic reforms policies and suggested an exchange of notes and greater interaction in this sphere for their mutual benefit. The Prime Minister also referred to forward movement in the border trade between the two countries which he said had now acquired a momentum of its own.

The Prime Minister also conveyed greetings to the President and the Prime Minister of China.

INA INDIA

Date: Jul 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Treaty Signed with China for Avoidance of Double Taxation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1994 on treaty signed with China for avoidance of double taxation by Dr. Man Mohan Singh, Finance Minister:

The Agreement for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China was signed here today. Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India and the Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qian Qichen signed on behalf of the Government of People's Republic of China.

The Agreement provides for rates of taxation lower than the domestic rates, in respect of income from transfer of technology and investment. This will go a long way in promoting mutual trade and flow of investment and technology.

The Agreement contains provisions for assisting the tax payers in resolving tax disputes. It also contains provisions for exchange of information for preventing tax evasion.

The Agreement will come into force on the 30th day after the date on which both the countries complete the necessary legal formalities.

INA INDIA MALI

Date: Jul 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Meeting of Foreign Minister of Germany with Indian ForeignMinister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 28, 1994 on German Foreign Minister's meeting with Indian Foreign Minister:

The German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel had a meeting lasting one and a half hours with the External Affairs Minister this morning. There was an indepth discussion of bilateral, regional and international issues. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the excellent state of bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister referred to the very fruitful visit of Prime Minister to Germany in February 94. Mr. Kinkel conveyed that Germany attaches great importance to developing even closer relations with India on the basis of partnership in the political, economic and cultural fields. He stressed the important position of India in the context of Germany's Asia Concept Policy and indicated that Germany, which currently holds the EU Presidency, would also like the EU to place particular importance on developing wide-ranging relations with India as part -116>

of the EU's trust towards Asia. Mr. Kinkel recalled that in terms of the new Indo-EC Cooperation Agreement, the countries of the European Union would invest greater effort in developing economic relations and supporting India's economic reform programme, Mr. Kinkel indicated that the next round of Indo-EU Troika talks at the Ministerial level would be held early next year.

- 2. External Affairs Minister briefed Mr. Kinkel on the status of Indo-Pak relations. Mr. Kinkel re-affirmed the German position of support for the resumption of bilateral FS-level talks with Pakistan. External Affairs Minister conveyed that the international community and the UN should stand firm against those countries which support cross-border terrorism and promote solutions to all problems only by peaceful, non-violent means.
- 3. The German Minister briefed External Affairs Minister on the situation in Europe with particular emphasis on efforts of the Contact Group to promote a solution to the problem of Bosnia.
- 4. Issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation were discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the ongoing bilateral dialogue in these issues. External Affairs Minister reiterated India's stand on non-discriminatory approaches to achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament.
- 5. The question of UNSC expansion came up during the talks. The German Foreign Minister indicated his country's strong interest in permanent membership of the UNSC and its expectation to be a non-permanent member in 1995-96. The Indian side also expressed interest in permanent membership when the UNSC is expanded to make it more representative.
- 6. During Mr. Kinkel's meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Finance Minister briefed him on the ongoing process of economic liberalisation and results achieved and conveyed that we would

welcome an enhanced presence of German business and industry in India availing of the opportunities provided by the Indian market for trade and investment. Mr. Kinkel complemented the Finance Minister for the manner in which India's economic liberalisation was progressing and expressed support for greater efforts to strengthen economic relations in keeping with their vast potential. Hope was expressed that a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement could be concluded shortly. Together with a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement which has already been finalised, this will further promote German investments in India. Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Kinkel jointly addressed the 24 member high-level business delegation that is accompanying Mr. Kinkel. The Finance Minister urged German business and industry, including Mittelstand (small and medium sector) industry, to explore more actively prospects for invesement in the Indian market, particularly in the areas of power, energy, coal, telecommunication, environment-friendly technologies, modernisation of roads and ports and agro-processing. The German business delegaeion expressed strong interest in increasing investments in various fields, specially in power projects.

- 7. Mr. Kinkel and Dr. Manmohan Singh signed a bilateral Financial Protocol for 1994-95 providing for a total of DM 460 m in assistance for India.
- 8. The Home Minister briefed Mr. Kinkel on the situation in J & K, our policy of transparency on human rights and efforts to initiate the political process in J & K. He underlined our concerns related to cross-border terrorism, in particular recent induction of foreign mercenaries at a time when the public in J & K was increasingly alienated with the externally sponsored militancy. Mr. Kinkel welcomed the setting up of the NHRC and the policy of transparency in terms of which GOI was engaged in a broad dialogue on human rights. The Home Minister underlined India's

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abiding commitment to the principle of democracy, secularism and the rule of law. Both sides noted the progress made towards concluding an Extradition Treaty and expressed the hope that this would be concretised in the near future.

RMANY INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Jul 28, 1994

Volume No

GERMANY

German Foreign Minister Called on Prime Minister

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 28, 1994 regarding Germany Foreign Minister's meeting with Prime Minister:

The German Foreign Minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel, called on the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, today (July 28, 1994). Discussions covered matters of bilateral as well as international interest. Mr. Kinkel expressed appreciation for the economic reforms undertaken by the Government and its achievements in this sphere since the reforms started. He expressed the view that these achievements provided a good opportunity for further expanding cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the sphere of German economic investment in India. Two sectors where such enhanced cooperation was envisaged were between Air India and Lufthansa in the aviation sector and German assistance for the Delhi Metro Project in the surface transport sector.

The Prime Minister and the German Foreign Minister also discussed issues pertaining to the European Union, Asia and the region.

RMANY INDIA USA

Date: Jul 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Shri Mukherjee on FAO Panel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1994 on nomination of Mr. A. K. Mukherjee, I.G. of Forests of India in FAO panel:

The Food and Agriculture Organisation has nominated the Inspector General of Forests of India, Shri A. K. Mukherjee to its Panel of Experts for Policy and Strategy on FAO's resources to the evolving challenges in forestry in the post UNCED process. There will be eight experts on the panel from all over the world, representing different disciplines, interest groups and geographical regions.

In a letter received by the Minister of Environment and Forests, the FAO has mentioned that Shri Mukherjee's choice is in "recognition of his professional competence, his understanding of global issues and national needs and an acknowledgement of his outstanding international reputation for which India and the Ministry can be proud of". It says that the FAO looks forward to India's continued leadership and contribution to the international dialogue on forestry and an active partnership role of the international community in supporting the efforts of countries for sustainable development.

Shri Mukherjee is also the current Chairman of the Forestry Forum for Developing Countries and will also co-Chair the Indo-UK International Workshop on Forestry issues later this month. The FAO had given the "Forester of the Year" award to Shri Mukherjee, last year.

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DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Jul 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State to Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1994 on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State's visit to Iran:

Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, paid a one-day visit to Tehran on July 6, 1994. He was accompanied by Shri Salman Haider, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Shri A. M. Khaleeli, former Ambassador to Iran. During his visit, Shri Bhatia held talks with President Rafsanjani, Majlis Speaker Nateg Nouri and Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who also hosted a dinner in his honour.

Shri Bhatia's discussions with the Iranian leaders covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. He briefed them on the Indian Prime Minister's recent visits to USA and Russia respectively. His hosts expressed an interest in regional cooperation involving major countries such as India, Russia, China and Iran. The discussions also covered the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The two sides recalled their historic relations and common culture and expressed a keen desire to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation. Discussions were held on proposed joint ventures including the Indo-Iran gas pipeline and a fertilizer project in Qeshra Island. India's interest in some sugar and railway projects in Iran was also conveyed by Shri Bhatia to the Iranian leaders. The question of holding the Joint Commission Session in December was discussed in the context of steps for boosting bilateral cooperation.

Shri Bhaitia also briefed the Iranians about the continued infiltration of trained terrorists into Kashmir from across the border. He emphasised that India remained ready for bilateral negotiations with Pakistan as provided for under the Simla Agreement.

After the conclusion of his brief visit, Shri Bhatia left Tehran for Ankara.

AN INDIA USA RUSSIA CHINA AFGHANISTAN TAJIKISTAN HAITI PAKISTAN TURKEY

Date: Jul 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

ASEAN Regional Forum

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 26, 1994 on ASEAN Regional Forum:

In response to a query on ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Official Spokesman replied that it was natural for India to be interested in the ASEAN region, which lies in India's contiguous neighbourhood. India shares maritime boundaries with important ASEAN members and has had strong historical and cultural links with the region. India has been discussing the nature and scope of the ARF. Our interest to participate in discussion on regional, political and security issues has evoked encouraging response. Some press

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reports that India had launched an active campaign to become a member of the ARF are not true.

He explained that India's interest in interacting with ASEAN in all spheres was evident as it was admitted ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner on Trade & Investment at the Fourth Summit of the ASEAN member states in Singapore in 1992. In March 1993, the inaugural talks of the sectoral dialogue were held in New Delhi, while the first substantive meeting took place in Bali in January this year when our Foreign Secretary led a delegation to represent India there.

DIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date: Jul 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the Vice Premier & Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1994 on the visit of the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen, accompanied by his wife Madam Zhou, to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that H.E. Mr. Qian Qichen, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, accompanied by his wife Madam Zhou and a high-level delegation will arrive in New Delhi on July 17, 1994, on an official goodwill visit at the invitation of the Government of India. In the absence of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister, will receive the Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister and host a banquet in his honour.

Mr. Qian Qichen's visit to India continues the high-level dialogue between India and China, initiated by the visit of late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to China in December 1988. It follows the visit of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to China in September 1993 and the visit of Mr. Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC) to India in November-December 1993.

During his stay in Delhi, Mr. Qian Qichen will discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern. He will call on the President and the Prime Minister. Mr. Qichen will depart from New Delhi on July 19, 1994.

Date: Jul 12, 1994

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

German Foreign Minister's Visit

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 22, 1994 on German Foreign Minister's visit:

Dr. Klaus Kinkel, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of the Germany, will be paying an official visit to India from 27-29 July, 1994 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister. Apart from his official delegation, he will be accompanied by a 25 member high level German business delegation comprising CEOs and senior representatives of major German companies.

2. Dr. Kinkel will be holding talks with External Affairs Minister on 28th July. He will also meet the Finance Minister and the Home Minister. Dr. Kinkel will call on President and Prime Minister. The German Foreign Minister and our Finance Minister will together meet Members of the German business delegation. A lunch will be organised for the German Minister by the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce with the participation of representatives of 1) CII 2) Assochem 3) FICCI, -120>

the three apex bodies of Indian commerce and industry. Apart from their interaction with Indian businessmen the German business delegation will also be briefed on India's economic liberalisation programme by a panel of Senior Government officials.

- 3. External Affairs Minister will be hosting a dinner for the German Foreign Minister on 28th July, 1994.
- 4. The German Minister's programme will also include a visit to Rajghat and a meeting with a group of Indian MPs.

DIA USA GERMANY

Date: Jul 22, 1994

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1994 on Pakistani allegation regarding Indian interference in Afghanistan:

In response to a query on Pakistani press reports and a statement by the Pakistani Foreign Office Spokesman that India was interfering in Afghanistan, the Official Spokesman stated that we have come across reports or statements attributed to the Pakistan Foreign Office insinuating that India is providing military support to the Jamat i Islami of Afghanistan. We have noted that certain elements which are known to enjoy the patronage of Pakistan have also parroted the allegations. We categorically clarify that India has not provided any military support whatsoever to any of the Afghan groups. We regret that Pakistan is spreading such calumny with deliberation with a view to creating misunderstanding in the minds of friendly people of Afghanistan towards India and to divert attention from its own record of wanton interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs which is widely recognized as a major contributory factor for the sad situation of conflict and destruction in that country.

KISTAN INDIA AFGHANISTAN

Date: Jul 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's visit to the Russian Federation

The following is the text of the Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on Jul 01, 1994 on Prime Minister's visit to Russian Federation:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that our Prime Minister had a luncheon meeting in Moscow given by the lower house and the upper house of the Russian Parliament, Duma & Federation Council (respectively). The meeting was well attended and very successful. The Speaker of the Parliament cancelled his other engagements for this meeting to be personally present there. There were leaders of all the political parties and political factions present and the Chairmen of the Parliamentary Committees were also present. During the meeting they decided that towards the end of the year, a Russian parliamentary delegation will visit India with the Speaker as its Chairman.

The Spokesman stated that our Prime Minister's discussions with the Russian political leadership had been extremely successful and the Russians had agreed on buying of a very large number of items from India.

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SSIA USA INDIA

Date: Jul 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Tourism Co-operation with Russia

The following is the text of the press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 28, 1994 signing on Tourism Cooperation with Russia:

An agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed in Moscow on June 30, 1994 between the Government of India and the Government of Russian Federation.

This was stated here today by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation in a written reply to a question by Miss Saroj Khaparde, Member of Parliament, in Rajya Sabha.

The Minister said that the salient features of the agreement are:

Both the parties will strengthen and encourage the development and cooperation in the field of tourism on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Both the parties shall strive to simplify immigration, customs and other formalities in order to facilitate tourism exchange.

Both the parties shall strive to facilitate and expedite the issue of visas for up to three months to citizens of the other party.

Both the parties shall facilitate the import and export of material and documents for publicity on tourism, free from customs duties.

Both the parties shall encourage the exchange of statistics in the field of tourism.

Both the parties shall assist each other in training of professional staff in the field of tourism.

Both the parties may open an official tourism representation in the territory of the other party.

SSIA USA INDIA MALI

Date: Jul 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Discussion for Trade with Russia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 25, 1994 on Trade agreement with Russia:

During the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow from June 29 to July 2, 1994, 11 documents were signed. These include two declarations on the protection of interests of pluralistic states and on further development and intensification of bilateral cooperation. Apart from these, 9 other agreements and protocols were signed on cooperation in tourism, environment, space, information technology, meteorology science and technology, standardisation, extension of the 1992 defence credit agreement and agreement on setting up of a joint venture in military aviation.

A number of important decisions on bilateral trade matters were also taken during the visit. The Russian side conveyed that they were taking a series of steps to facilitate export of goods from India on the debt repayment route. It was also decided that a three year perspective plan for the import of tea, tobacco, soyameal, leather and pharmaceuticals from India would be worked out to ensure greater predictability and continuity with regard to export of these items.

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It was decided that the bilateral Joint Commission which would hold its first meeting in Moscow in September will be the forum for monitoring economic, trade and cultural exchanges. The working groups under the Joint Commission will have separate meetings before its plenary session in September. This was stated by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jul 25, 1994

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Indo-Russian Joint Ventures in Food Processing, AgriculturalEquipment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 19, 1994 on Joint Ventures in Food-Processing Agricultural Equipment:

There is vast scope for Indo-Russian joint ventures in areas like food processing and packaging, agricultural equipment, timber processing, mining, consumer electronics, leather manufactures, construction and management of hotels and tourism resorts, aviation, telecommunication, auto industry, development of oil fields and port development. This was stated by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce, while inaugurating a Seminar on Transfer of Technology and promotion of joint ventures between India and Russia on the occasion of Indian trade exhibition in Moscow today. Effective trade and economic exchanges designed for mutual benefit and joint ventures can play a leading role in achieving the bilateral trade target of US \$ 1600 million within the next two years, he said.

The process of Indo-Russian collaboration has already begun. The agreement on formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture to manufacture spares and provide services to all Russian origin military aircrafts in India and other countries

can become a trendsetter, Shri Ahmed said. India's objective in promoting joint ventures in other countries is to promote exports in partnerships and participate in their developmental activities, the Minister said. The seminar should certainly see the beginning of an era of buoyant joint ventures and technological collaboration between the two countries, Shri Ahmed said.

SSIA USA INDIA

Date: Jul 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

SLOVAK

Prime Minister's meeting with the visiting Slovak PrimeMinister, H.E. Mr. Josef Moravcik

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 07, 1994 on Prime Minister's meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Mr. Josef Moravcik:

Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, met the visiting Slovak Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Josef Moravcik, today. During the meeting, the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Rao and the Slovak Prime Minister, Mr. Moravcik reiterated the importance they attached to economic and political cooperation between their two countries. Prime Minister Shri Rao warmly complimented the Slovak Prime Minister on the great political maturity shown by Czechoslovakia in respect to its official -123>

division in two countries. He also spoke of the warm and cordial relations that had already existed between India and the erstwhile Czechoslovakia. The Slovak Prime Minister spoke of the strong industrial base that his country had inherited especially in the defence field. He also expressed great interest in scientific and technological cooperation between India and the Slovak Republic. Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao said that it was important to set up a Joint Business Council and the Joint Trade Committee, which has been agreed to. These bodies will oversee the process of greater interaction of the business and industrial community of both the countries. Interaction has now been planned between C II & FIEO and their counterparts in the Slovak Republic.

Two Agreements have been signed - one an MOU on Scientific &

Technological Cooperation and the second, a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (once a year and alternately in each other's country). The Agreements were signed by Secretary (S & T) and Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, respectively, on our side.

DIA NORWAY SLOVAKIA USA

Date: Jul 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Visit of Foreign Minister Shri Dinesh Singh to United Kingdom

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 21, 1994 on Shri Dinesh Singh, Foreign Minister's meeting with Mr. Douglas Hurd British Foreign Secretary in London:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, met Mr. Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, in London on 20 July. 1994. A number of subjects of mutual concern were discussed, in particular ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation, the situation in the South Asian region, and future Indo-British consultations on international issues. Mr. Hurd praised the economic reforms process in India and felt that there were special opportunities for UK companies for substantively upgrading trade and investment ties with India. They agreed that the Indo-British Partnership Initiative (IBPI) had made an important contribution to promoting investment and bilateral trade between the two countries. They also agreed that it was important to further strengthen the bilateral business partnership and specific measures could be considered to build on the complimentarities and areas of strength.

Shri Dinesh Singh apprised Mr. Hurd about India's concern and disappointment at Pakistan's continuing efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue at a time when the tide had clearly turned against militancy and terrorism in the State, and the chances of reviving the political process looked promising. The British side was also informed of measures taken by the Indian Government to improve transparency and strengthen safeguards against possible human rights violations in combatting terrorism, and the on-going work of the Human Rights Commission. The British side continues to show understanding of the context of terrorism in which the human rights issue in Kashmir should be

seen. It is also appreciative of various measures being taken by Government of India towards revival of the political process. -124>

The British Foreign Secretary was accompanied by his Minister of State, Mr. Mark Lennox-Boyd, Mr. David J. Daine, Superintending Under-Secretary, and Mr. Nick Griffiths, Desk Officer for India in the South Asian Department of the FCO. The Indian Minister was accompanied by High Commissioner, Dr. L. M. Singhvi, and the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. K. V. Rajan.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

Date: Jul 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

72nd I.M.O. Session

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1994 on Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport to 72nd I.M.O. session in London:

The Indian delegation for the 72nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) was led by Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport. It was held at I.M.O. Headquarters (London) between 13th and 17th June 1994. The delegation consisted of three other members, namely S/Shri R. Vasudevan, Director-General of Shipping; K. K. Palit, General-Manager (SCI) and Atma Singh, First-Secretary (Commerce and Shipping) in the High Commission of India, London.

The International Maritime Organisation Council, during the session considered the report on the status of various international conventions sponsored by the I.M.O. and also examined the reports submitted by its various committees and subcommittees such as the Legal Committee, the Marine-Environment Protection Committee, Maritime Safety Committee etc. The financial status of IMO was also examined.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Jul 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Election of Shri N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary of EconomicAffairs asChairman of GEF

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 13, 1994 on Shri N. K. Singh, Additional Secretary in the Economic Affairs election as Chairman of GEF:

The Executive Council of the Global Environment Facility met in Washington today for its first meeting and unanimously elected Mr. N.K. Singh, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs as the first Chairman of GEF. His name was proposed by Malaysian Ismail Razali, and seconded by Germany's representative Hans-Peter Schipulle and Abdul Karim Lodhi of Pakistan.

India occupies a permanent seat in the constituency based Executive Council. Mr. N. K. Singh is India's member on the Executive Council and played a leading role in the two year long negotiations which led to the restructuring of GEF in accordance with the mandate of the Rio Conference on Environment in 1992. This is the first meeting of the Council after the Global Environment Facility was restructured. The Global Environment Faci

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lity with a replenishment of \$ 2 billion constitutes the principal financing mechanism to meet incremental costs of environment related projects.

Global attention on environmental issues have been brought into sharper focus after the Rio Conference in 1992 which adopted the Agenda 21 resolution flagging the issues of concern for the twenty first century. The UN General Assembly thereafter set up the Commission on Sustainable Development to follow up and review the implementation of Agenda 21. The GEF Trust Fund was established to fund global environmental issues in the areas of (i) climate change, (ii) bio-diversity, and (iii) international waters pollution. Issues of land degradation will also be addressed. Donors have committed \$ 2 billion to the replenished

GEF Trust Fund to be utilized over the next three years.

Based on the first three year's experience, known as the Pilot Phase, the GEF Conference held in Geneva in March 1994 adopted the new Instrument for the establishment of the restructured GEF,

with the Executive Council as the main policy making body. The election of Mr. N. K. Singh to chair this first meeting of the newly established GEF Council is important as critical issues like the work program, conceptual and technical clearance of projects, meeting schedule and Rules of Procedure which will govern the future course of GEF activities are being deliberated upon in the meeting. Developing countries in particular are concerned about the adequacy of funding to support implementation of Agenda 21.

A INDIA GERMANY MALAYSIA PAKISTAN PERU SWITZERLAND

Date: Jul 13, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-US Energy Summit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 12, 1994 on Indo-U.S. Energy Summit:

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has said that the environmental threat to the world cannot be used as an excuse to freeze the prevailing levels of consumption and condemn the poor societies of the developing countries to perpetual poverty. He said, we have to allow space for growth of consumption levels by developing countries, even if it entails restraint on the part of those accustomed to high consumption and standards of living.

Shri Kamal Nath was addressing the "Indo-US Energy Summit: Cooperation For Sustainable Development", attended by the visiting US Energy Minister and Union Ministers of Power, Non-Conventional Energy and representatives of Indian Industry here today. He said, according to the World Energy Council, North America consumes 8 tonnes of oil-equivalent of primary energy per capita compared to South Asia's only 0.4 tonnes per capita. Thus, an average North American depletes the earth's energy resources twenty times more than an average South Asian.

Shri Kamal Nath said that higher levels of affluence, better information dissemination, stronger institutions brought about a major turn in the state of environment in the countries of North. He felt confident that the same will happen in the South countries if a favourable set of conditions is created. He

pleaded for location specific solutions to the problems of energy.

The Environment and Forests Minister advocated that unbridled consumerism should not be encouraged as it has underniable negative features. He said, 'we would like to so direct the policy that -126>

consumption in India does not follow in the footsteps of excessive western model'.

Turning to the Business and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath said, while making in vestment decisions they have not only to view specific technological options through the prism of financial viability but also against the backdrop of the widespread problems of poverty and environmental damages. 'With globalisation of business activity, we also have greater global responsibility on the part of business decision makers, he said.'

A INDIA

Date: Jul 12, 1994

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STRALIA USA INDIA CHINA GERMANY HONG KONG IRAN LAOS MAURITIUS MOROCCO NAMIBIA NEPAL PAKISTAN OMAN MALI SOMALIA VIETNAM SOUTH AFRICA SRI LANKA

Date: Aug 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994 on Australian investment, Joint Venture in India:

The scope for Australian investment in India particularly in the power sector as also for joint ventures for third country exports was stressed during the discussions here today between Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce and the visiting high-level delegation from Western Australia led by Mr. Clive Griffiths, President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. The delegation which called on Shri Ahmed also included Mr. Norm Marlbourough, Shadow Minister for productivity and Labour Relations and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Murray Montgomery, MLA, Mr. Ian Whitaker, representative of the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Monish Paul, Regional Manager for India in the Western Australian Department of Commerce and Industry. Shri Ashok Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, was also present.

During the discussions, Shri Ahmed said that apart from investment, there was immense potential for joint ventures in the industrial sector particularly consumer products and technological collaboration in the areas of food processing and agricultural including post-harvest technology. He said that the reform process had created an environment more conducive to foreign investment and new opportunities have emerged which could be availed of on the basis of mutual benefit.

Mr. Griffiths and the Australian delegation evinced keen interest in promoting cooperation in the areas of food processing and infrastructure particularly power and transportation. They also indicated the possibily of Western Australia opening a trade and investment office in India. It was mentioned during the discussions that the Indo-Australian Joint Commission Meeting would be held in New Delhi in February, 1995 preceded by an official level review meeting to be held in September 12, 1994.

Western Australia accounts for about 33% of the area and 9.5% of the total population of Australia. Its share in the overall overseas imports of Australia was 8.3% and share of overseas exports of Australia 25.8% in 1992-93. Total imports of Western Australia in 1992-93 amounted to US \$ 4966 million with the bulk of imports being mainly from Japan, USA, UAE, Republic of Korea, UK and Germany.

STRALIA USA INDIA JAPAN KOREA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid's Meeting with Australian Delegation led by Hon. Clive Griffiths, President of Western Australia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994 on Minister of State Shri Salman Khursheed's meeting with President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia:

Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister for External Affairs met an Australian Dele--129>

gation led by Hon. Clive Griffiths, President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia today in order to promote trade and investments from Western Australia to India. The Australian delegation is on a two-weeks visit (August 28 - September 9, 1994) to India and is visiting in addition to Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Bangalore and Madras. The delegation has expressed interest in setting up joint economic collaborations in the areas of food processing, post harvest technology, cereal storage and transportation as well as other infrastructural investments in India.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Australia to set up Joint Ventures in Food Processing

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994 on Australian Joint Venture in food processing:

A high-level business delegation led by President of Legislative Council of Western Australia, Mr. Clive Griffiths called on Minister of State of Food Processing Industries, Shri Tarun Gogoi here today. During the meeting Australian side conveyed keen desire of Australian industries for setting up joint ventures in the food processing sector. They offered advanced technology for the various sectors especially deep sea fishing and post harvest management of fruits and vegetables.

Western Australia, the State of major supplier of agriculture commodities has more than 500 companies in the food processing sector. It is the traditional grower of wide variety of tropical fruits. Australian side was of the view that India and Australia both could set up joint ventures in this area in other third world countries. They disclosed that Western Australia was considering the setting up of investment centre in India to promote bi-lateral business activities setting up.

Detailing the various steps taken by the Government to promote Indian industries, Shri Tarun Gogoi informed the Australian team since the liberalisation of economy number of foreign investors have shown keen interest in India. In the food processing sector over Rs. 2,200 crores foreign investment's proposals have been approved. He welcomed the Australian offer and invited Australian industry to set up joint ventures in the area of milk processing, meat, deep sea fishing.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

BOSNIA

Settlement of the Bosnian Conflict

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1994 on Political Settlement of the Bosnian conflict:

Government of India regret that the Contact Group proposals for a political settlement of the Bosnian conflict have been rejected by the Bosnian Serbs. We had hoped that acceptance by all the parties involved would pave the way to an end to the continuing conflict in Bosnia which we have watched with great anguish. It

is unfortunate that hopes of the international community, that the proposals would form the basis for a negotiated and -130>

peaceful end to a long drawn-out conflict, have received a serious setback.

We have noted that the leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia have dis-associated themselves from the actions of the Bosnian Serbs and the punitipe actions by the United Nations are contemplated against the Bosnian Serbs. The rejection of the proposals by the Bosnian Serbs carries with it the danger of the continuation and even grave escalation of the conflict.

We urge the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Contact Group proposals and to resolve their remaining differences in the spirit of peaceful negotiation and reconciliation, which can lead to irreversible steps toward a just and durable peace in Bosnia.

DIA USA YUGOSLAVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Indo-Chinese Working Groups in Steel Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 01, 1994:

An 8 member delegation led by Mr. Wu Xichun, Vice Minister, Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, People's Republic of China visited India in July, 1994, and held discussions with the Government on several issues pertaining to the steel sector. No agreement has been signed during the visit of delegation. However both sides agreed to set up Working Groups to cover the following areas:

- i) Working Group on Technical Cooperation in the Steel Sector.
- ii) Working Group on Iron Ore and Manganese Ore.
- iii) Working Group on Imports and Exports of Steel Products.

The above information was given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State for Steel, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

INA INDIA USA

Date: Aug 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Visit of Mr. Gerhart Baum, German Member of Parliament, toIndia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1994:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mr. Gerhart Baum, Member of Parliament and Head of the German delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission, visited India as part of regular exchanges at the political level between India and FRG. Mr. Baum called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid this morning and discussed in detail issues related to human

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rights. Shri Khurshid briefed him on this subject and also on the situation in Kashmir and the Government's efforts to restore normalcy in J&K with a view to initiating a political process, while undertaking socio-economic development activities. Mr. Baum expressed appreciation for the policy of transparency in human rights in India as well as the active role being played by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Referring to reports regarding Pakistan's efforts of clandestine procurement of weapon-grade plutonium, Minister of State Shri Salman Khurshid underlined our serious concern in this regard and requested that the German authorities keep us informed on the progress of investigations as well as the steps taken to check clandestine diversions of nuclear material Mr. Gerhart Baum will also be calling on Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Rajesh Pilot, and will have a meeting with the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

RMANY INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

HONG KONG

Stress on Diversifying Areas of Cooperation between Hong Kongand India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 22, 1994:

A 15-member Economic Mission from Hong Kong discussed various aspects of liberalised Indian economy, with Minister of State for Industry, Smt. Krishna Sahi, here today. The Mission was keen to explore new opportunities for cooperation between Hong Kong and India.

Smt. Sahi said that Hong Kong was the tenth largest country in terms of foreign direct investment approvals worth Rs. 285.77 crore, after the announcement of the New Industrial Policy.

The Minister said that there was scope for increasing and diversifying the areas of cooperation between the two countries. India, she said, had huge manpower and market alongwith adequate infrastructural support, to attract foreign investors. The Hong Kong delegation showed keen interest in various aspects of foreign investment in India.

The Mission, which is on a six-day visit to India, is led by Mr. Francis Lo, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. The Deputy Leader of the Mission is Mr. Hatim Ibrahim, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

NG KONG INDIA USA

Date: Aug 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

HONG KONG

Delegation from Hong Kong on Trade and Development in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1994:

A delegation from the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council, consisting of Hong Kong-Chinese businessmen and Indian businessmen settled in Hong Kong called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, in South Block today. They expressed interest in developing trade possibilities between India and Hongkong and also on investment from Hong Kong into India taking advan--132>

tage of the recent measures of the Government of India to attract foreign investment. The Minister expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Hong Kong Trade Development Council had organised this very important visit and assured the members of the delegation that India would respond to their interests substantively.

NG KONG INDIA USA

Date: Aug 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Second Meeting of Indian National Committee on U.N. 50th Anniversary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1994

The second meeting of the Indian National Committee consituted by the Prime Minister to coordinate the commemoration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, in New Delhi today. The participants included Shri Vasant Sathe, President of ICCR, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, Members of Parliament, Vice Chancellor of University of Bombay and senior government officials.

Welcoming the participants, Shri Dinesh Singh expressed happiness at the work undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the

programmes decided upon by the first meeting of the Indian National Committee. A number of activities are planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in a befitting fashion. The year-long programme of activities will commence on October 30, 1994, which marks the beginning of the 50th year of India's association with the United Nations. National and regional seminars, mock general assemblies, quizzes and debates, publication of books, release of commemorative stamps and coins, etc., are some of the other activities planned. Special national telecasts of documentaries on the role played by India in the UN's activities are also planned. A motion commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations is also to be moved in the Parliament.

It was decided that the next meeting of the National Committee would be held in December 1994.

DIA

Date: Aug 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

FDI Approvals worth Rs. 15620 crore during post policy period

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1994 on FDI approvals:

Over 2100 foreign collaboration approvals involving Foreign Direct investment worth Rs. 15620 crore, have been approved during the post-policy period (August 1991 to June 1994).

Sectoral break-ups indicate that high priority industrial sectors continue to attract over 80 percent of the Foreign Direct Investment. These are in such significant sectors as fuels including power (Rs. 4733.73 crore), Metallurgical Industry (Rs. 1503.03 crore), Services (Rs. 1751.74 crore), Food Processing (Rs. 1414.95 crore), Electrical Equipment -133>

(Rs. 1225.20 crore), Chemicals other than Fertilizers (Rs. 1095.30 crore) and Hotel and Tourism (Rs. 728.03 crore).

Country-wise break-up shows that major share in Foreign Direct Investment approved during 1991 to June 1994 is from USA (Rs.

5854.84 crore), followed by Switzerland (Rs. 1171.88 crore), Japan (Rs. 988.19 crore), U.K. (Rs. 945.16 crore) and Germany (Rs. 621.53 crore). NRI proposals envisage investment worth Rs. 1658.65 crore.

Actual inflow of Foreign Direct Investment from 1991 to 1993 has been Rs. 3943.10 crore.

DIA USA SWITZERLAND GERMANY JAPAN UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Aug 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to the Ministry of External Affairs to discuss Sino-Indian relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1994:

The Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to the Ministry of External Affairs met this morning to discuss Sino-Indian relations. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh, Ministers of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia and Shri Salman Khurshid, and senior officials of the Ministry were present.

- 2. During the course of the meeting, Hon'ble Members expressed their views on several aspects of bilateral relations bet-ween the two countries. They expressed broad support for the policies followed by Government. On the border issue, they advised caution and determination and the safeguarding of the security interests of the nation.
- 3. The continuing high-level exchanges of visits, as also other meetings of Joint Groups, were welcomed and encouraged as part of improving relations. Hon'ble Members also felt that more border trading posts should be opened and concerted efforts made to increase India's bilateral trade with China. There appeared to be scope for further economic cooperation as both countries had complementarities which needed to be explored.
- 4. The Consultative Committee felt Ministry of External Affairs policies towards Sino-Indian relations be conducted keeping in view the changing global geopolitical and economic scenario in

Asia and the world.

DIA USA CHINA

Date: Aug 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Foreign Secretary Shri K. Srinivasan's visit to number of countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994 on Foreign Secretary visit to foreign countries for pre-United Nations General Assembly Consultations:

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan is visiting a number of countries for pre-United Nations General Assembly consultations. Having visited Jordan, Oman, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Czechoslovakia, he is presently in Moscow and will be stopping in Tokyo before returning to India.

Items discussed relate to the reform of the United Nations, restructuring and expansion of the Security Council, disarmament issues, comprehensive test ban treaty as well as peace keeping operations and safety of peace keepers. He has also exchanged views on the agenda for development and the forthcoming Social Summit at Copenhagen in March 1995.

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The Foreign Secretary has taken the opportunity to brief the authorities in the countries that he is visiting of Pakistani support to militancy and terrorism and interference in our internal affairs and reiterated India's willingness to hold talks with Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement.

DIA EGYPT JORDAN LEBANON OMAN SYRIA RUSSIA NORWAY SLOVAKIA JAPAN USA DENMARK PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

Visit of Dr. Hassan Rohani, Chairman of Foreign RelationsCommittee of Iran to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1994 on Dr. Hassan Rohani, Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of Iran visit to India:

The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Majlis of Iran and Secretary of National Security Council, Dr. Hassan Rohani is visiting India from August 22 to 26, 1994. Dr. Rohani is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising members of the Majlis Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, and other senior officials.

During the stay in Delhi, Dr. Rohani called on President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan, Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Dr. Shivraj Patil, External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri A. B. Vajpayee. The visiting iranian delegation also held discussions with an Indian delegation led by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

The issues of bilateral cooperation and regional and international situation figured in the talks. The two sides agreed that economic cooperation would be enhanced particularly in the sectors of energy, transportation and science and technology. The setting up of a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India and cooperation relating to trade and economic relations with Central Asia also received particular attention. Expressing satisfaction over the high level of political understanding characterising the bilateral relations at present, both sides felt that close cooperation between the two countries is in the interest of peace and stability in the entire region.

AN INDIA USA

Date: Aug 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

LAOS

Visit of Laos Foreign Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 10, 1994 on Laos Foreign Minister's visit:

The Foreign Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengasavad, accompanied by a 4-member delegation will be visiting India from August 16-23, 1994. Besides Delhi the delegation will also visit Agra, Patna, Bangalore and Bombay.

In Delhi, the Lao Foreign Minister will call on the President, Vice-President, Prime -135>

Minister and Minister of External Affairs. The talks will cover commercial, economic, and other matters of mutual interest. Besides the delegation will also have talks with members of ASSOCHAM.

In Bangalore the delegation will visit HAL, BEL, and BHEL. In Bombay the delegation will visit various business establishments and may have talks with some business group.

India and Laos have traditionally enjoyed close and cordial relations. Laos shares India's socio-religious cultural influence in its religion (Buddhism), language (Bhasa Lao, derived from Pali and Sanskrit), culture, art and architecture. Both the countries have been cooperating closely in international fora, including NAM.

OS INDIA USA

Date: Aug 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

LAOS

Foreign Affairs Minister of Laos Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad meetingwith Shri Dinesh Singh, Foreign Minister of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 17, 1994 on meeting of Laos Foreign Minister with Indian Foreign Minister:

The Foreign Minister of Laos, H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, had a meeting with Minister for External Affairs, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. During the meeting, he recalled the historical and

cultural ties between India and Laos and thanked the Government of India for its continued technical cooperation and relief assistance. A Memorandum of understanding on technical and Economic Cooperation was also signed between the visiting dignitary and the Indian Minister for External Affairs.

Before the meeting, detailed discussions took place between the two delegations. Indian side was led by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs and assisted by Shri Salman Haider, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Lao Foreign Minister requested for increased training facilities in the field of agriculture, forestry, education, diplomacy, etc. Laos is also interested in attracting Indian investment in the form of joint ventures, projects, etc., in the wake of their economic liberalisation policies. Ways and means to expand bilateral trade were also discussed. India has also agreed to consider conducting feasibility studies for the rich mineral resources in Laos.

Discussions also took place on the regional political situation and each country's relations with its neighbours. Laos has been a consistent supporter of India on the Kashmir issue.

Both the countries agreed to continued cooperation in international fora on issues of common interest. The Lao side agreed with the Indian side that the Security Council should be expanded and democratized, to be more representative of the international community today.

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OS INDIA USA

Date: Aug 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Dr. Ahmud Swalay Kasenally, Minister of External Affairs of Mauritius visit to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 04, 1994 on Mauritius External Affairs Minister's visit to India:

At the meeting of the Minister for External Affairs of India, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of Mauritius H.E. Dr. Ahmud Swalay Kasenally, the two sides

discussed matters of bilateral, regional and international interest. They referred to a proposal regarding Indian Ocean Rim countries and matters related thereto.

They also noted the ongoing cooperation between India and Mauritius in various fields particularly in trade and investment areas. Several ventures relating to transfer of technology were also discussed particularly in the agricultural sector.

On the Kashmir issue, the Mauritian External Affairs Minister reiterated his countries stand that it was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan to be negotiated and settled under the Shimla Agreement. He also emphasised that India and Mauritius could have further beneficial economic relations with the opening up and liberalising of the Indian and Mauritian economies.

Hon'ble Mr. Kasenally has extended an invitation to the Minister of External Affairs of India to pay an official visit to Mauritius, which has been accepted.

URITIUS USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Visit of the Special Envoy of King Hassan - II of Morocco, H.E.Ambassador Mehdi Hassan, from August 15-18,1994.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 12, 1994 on visit of Special Envoy of King Hassan - II of Morocco to India:

Special Envoy of King Hassan - II of Morocco, H.E. Ambassador Mehdi Zentar, is visiting India from August 15 to August 18, 1994. He is carrying a Royal message from His Majesty King Hassan - II for the Prime Minister of India, inviting India to participate in the Middle East in the context of the ongoing Peace Process to be held in Cassablanca, Morocco from October 30 to November 1, 1994. India has been participating in the multilateral track of the Middle East Peace Process as one of the non-regional participants.

Ambassador Zentar will call on the Prime Minister and the Vice President and will have a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, who will also host a lunch in honour of the Special Envoy.
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ROCCO USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Namibian Delegation Meets Vice President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 10, 1994 on visit of Vice President of Namibia to India:

A 7-member Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Kandy Nehova, the Chairman of the National Council of Namibia called on Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India here today. Shri Narayanan recalled with satisfaction the very active relations that have developed between India and newly independent Namibia in all spheres including political, cultural and commercial areas. It was felt that relations in these diverse areas would lead to cooperation in joint ventures and prospects in Namibia which would create entreprentrial skills and jobs besides providing a strong underpinning to bilateral relations.

Both leaders agreed that there was considerable scope for bilateral cooperation in the specific areas of leather industry, fishing (particularly Acqua culture), mining (especially polishing, cutting and processing of diamonds), water resource development, textiles, cotton growing, sugarcane plantation and agriculture. Shri Narayanan assured the delegation that India remain fully committed to providing moral and material assistance for the economic and social development of Namibia, to the extent possible.

The Chairman of the delegation Mr. Nehova hailed the role of India in providing moral and material support to the liberation movement of Namibia. He also apprised the Vice President on the political scenario in South Africa consequent to the formation of the new government of National Unity and the future political and economic role of post-apartheid South Africa in the region, particularly in Namibia. The discussions also focussed on the election process, party system, relations between two houses of

the parliament, functioning of different parliamentary committees etc. in India

MIBIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Aug 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Royal Highness Crown Prince of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994, on Crown Prince of Nepal visit to India:

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal, accompanied by HRH Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, (brother of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev) and his wife HRH Princess Komal Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, and other high level dignitaries, is paying his first official goodwill visit to India from August 30 to September 5, 1994, at the invitation of Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan.

Crown Prince Dipendra will meet with the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister during his stay in Delhi. The Vice President will also host a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary. The Crown Prince will also visit Bangalore and Bombay as well as the IMA in Dehradun.

PAL INDIA USA

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

An Allegation made by Pakistan about Indian troop movement in J& K

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 07, 1994 on Indian troops movement in Jammu and Kashmir:

We have carefully noted the Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman's statement on 3rd August, 1994, alleging Indian troop movements in Jammu and Kashmir, the induction of Indian 'helicopter gunships' and projecting military tensions along with the Line of Control.

We categorically clarify that the army is engaged in a routine exercise in the J & K area, which had been pre-scheduled. The exercise including its duration has been notified in advance to the Government of Pakistan in terms of relevant bilateral agreements. It is routine for troops on both sides to undertake such exercises. We would also clarify that there is no unusual or excessive deployment of helicopters or airpower in the area of the exercise as alleged in the Pak Foreign Office statement. As such, the Pakistani claims in this regard are baseless, false and needlessly exaggerative.

DIA PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Aug 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of Iran Dr. Hassan Rowhani on trilateral discussions on the Kashmir Problem

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1994 on trilateral discussions on Kashmir problems:

In response to queries about the visiting Iranian Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Dr. Hassan Rowhani's statement to the press that India, Pakistan and representatives of the Kashmiri people should have trilateral discussions on the Kashmir problem, the official spokesman replied that we had not gathered this impression during our discussions with the Iranians delegaion. The Iranians had emphasised that the Kashmir problem should not be internationalised, which was our position also and that talks be held bilaterally with Pakistan as well as with the representatives of the Kashmir people. The Government of India was already talking to leaders of the Kashmiri people and was always ready to discuss the problem with Pakistan as envisaged

under the Shimla Agreement. There was, thus, no difference between what Dr. Rowhani had stated to the press and Government of India's discussions with the Iranian delegation.

In reseponse to another query on Iran offering itself as a mediator for sol -139>

ving the Kashmir issue, the spokesman said that Kashmir was an issue that Pakistan had agreed to settle bilaterally with India. This was envisaged and agreed to under the Shimla Agreement which does not provide for any outside mediation. India would not accept any form of third party mediation. The important problem now was cross-border terrorism which continues to lead to violence in Kashmir and India has sought the support of the international community to prevail upon Pakistan to stop aiding and abetting terrorism in J & K.

AN USA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. Yousuf Al Alawi Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign A ffairs, Sultanate of Oman to India

The following is the text of a statement by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 08, 1994, on Mr. Yousuf Al Alawi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman visit to India:

H.E. Mr. Yousuf Al Alawi Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman paid an official visit to India at the invitation of Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs. He arrived in New Delhi on August 11, 1994. Shri Bhatia hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary.

H.E. Mr. Abdullah had extensive talks with Shri Bhatia today, reflecting the warm friendly and close relations, historically existing between the two countries. The two leaders reviewed the progress of the ongoing projects in diverse sectors such as Oman-India Gas Pipeline, proposed Ammonia Urea fertilizer joint venture to be set up in Oman, equity participation by Oman in the two grass-root refineries to be established in India. They explored possibilities of expanding and diversifying the existing

cooperation and identified new mutually beneficial areas for collaboration -- agriculture, commerce, scientific & technical cooperation, solar energy research, etc.

Shri Bhatia briefed the visiting dignitary of developments in the Indian subcontinent. He apprised the Omani Minister of our success in fostering close ties with India's neighbours. The Omani Minister said that both India and Pakistan are good friends of Oman. He stressed that India and Pakistan should settle all bilateral issues including Kashmir between them through negotiations.

The two leaders underlined the importance of regular exchange of views on issues of mutual concern to the two countries.

A INDIA OMAN PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Mr. Alistaire Goodlad, Minister of State in the British Foreign & Common wealth Office (FCO) to India and hismeeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs ShriSalman Khurshid

The following is the text of a statement by Official Spokesman issued in New Delhi on Aug 16, 1994, on visit of Mr. Alistaire Goodlad to India:

Briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Mr. Alistaire Goodlad, Minister of State in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is visiting India. Mr. Goodlad deals with Trade and Investment in FCO.

He had a meeting today with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid. Tomorrow, he is meeting Shri Satish Sharma, Shri Sukh Ram and Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Then he leaves for Bombay where he will meet with -140>

the Maharashtra Chief Minister and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He will also have a meeting with the business community in Bombay. He will depart from India on Friday night.

This is the fourth leg of his visit. So far, he has visited New Zealand, Australia and Singapore.

Mr. Goodlad's discussions with Salman Khurshid related to enhancing of economic cooperation, particularly, trade and investment in India. They noted the success of the Indo-British Partnership Initiative (IBPI).

Indo-British trade last year increased by 24%. It was roughly just over two billion pounds last year. In the first five months of this year, Indian exports to the UK were 560 million pounds and imports from Britain were 540 million pounds. India's exports are now increasingly changing their pattern to non-traditional goods, like engineering goods, etc. In terms of foreign investment approvals last year, Britain now holds the second place after USA. The British Trade Minister, Mr. Needham, is expected to visit India in November later this year with a large business delegation for further promotion of Indo-British Trade and Investment.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Khurshid briefed Mr. Goodlad on the regional and international situation as also on Government's proposals to initiate a political process in Kashmir. They also discussed matters relating to Asian, Far East and Australasia.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA AUSTRALIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date: Aug 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Statement on Pakistan as Terrorist State

The following is the text of a statement issued by the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on August 22, 1994 on Pakistan as terrorist state:

In response to queries on the remarks made by Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid at a press conference in Lucknow on Aug 21, 1994, the Official Spokesman stated that while responding to a question on whether Pakistan would be declared a terrorist state, the Minister said that there was no international fora which could discuss such matters. However, he hoped that the US Administration would take into account details given by the Bombay blast accused Yakub Memon in the context of its earlier efforts to declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

In response to a question whether India would seek to internationalise the POK issue, the Minister hoped that good sense would prevail among the Pakistani leadership and they would desist from raising Kashmir at international fora. The Minister reiterated that India was committed to maintaining peace in the subcontinent, would not fight a war against Pakistan unless war was forced upon India. He reiterated that Kashmir was an integral part of India and would remain so.

In response to a question on the reported seizure of plutonium in Germany allegedly destined for Pakistan, the Minister said that he had conveyed Government of India's apprehension to Germany during a meeting he had with the visiting Member of the German Parliament, Mr. Gerhard Baum on August 19, 1994. He hoped that Mr. Baum would convey India's concern to the Government of Chancellor Kohl so that German authorities could keep India informed about the progress on investigations as well as steps taken to check the clandestine diversion of plutonium.

KISTAN USA INDIA GERMANY

Date: Aug 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Seven Indian Soldiers killed in Somalia

The following is the text of a statement by the Official Spokesman issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1994 on killing of Indian soldiers in Somalia:

We are deeply distressed that seven Indian soldiers have been killed in Somalia in an unprovoked attack. It is universally acknowledged by all countries, including the United Nations, and by humanitarian organisations that the Indian peace-keeping contingent have worked selflesely and devotedly and have been successful in restoring order to one-third of Somalia. We believe this attack has been the work of misguided elements of the local militia, and we hope and trust that this will not be repeated.

DIA MALI SOMALIA USA

Date: Aug 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Possession of Nuclear Weapons by Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Aug 24, 1994 on possession of Nuclear Weapons by Pakistan:

We have seen media reports of the statement attributed to the former Prime Minister of Pakistan to the effect that Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons. We have maintained for long that Pakistan's nuclear programme is weapon-oriented. The curtain of ambiguity about the intentions and purpose of Pakistan's nuclear programme has now fallen off.

We are dismayed that Pakistan not only has carried its nuclear weapons programe to a fruition but also is threatening India with a nuclear threat in settling its outstanding bilateral differences with India. Pakistan's track record of supporting trans-border terrorism and subversion combines with its open threat to use nuclear weapons as an instrument of policy.

It is a matter of grave concern that Pakistan is actively pursuing this nuclear weapon programme and is clandestinely procuring materials in this regard as is evident from recent reports. We hope that the international community will compel Pakistan to abandon this dangerous course which would endanger peace and stability. We will continue to maintain the utmost vigilence in this matter and will take all necessary steps in safeguarding our national security.

KISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Aug 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam and Singapore from September 5 to 9, 1994

The following is the text of a statement by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 25, 1994 on Prime Minister visit to Vietnam and Singapore:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao will pay an official visit to Vietnam and Singapore from September 5-9, 1994. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by high-level Ministerial and official delegation and leading members of the business community. The visit of the Prime Minister is to further strengthen the high-level political dialogue with the Governments of Singapore and Vietnam and to work out a common strategy of economic cooperation in keeping with the liberalising environment globally. Several agreements are expected to be signed both in Vietnam and Singapore at Government as well as corporate level. -142>

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE VIETNAM INDIA USA

Date: Aug 25, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Statement on M.T.C.R. on Seientific and Industrialbase

The following is the text of statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Aug 30, 1994 on M.T.C.R. on Scientific and Industrial base:

Over the last few years, the MTCR has started to hold consultations with other countries with an advanced scienific and industrial base. Early this year, it expressed an interest in holding discussions with the Government of India, with a view to briefing us about the nature of the regime.

Government agreed to the visit. The MTCR is represented by a Quad, led by the current Chairman, Ambassador Rolf Jeker of Switzerland, other members are from US, UK and Australia. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Deb Mukherji, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and included senior

officials from a number of concerned Departments.

This is part of consultations that Government holds with other Governments and organisations on matters of mutual interest. There was an exchange of views. It was not the intention to reach agreements or negotiate any understandings.

This first exchange of views has been both useful and comprehensive. Government of India will consider further discussions with the MTCR if the need arises.

A INDIA AUSTRALIA SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Spokesman's Response to Queries on Missile Technology ControlRegime (MTCR)

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Aug 30, 1994 on Missile technology Control Regime (MTCR):

Responding to several queries on Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the official spokesman replied that there were 25 members of MTCR. It was like a club and not a Treaty or Agreement. There were also some countries who voluntarily adhered to the Regime. These were Russia, China, Ukraine, South Africa, Israel, and Romania. He told newspersons that the group which held discussions in India consisted of UK, Australia, USA and Switzerland. The spokesman stated that MTCR group was here only to explain to us the nature of the Regime. How it operates. How it checks the export of missile proliferation material from their own countries to others. They have explained to us what the Regime is all about and we have found these discussions useful, said the spokesman.

Responding to a query on whether India's missile programme was discussed during the meeting, the spokesman said that it was not discussed.

Responding to another query on whether the team raised the question of nuclear tension in the sub-continent, the Spokesman replied in the negative.

In response to a query that India had taken a stand on NPT, whether we have done so on MTCR, the spokesman said, that he did not think we have articulated any formal position on this. He emphasised that this was only an exchange of views on the nature of the Regime and the discussions were not held with the idea of reaching any understanding or agreement. The MTCR group had not come with the intention of asking us anything, clarified the spokesman.

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DIA CHINA RUSSIA UKRAINE SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM USA ISRAEL OMAN ROMANIA AUSTRALIA SWITZERLAND

Date: Aug 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Suo Moto Statement by Minister of State for External AffairsShri Salman Khurshid in Lok Sabha on August 25, 1994, onPakistan's Nuclear Capability

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 25, 1994 on Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs statement on Pakistan Nuclear capability in Lok Sabha:

We have carefully noted the statement by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan that Pakistan possesses an atomic bomb. This is the first ever such explicit statement by a Pakistani leader who occupied the highest office of Government. Pakistan can no longer maintain a stand of ambiguity about the intentions and true purpose of its nuclear weapon programme.

We have consistently held the view for long that Pakistan is pursuing a weapon-oriented nuclear programme. The surreptitious evolution of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme from its infancy and its clandestine development have naturally engaged our close attention all along.

We are dismayed that Pakistan not only has advanced its nuclear weapon programme to an intended conclusion but also is holding out to India a nuclear threat in settling its outstanding differences with us. This is a matter of grave concern to us.

The international community must concertedly act to ensure that Pakistan behaves as a responsible member in the comity of

nations. Indeed, there has been international concern expressed over Pakistan's emergence as a nuclear weapon state. Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and agree to conduct itself within limits. Recent reports indicate that Pakistan is continuing to pursue its nuclear weapon programme and is clandestinely procuring materials for this purpose from whatever source available. The reality today is that Pakistan is becoming a serious threat to international peace and stability. Pakistan's deplorable record of aiding and abetting international terrorism and subversion combines with its open threat to use nuclear weapons as an instrument of policy.

We are taking all necessary steps to mobilise the international Community over the threat posed by Pakistan as a State Sponsoring terrorism with a declare intent to use nuclear weapons for resolving to differences with India over J & K.

I assure the House that the Government will maintain the utmost vigilance on this matter and will act with decisiveness and firmness in thwarting any danger to this country's national security.

KISTAN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 25, 1994

Volume No

1995

SAARC ASEAN

SAARC - ASEAN meet on Bio-Diversity

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 18, 1994

An International Consultation on Biological Diversity is being organised at Bangalore on August 22 and 23, 1994 jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Dalegates from SAARC, ASEAN and other

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countries of the region would be attending. Observers from several international organisations and some non-governmental organisations are also expected to participate.

The Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath would inaugurate the two-day Conference at the Indian Institute of Science. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Veerappa Moily will be the Chief Guest.

The countries invited to attend are China, Myanmar, Japan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Phillipines, Thailand besides the hosts India.

The main objective of the Conference is to evolve mechanisms for regional cooperation on issues related to biological diversity, keeping in view the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed at the Earth Summit.

This region is rich in genetic resources and vast traditional knowledge of local communities. But, because of the rapid developments of biotechnologies and the changing Intellectual Property regimes, the probability of the economic gains going to technology rich and already developed countries can't be ruled out. In this scenario, countries of the region should not be merely providers of genetic resources. The Consultation would seek cooperation among countries of the region to ensure that its due share in information of genetic material to economic wealth is ensured on a long term basis. In other words the benefits must flow back to the gene rich countries and local communities.

The consultation will be conducted largely in two Working Groups. Working Group - I will address issues related to scientific and technical cooperation. Working Group - II will deal with matters pertaining to mechanisms for regional cooperation. It is expected that the delegates from all the countries assembled at Bangalore will participate in both Working Groups. The delegations of the participating countries are also expected to present their country papers. The recommendations of both the Working Groups will be brought to the Plenary Session for approval. The Plenary Session will also adopt Bangalore Declaration.

Articles 5, 14 and 17 of the Convention specifically provide for regional cooperation among the member parties. This assumes significance in view of the fact that many components of biological diversity are common among neighbouring countries as natural ecosystems are spread over political boundaries. Moreover, several of the floral and fauna species are endemic to the region.

DIA USA CHINA JAPAN AFGHANISTAN BANGLADESH BHUTAN INDONESIA MALDIVES PAKISTAN BRUNEI MALAYSIA NEPAL REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SRI LANKA THAILAND

Date: Aug 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Visit of Shri N. N. Desai Joint Secretary (Africa) to SouthAfrica

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 12, 1994 on Joint Secretary (Africa) visit to South Africa:

A team of three officials led by Shri N. N. Desai, Joint Secretary (Africa) in the Ministry of External Affairs, visited South Africa from August 6 to 11, 1994, for consultations with South African Foreign Office. They discussed the draft of an agreement to set up a Joint Commission between India & South Africa. Mr.

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Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa is expected to visit India shortly to sign the agreement. The Joint Commission will serve to concretise and structure further cooperation between the two countries.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date: Aug 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Immense Scope for Indo-South African Trade & Investments

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 22, 1994 on inaugural speech of Commerce Minister of India:

The reestablishment of ties in the commercial, technological and trade sectors has created immense scope for bilateral trade, investment and joint ventures between India and South Africa. This was stated by the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee while inaugurating the first Indian trade exhibition in South

Africa -- INDEXPO 1994 -- at Johannesburg today. The Minister said that the exposition marked a milestone in the revival of trade relations between India and South Africa and was indicative of the importance attached by the government and the people of India to relations with the resource-rich South Africa. He said India today, with its developed industrial infrastructure was poised to become the base for global trade with an enormous market for all kinds of goods and services.

The holding of an exclusive Indian Trade Exhibition in South Africa provides the opportunity to establish areas of mutual interest over a broad business spectrum. Shri Mukherjee said. To complement South African production, India is highly skilled in cutting and polishing small diamonds. The Indian steel, wool and coal industries can benefit from South African technologies, he said of particular interest among these would be the production of iron, using low grade coal and liquid fuels from coal. Shri Mukherjee offered Indian expertise in setting up small scale industries which was, besides generating employment, less capital intensive and absorbed large chunks of semi-skilled and skilled workforce. In his concluding remarks, the Minister offered to share India's experience on low-cost housing suitable for all types of terrains.

UTH AFRICA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Aug 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister's Message to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 19, 1994 on Prime Minister congratulating message to Sri Lankan Prime Minister:

"It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your election to the office of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. On behalf of the people and the government of India, and on my behalf, I wish you success in achieving the goals you envisage for your country.

I look forward to working with you to strengthen the historic relationship between our two countries, which has stood the test of time. I also look forward to meeting you as a colleague in your new capacity.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration and my best wishes".

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I LANKA INDIA

Date: Aug 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statement by US Congressman Rob Andrews on Kashmir in the Houseof Representatives on 12 August, 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 15, 1994 on US congressman Rob Andrews's Statement on Kashmir:

Mr. Robert E. Andrews, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a terrible tragedy that is taking place in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. This situation deserves the immediate attention of the international community. The Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir is being victimised by armed terrorists trained in Pakistan. This action is part of a "proxy war" being waged by Pakistan, which has had devastating affects on civilians, visiting diplomats, and Indian dignitaries.

One of the largest groups affected by the "proxy war" perpotrated by terrorists are the Kashmiri Pandits. These people are the original inhabitants of the valley of Kashmir. Since 1989, fundamentalists, under the influence of religious zealots in Pakistan and other terrorist nations, have pursued a murderous campaign against the Pandits in order to establish an Islamic state. Murder, arson and rape have been used to terrorise this community, leading to a mass exodus. Leaving everything they owned, the Pandits have been living in subbuman conditions as refugees in their own country for over four years. These conditions have led to untimely deaths, physical and mental diseased and a declining birth rate. Unless this problem is addressed soon, the Pandits' unique culture will become extinct.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. should play a larger role in helping to bring peace to this region. We have always supported and defended democratic ideals. India, as the largest democracy in the world, deserves our support. Either through U.N. efforts or through

Congressional action, we should negotiate peace between India and Pakistan. In the meantime, we should condemn, as we have in past, the state sponsored terrorism taking place in the valley of Kashmir.

A INDIA PAKISTAN ANGUILLA

Date: Aug 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meeting of Mr. Frank Wisner Ambassador of USA with Minister of State Mr. Salman Khurshid

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Aug 23, 1994 on meeting of US Ambassador Frank Wisner with Mr. Salman Khurshid Minister of State:

H.E. Mr. Frank Wisner, the new Ambassador of the United States to India, called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid in South Block today. During the call, they assessed the current state of Indo-US relations, following the recent visit of the Prime Minister, to Washington. The follow-up to Prime Minister's discussions in Washington with President Clinton were focussed on and satisfaction was expressed at the outcome of the visit of US Energy Secretary, Ms. Hazel O'Leary with a high-powered delegation to India in July 1994. The forthcoming visit of the US Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Ron Brown to India was also discussed.

The Minister conveyed to US Ambassador Government of India's concern that the security environment in South Asia -147>

continues to be aggravated by Pakistan's irresponsible sponsorship of terrorism. The recent disclosure by one of the accused in the Bombay blasts, Yakub Memon, of which the Ambassador is fully aware, is yet another example of Pakistan's attempts to create disturbance and instability in India.

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A INDIA PAKISTAN

Date: Aug 23, 1994

September

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1995

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Date: Sep 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

CAIRO

India Calls for all out Efforts for Women Empowerment Shri B.Shankaranand's Address at Cairo Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 07, 1994 on Shri B. Shankaranand's address at Cairo Conference:

India has called for making an all out effort for economic empowerment of women. Speaking at the International Conference on Population and development in Cairo, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri B. Shankaranand said that income generating schemes held the key for economic independence of women. This would upgrade the status of women in society.

Shri Shankaranand said that adequate funds were not being made available for health services. In this context he called upon the world community for stopping armament race and divert funds to needy sector like health and family welfare.

The Minister emphasised the need for promoting information education and communications on reproductive health of woman, spacing of children and reducing maternal and infant mortality and small family for improving the quality of life.

The Minister said that women should be given freedom of choice to select the method for limiting the size of the families. Reproductive health services should be ensured to provide safe motherhood for all women.

In this context the Minister said "Gender equality in term of women's status, and political, social and economic rights is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. Laws have been enacted to privide protection to women against social discrimination and exploitation. To ensure the constitutional and legal safe-guard provided to women, a National Commission for Women has been set up."

The Minister urged the International community to promote a supportive economic environment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development. He said, "We together have the will and ability to make this world a healthy and happy home for our future generations. Let us not fall. Let not posterity accuse us of having failed or faltered in our attempt to provide health for all. Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates, I would like to conclude by quoting our great leader, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, under whose leadership India won UN Population Award in 1982.

"We are here because we do believe that minds and attitudes can and must be changed and that injustice and suffering can and must be diminished. Our world is small: it has room for all of us. But does it have room for all of us to live together and to improve the quality of the life of our people in peace and harmony", said Shri Shankaranand.

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YPT INDIA TURKEY USA OMAN

Date: Sep 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Guard of Honour to Chinese Defence Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Guard of Honour to Chinese Defence Minister:

General Chi Haotian, defence minister of Peoples' Republic of China, was presented an impressive guard of honour by smartly dressed jawans of the 14 Jat Regiment at South block here today.

On arrival, Gen. Haotian was received by Maj Gen A. R. K. Reddy, General Officer Commanding Delhi Area, and was welcomed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, union minister of commerce, Shri Mallikarjun, minister of state for defence and Shri K. A. Nambiar, defence secretary. Senior officers of defence ministry and army were also

present.

Later, the visiting dignitary laid a wreath at Rajghat. After his visit to Rajghat, the Chinese defence minister left for Agra where he will visit Para Brigade and see para dropping demonstrations.

INA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA

Date : Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

HAITI

Indian Troops to Haiti

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1994 on Indian cooperation in the UN in UNMIH:

Some reports have appeared in the press that India is to send 5,000 troops to Haiti.

India has agreed to cooperate with the UN in the second phase of UNMIH, which seeks to assist in rehabilitation, and establishment of an environment conducive to the organisation of the democratic process. No commitments have been made on the number of personnel to be deployed.

ITI INDIA

Date : Sep 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

HANDI

Prime Minister Signs Visitors' Book at Ho Chi Minh Cottage

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Prime Minister signing visitors' book at

Ho Chi Minh Cottage:

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao recorded the following comments while signing Visitors' Book at Ho Chi Minh Cottage to Hanoi today:

"Here lived a great leader and liberator. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I salute his memory and -150>

the inspiration that he gave to his own people and the peoples of the world in general, who were similarly engaged in the fight against Colonialism. We would do everything to uphold and continue the close friendship between India and Vietnam which the departed leader so assiduously cultivated and furthered, along with India's great leader and first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru".

DIA VIETNAM USA

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

HANDI

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Hanoi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Hanoi:

I am deeply moved by the warmth and graciousness of your welcome. Thank you for your kind words and for the hospitality shown to me and my delegation. I am delighted to be back again amongst my Vietnamese friends after over a decade. It is an honour to be with a people who so bravely preserved their independence through the turbulent vicissitudes of history.

On coming here, I am more than ever aware of the strengths and continuity of the relationship between the peoples of India and Vietnam. As two ancient nations we have deep moorings in our respective cultural development, where we have given and taken much from each other. The Cham monuments dotting the landscape of central and southern Vietnam are a testimony to our age-old historical and cultural contacts. In modern times, our leaders inspired and drew strength from each other in their struggle against colonialism and foreign domination. Ho Chi Minh and

Jawaharlal Nehru together laid the foundations of the close and friendly relations which we enjoy today.

Today the world is looking at Vietnam with new eyes, as it goes through momentous changes in its economic orientation. Rapid economic transformation has been brought about in a setting of political stability and orderly social development. This is a reflection of the maturity and wisdom of its leadership and the dedication and discipline of the Vietnamese people. As close and longstanding friends of Vietnam, we wish you success in your endeavour to provide economic growth and prosperity to your great nation.

Excellency, India, too embarked upon a process of far-reaching economic reforms three years ago. In the early years of our Independence, our policies concentrated on building up our economic base virtually from scratch, at the same time addressing the complex and inescapable social needs of our large population. We have since proceeded with a policy of economic liberalisation that attempts to build upon the strong agricultural and industrial base that has been created. Reforms have been introduced in a systematic manner and at a pace that should minimize their adverse effects on the more vulnerable sections of our society, at the same time providing many new opportunities to our people for growth and prosperity. We take great satisfaction from the success recorded by the liberalisation policy, which has attracted strong support at home and abroad.

The reforms put into effect by both our countries provide substantial new opportunities for enhanced bilateral interaction particularly in regard to private enterprise projects. It should be the endeavour of both sides to take advantage of the new economic environment. We, on our part, are fully ready to be a partner in Vietnam's development. We hope to see major bilateral projects which will serve the interests of both and give an economic content to our relations commensurate with our traditionally close and friendly ties.

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Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, peace and stability are essential prerequisites for economic development. In this context, we welcome initiatives taken by Vietnam for creating a climate of trust and understanding among countries of the region. We believe that closer interaction and links between Vietnam and the ASEAN are an important component for peace and stability in the South-East Asian region. In this context, we welcome Vietnam's forthcoming membership of the ASEAN as a positive and significant development. In our own region, we are determined to continue our efforts to promote good neighbourly relations and to expand the process of cooperation in South Asia with the objective of making it an area of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, as fellow nations of Asia our two countries are conscious of the emerging status of Asia in a changing world. This new, dynamic Asia, the most vigorously advancing portion of the planet, can draw upon centuries-old traditions of peace, amity, tolerance and harmony and provide a stabilizing influence in international affairs. It will be India's privilege, in this context, to extend its partnership with Vietnam into the 21st century, on a new path of peace and prosperity. We have stood by each other in the past, and we will remain partners in the future as well. We are confident of the success of your own endeavours as much as ours in economic and social reconstruction, and we look forward to a still closer relationship between India and Vietnam in the years to come.

May I request you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast:

- to the health of His Excellency President Le Duo Anh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;
- to the health of His Excellency the Prime Minister and Madame Vo Van Kiet;
- to abiding Indo-Vietnam, friendship and cooperation.

ETNAM INDIA USA PERU

Date : Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Visit of Hungarian Political State Secretary to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 22, 1994 on Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State meeting with Political State Secretary of Hungary:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, held official talks today with the visiting Political State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Mr. Istvan Szent-Ivanyi. The two Ministers had a detailed exchange of views on the international situation, especially in Asia and in Europe.

Responding to Shri Salman Khurshid's presentation of Government of India's position on the Jammu & Kashmir issue, the visiting Hungarian Minister conveyed that his Government's considered view

was that this issue should not be internationalised. Hungary had already urged Pakistan to solve any dispute on this issue with India bilaterally through a dialogue. Hungary strongly condemned international

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terrorism, and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries

The two Ministers also discussed ways and means to improve bilateral economic and commercial relations. It was proposed that a high level Indian business mission would be sent to Hungary in the near future, consisting of captains of Indian trade and industry and senior officers of nodal Government Ministries, in this connection.

NGARY INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Sep 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Government Approves 32 more Foreign Investment Proposals worthRs. 300 crore

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Government approved of 32 Foreign investment proposals worth Rs. 300 crores:

The Government has approved 32 more proposals envisaging total direct foreign investment of about Rs. 300 crore. These proposals were cleared at the meeting of the Empowered Committee, held here today, under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Some of the units approved today, have projected export earnings of around Rs. 700 crore over a period of five years.

Three approved projects are for setting up 100 per cent exportoriented units, mainly in shrimp acqua-culture and engineering products. Two proposals are for setting up units under the software technology park scheme, and one proposal is under Electronic Hardware Technology Park Scheme.

The projects approved today, include the proposal of M/s Becton Dickinson, one of the world's major health care companies and a

leader in clinical diagnostics, to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary in India.

The Indian subsidiary will take up manufacture of hypodermic needles, syringes and other highly advanced diagnostic and medical equipment. Most of such equipment are presently imported. The Company would also be undertaking export of the products.

The Committee also gave clearance to the proposal of M/s Maaz Marine Private Limited for setting up a joint venture to be engaged in ship breaking, ship repairs at Alang Ship Breaking Yard, Gujarat, The project is being set up by Mangi Maritime Consultants, Bombay and M/s Azov Shipping Company Ukraine. The foreign company is a large shipping company having a fleet of over 100 vessels.

The Committee gave clearance to the proposal of an NRI for setting up a project in Andhra Pradesh for manufacture of iron oxide in technical collaboration with M/s International Steel Services Inc., USA. The joint venture would be using a naturally occuring 'blue dust' as the basic raw material for the manufacture of ferric oxide, having multi-farious applications in high-tech electronics, communication etc. The Company would also be exporting products of over Rs. 18 crore over a period of five years.

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M/s BPL, a multi-product group of companies has an on-going technical collaboration with M/s Sanyo Electric Company Ltd., Japan. They together with M/s Sanyo are setting up a holding company, namely, M/s. BPL Finance Limited on 50:50 basis. The holding company will making investments in the existing BPL companies. It is expected that this would result in technological upgradation and introduction of the state of the art products and equipment, alongwith attracting M/s Sanyo's investment in these companies.

The committee also gave clearance to two proposals for Euro-Issues amounting to USD 171 million. M/s HEG Limited, a company belonging to Bhilwara Group engaged in the manufacture and export of graphite electrodes are going for a GDR Issue of USD 46 million for financing their projects for expansion and modernisation, for setting up captive heat recovery plant in sponge iron devision and captive hydro electric power plant, etc. M/s Jagatjit Industries Ltd. have been permitted for a Euro Issue of USD 25 million for the purpose of expansion and modernisation of their malted milk food unit and dairy and other plants.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA UKRAINE UNITED KINGDOM USA JAPAN

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Foreign Diplomats Participation in PCFD Organised by FSI

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1994 on participation of 20 Foreign countries in the 5th professional course:

Diplomats from 20 countries will be participating in the 5th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) being organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). Starting from September 19, the programme will be attended by Foreign Service Officers from countries which are India's immediate neighbours (Sri Lanka and Myanmar), and several others in East Asia and Indo-China (Mongolia and Laos), Central Asia Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrghystan, and Uzbekistan), the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) East Europe (Poland, and Ukraine) Armenia, Russia, and Africa (Kenya, Zambia, Madagascar, and Eritrea). Many countries have found the FSI training useful and beneficial and are, once again, sending their officers for the Professional Course being held now. Countries like Estonia, Kenya, Eritrea, and Madagascar are sending their diplomats for the first time.

- 2. The 11 weeks programme which ends on 2nd December has two main objectives:
- i) to familiarise the participants with the needs, functions and responsibilities of a diplomatic service and equipping them for these tasks in a rapidly changing environment by providing job specific training in the main categories of foreign service activities political, economic and commercial, information, consular, administration and management; and
- ii) to enable them to obtain a better understanding of contemporary international and regional issues along with a broad comprehension of the political, economic, social and cultural realities which influence foreign relations.
- 3. The intensive curriculum will include the study of international relations, international economic relations, international organisations and international law. Diplomatic practice and protocol, formulation and implementation of foreign policy, communication skills, crisis management and representational responsibilities would also form part of this wide ranging programme. An integral part of the course is the

Computer Appreciation Programme - a module which provides the conceptual and practical foundation for participants to become knowledgeable users of computer technology.

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- 4. The programme 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.
- 5. With a view to providing a visual exposure to different aspects of India, both historic and contemporary, arrangements have been made for the visit of these 20 participating diplomats to places as diverse as museums and art galleries and industries and trade associations.
- 6. In their efforts to establish and strengthen their diplomatic services, several countries around the world, including many of the newly independent ones, have projected the need to enhance the professional skills of their diplomats 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, similar courses are planned for the future.

DIA SRI LANKA CHINA AZERBAIJAN KAZAKHSTAN LAOS MONGOLIA TURKMENISTAN UZBEKISTAN ESTONIA UKRAINE ARMENIA LATVIA POLAND UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA ERITREA KENYA MADAGASCAR USA ZAMBIA

Date: Sep 15, 1994

Volume No 1995 IRAN

Visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1994 on Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran visit to India for preparatory discussion on the forthcoming State visit of President of Iran:

H.E. Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, visited India from September 21-22, 1994 to undertake preparatory discussions on the forthcoming State visit to India of H.E. Mr. Akabar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the President of Iran. Mr. Broujerdi was accompanied by a team of senior officials representing the Iranian Ministries of Petroleum, Agriculture & Fisheries, Roads &

Transportation, Culture and Science & Technology.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister called on External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, and Ministers of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia and Shri Salman Khursheed, and Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Capt. Satish Sharma. Two rounds of delegationlevel talks were also held between the Iranian delegation and the Indian delegation under Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan.

The two sides regarded that the forthcoming visit of President Rafsanjani will be a major event in the growing bilateral relationship. The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation in diverse fields such as petroleum & natural gas, railways, fertilizers, science and technology, agriculture and fisheries and culture and examined the possibilities of enhanced cooperation. An exchange of views on the regional and international situation also took place.

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AN INDIA USA

Date: Sep 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

JORDAN

Meeting of Ambassador Shri A. K. Budhiraja with Mr. YasserArafat

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 06, 1994 on Ambassador of India to Jordan meeting with Mr. Yasser Arafat regarding India's assistance to Palestinian people.

The Indian Ambassador in Jordan, Mr. A. K. Budhiraja met His Excellency Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Interim Self-Governing Authority in Gaza, today. The Ambassador conveyed Government of India's decision to send one million dollars of assistance to the Palestinian people very shortly. Chairman Arafat appreciated India's gesture and expressed a desire to visit India before the end of this year.

RDAN INDIA

Date: Sep 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Visit of Communication Minister Shri Sukh Ram to Malaysia

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1994 on Communication Minister discussion with Malaysian delegation:

The Minister for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram, who is on an official visit to Malaysia accompanied by a high level official and business/industrial delegation held wide ranging discussions with Malaysian delegation headed by Dato' Seri Samy Velu, Minister for Energy, Telecommunications and Posts.

The Minister's visit to Japan and Malaysia in the wake of the recently announced guidelines for the implementation of the new telecom policy has generated considerable enthusiasm in the investment and industry circles abroad. Besides highlighting the business opportunities available in the telecom sector in India, Mr. Sukh Ram has been focussing on the technological advances that have taken place in the telecom sector in India and which can be of advantage to other developing countries including Malaysia. In particular, the rural switching systems developed by C-DoT have a potential market overseas. Similarly, the TCIL which has been undertaken consultancy and other joint venture operations in a number of countries has capability which can be harnessed by Malaysia and other developing countries to the mutual advantage of one another.

In Malaysia, the Minister of Communications Mr. Sukh Ram explained at length the salient features of the liberalised new economic policy enunciated by the Prime Minister of India Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and said that it has given a new direction to the Indian economy and opened up new investment opportunities. In this context, he made particular reference to the recent developments in the telecom sector, in view of the new telecom policy which has, among other things, opened up basic services for private sector participation. He added that foreign equity participation in the basic services upto 49% has been allowed and this makes India perhaps the first developing country in the world to allow foreign equity participation in the basic services of the order.

The Malaysian Minister for Telecommunications Dato Seri Sami Velu, in his remarks, underlined the need for Malaysian entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the immense investment opportunities available in India as a result of the liberalised policies announced there. He also assured the Indian side of all cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in keeping with the close and friendly relations between the two countries.

The Indian and Malaysian business delegations exchanged views on matters of mutual interest which are expected to be concretised further during the stay of the delegation. Later on, both the Ministers addressed a Press Conference. The Indian Minister while highlighting the business opportunities available in the Indian telecom sector also extended an invitaion to the Malaysian Minister to lead an official delegation including representatives of Malaysian telecom industry/business for further exchange of views and enhancing areas of cooperation.

The Malaysian Minister in response to a query on MEASAT stated that Malaysia had no problem from India in respect of the Measat slot in the geostationary orbit. The Malaysian Minister evinced great interest on the part of Malaysian business in the cellular phones and paging services.

The Indian delegation included the Chairman and Member (Finance) of the Telecom Commission, CMDs of ITI, HTL as well as senior representatives of other PSUs and private Indian companies.

LAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA JAPAN

Date: Sep 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Rs. 10 Crores Credit for Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 06, 1994 on signing of 10 crores credit for Mauritius between Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Finance Minister of Mauritius Mr. Ramakrishna Sithanen:

The Union Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Ramakrishna Sithanen, Finance Minister of Mauritius signed a Credit agreement of US \$ 3.2 million (Rs. 10 Crores Approx.) from the Government of India to the Government of Mauritius.

This Credit will be available for export of capital goods including irrigation equipment and transport vehicles from India. This is the Seventh Government to Government Credit being extended to the Government of Mauritius. The earlier six credits totalling Rs. 350 million were extended in 1975, 1978, 1984, 1989 and 1991 and were fully utilised/committed.

This credit it expected to contribute to the further strengthenging of existing commercial and economic relations between the two countries and to play a catalytic role in promoting joint ventures.

URITIUS USA INDIA LATVIA

Date: Sep 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Keen to Source Pharmaceutical Products, Books fromIndia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994:

Mauritius is keen to import pharmaceutical products and books from India. This was indicated by Mr. Rama Sithaneu, Finance Minister of Mauritius during his discussions with the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, here today. He said that there was immense scope for Indian pharmaceuticals and text books in -157>

Mauritius. He further said that there was considerable scope also for increasing Indian investments in Mauritius and for setting up of joint ventures specially in new areas.

The possibility of promoting closer cooperation among the Indian Ocean region countries was discussed. Both sides agreed that promotion of intra-regional trade would be beneficial in terms of expanding the levels of trade, investment and technology flows. The need to strengthen financial and infrastructural back-up for such cooperation was also stressed.

Bilateral trade between India and Mauritius was valued at Rs. 269.89 crores. Of this, exports from India amounted to Rs. 268.55 crores and imports to India was Rs. 1.34 crores.

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

MEXICO

Mexico, Brazil Evince Interest in Indian Textiles

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 26, 1994:

Mexico and Brazil have evinced considerable interest in importing all kinds of Indian textiles including yarn, fabric and garments. Shri G. Venkat Swamy, Minister of State for Textiles, is currently on a visit to Mexico and Brazil from 19th September, 1994 with a view to exploring the export potential of Indian textiles in the countries of South America, which are presently outside the quota regime, apart from being comparatively virgin markets. Based on the interaction the delegation had with business community, trade & government representatives, it was felt that with concerted efforts, textile exports to the South American region can surpass exports to North America. The demand for Indian textiles in this region is unlimited because of tropical climate and greater acceptance of natural fibre like cotton, viscose, jute and silk-all fibres in which Indian textiles have the greatest strength. According to the assessment of trade representatives in the delegation, the present level of textile exports including garments to South and Central America, which is about Rs. 180 crores can register a 10-fold increase over the next two years.

Shri Venkat Swamy in his discussions underlined the similarities of culture and identity of views on international issues between India and these two countries which could facilitate manifold growth in trade relations. He said that apart from regular interaction, there was need for strengthening of infrastructure and also upgrading shipping and airfreight facilities to these countries. He also stressed the enormous potential for entering into joint ventures with Mexico and Brazil in the manufacture of textiles, textile machinery, fabrics, garments and made-ups.

While in Mexico, the Minister along with the delegation met members of trade and business community and also called on the Vice-Minister of Industries and Commerce of the Federal Government of Mexico. Export orders for fabrics and garments were booked and firm enquiries for fabrics and garments including handlooms were received. Interestingly, Mexico, which is a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), showed keen interest in silk

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products both for consumption in the Mexican market as well as for other countries in South and Central Annexe like Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The Mexican Minister informed Shri Venkat Swamy that import duty on silk products had been reduced substantially, thus increasing the prospects for handloom silk items from India. Proposal to set up facilities for manufacture of garments in Mexico made of Indian fabrics on a joint venture basis was also discussed and evoked a favourable response.

In Brazil, the delegation visited Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, where leaders of industry and business showed keen interest in purchasing cotton yarn, silk fabric and handicraft items. The delegation had meetings with the Association of Commerce of SAO Paolo, the Brazilian Association of Textile Industries and the Rio Confederation of the External Chamber of Commerce. A special feature was the intere shown by the two large chains of department stores in Rio, viz., MESBLA and Lojas Americana.

During the meetings with buyers in Mexico and Brazil invitations were extended to various associations to visit India and some of the buyers have planned their visits early next year.

The delegation accompanying the Minister includes Shri T. Kukreja, Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC); Shri K. K. Jain, Member, Executive Committee of AEPC; Shri Virendra Uppal, President Garment Exporters Association. Shri Tarun Baxi, President (Marketing), Modern Group of Industries; Shri Siddharth Rajagopal, Executive Director of TEXPROCIL; Shri C. D. Nicholas, General Manager, Handloom and Handicraft Export Corporation (HHEC); and Shri Vinod Malhotra, Development Commissioner (Handlooms).

XICO BRAZIL INDIA USA PERU RUSSIA ARGENTINA PARAGUAY URUGUAY UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan Threatened to Bomb Bombay

The following is the statement of the Official Spokesman on Sep 02, 1994 on disclosure of Pak Air Attache in Washington that Pakistan threatened to Bomb Bombay ten year ago:

Responding to a query over a reported statement by the Pak Air Attache in Washington that ten years ago Pakistan threatened India to Bomb Bombay, the Spokesman said that the fact of the matter is that Pakistan gets into paroxysms of fear every now and then about the safety and security of its installations where it is clandestinely pursuing its nuclear weapons programme. This is as much true today as ten years ago.

We now have an agreement with Pakistan on Prevention of Attack on Nuclear Installations. We have further proposed to Pakistan that this agreement can be extended to cover population centres and economic targets as well. We feel these CBMs will comprehensively address the issues involved. As far as our defence preparedness is concerned, we have full confidence in looking after our national security interests and empty threats do not worry us in the least.

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DIA PAKISTAN USA **Date**: Sep 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Official Spokesman's Response to a Query

The following is the Statement of the Official Spokesman on Sep 06, 1994 on invitation to Hurriyat to participate in the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting:

Replying to a query about the invitation to Hurriyat to participate in the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting at Islamabad on September 7-9, the Spokesman stated that it is not clear in what capacity the Hurriyat leaders have been invited to exchange views at the OIC meeting. India is not a member of the OIC and we do not see why the OIC Secretary General should invite Indian citizens to participate in OIC's conclaves. We are not surprised that the OIC Secretary General's invitation should be publicly

announced first by a Pakistani spokesman. We regret that the OIC is being misled to persist with its previous pattern of interference in our internal affairs.

KISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Sep 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Agreement between U.S.A. and Haiti

The following is the Statement of the Official Spokesman on Sep 20, 1994 regarding agreement reached between U.S.A. and Haiti:

Responding to a query on the agreement reached between the United States and Haiti, the Spokesman stated that we are glad that there has been an amicable solution without any bloodshed.

ITI USA

Date : Sep 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission

The following is the Statement of the Official Spokesman on Sep 20, 1994 on Tunisian Minister visit to India:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Tunisian Minister of National Economy, H.E. Mr. Sadok Rabah, who is in New Delhi in connection with the Seventh Session of the Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission, called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, today. The Tunisian Minister said that his country had excellent understanding with India in

various fields - political, economic, commercial, scientific and technological. Tunisia also had a great interest in India's handicraft industry. He advocated more South-South Cooperation and understanding amongst the third world countries on important international issues, particularly, those relating to trade and socio-economic development. Shri Dinesh Singh and the visiting Minister discussed matters of regional and international interest, among other things.

The Tunisian Minister stressed that Tunisia condemned mixing of religion with politics and use of religion to divide people. He mentioned that Tunisia has been telling the OIC countries that in the name of religion, it should not disturb peace & regional stability or interfere in the internal affair of a country.

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NISIA INDIA USA

Date: Sep 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

U.N. Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly

The following is the Statement of the Official Spokesman on Sep 27, 1994 on peaceful solution of disputes according to Simla Agreement:

The Government of India have taken note of the section on India and Pakistan in the UN Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly. The Government appreciate and endorse his reference to peaceful resolution of the issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972. The Government of India have also noted that the UNSG has urged both Governments to resume their bilateral dialogue. The Government of India are fully committed to resolving the issue bilaterally as provided for in the Simla Agreement. In this spirit, we have already made several proposals to the Government of Pakistan and look forward to their positive response.

2. We note the SG's reference to increase in tensions in J&K. As we have repeatedly said, and this has been acknowledged by impartial observers, this is entirely due to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, militancy and extremism across the Line of Control (LOC).

- 3. In spite of numerous provocations by Pakistan, the Indian security forces have exercised enormous restraint. There is no threat to peace in the region from the Indian side of the Line of Control nor the international border.
- 4. The Government of India expects that the Government of Pakistan would demonstrate sincerity to find a peaceful solution by eschewing sponsorship of terrorism across the Line of Control and returning to the negotiating table for bilateral dialogue as urged by the UN Secretary General.

DIA PAKISTAN USA **Date**: Sep 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Statement by External Affairs Minister Regarding the SeventhExtraordinary Session of the Islamic Foreign Ministers

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on statement given by the External Affairs Minister on Islamic Foreign Minister meeting:

The Government of India regrets that once again the OIC has chosen to take a partisan and prejudicial view of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and its impact on bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. Pakistan has blatantly abused its position as the host country to mislead the member States of OIC and divert attention from Pakistan's record of supporting terrorism and subversion directed against the political unity and territorial integrity of India.

Pakistan has used the OIC forum to generate false propaganda that a state of high tension exists between India and Pakistan and that the climate is therefore not conducive for peaceful bilateral negotiations. Pakistan has indulged in war -161>

mongering, nuclear adventurism and threats to give credibility to its claims. Pakistan must not delude itself into believing that many find this convincing.

Despite these provocations, we continue our offer to address bilateral issues, including issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir. in a dialogue with Pakistan under the provisions of the Simla Agreement. The Simla Agreement remains the framework to redress and resolve all differences between the two countries.

We know that among the OIC member States who are present at Islamabad, there is a vast majority who respect India's territorial integrity, reject terrorism, extremism, and interference in other nations internal affairs, treasure their good relations with India and set high score on developing those many sided relations further. India reciprocates such sentiments and looks forward to working with those nations to enhance our mutual cooperation in the following months and years.

KISTAN INDIA USA PERU

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Extract on India and Pakistan from Memorandum on behalf of EUCirculated by German Presidency on September 28, 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1994:

The EU attaches great value to its friendly relations with India and Pakistan Trade Cooperation agreements have been signed with both countries and EU political dialogue has been established. It is therefore concerned about the lack of progress in the bilateral discussions to improve relations between India and Pakistan and urges both countries to settle their differences peacefully, notably with regard to Kashmir. It encourages India and Pakistan to resume bilateral dialogue as soon as possible.

- 2. The EU deplores the continuing violence in Kashmir and reports of the seriousness of the human rights situated there. While terrorist violence must be firmly resisted, the Indian security forces must also respect the Rule of Law.
- 3. In this connection, the EU has urged the Indian Government to allow humanitarian and international human rights organizations free access to the region. It urges the Indian Government to redouble its efforts to establish a political process in Kashmir.

- 4. It welcomes steps taken by the Government of India leading to more transparency i.e. by inviting an EU ambassadorial delegation and other international observers to visit Kashmir.
- 5. It calls for the cessation of external support for militant violence.

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KISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Sep 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Prime Minister's Banquet Speech in Singapore

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Prime Minister Banquet Speech in Singapore:

The following is the text of address by the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, at the Banquet hosted in his honour by the Singapore Premier, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, in Singapore yesterday:

"It is an immense pleasure for me to be in Singapore today. I am most grateful to you, Prime Minister, for the warmth with which my delegation and I have been received in your beautiful country. I am also very touched by your thoughtful remarks.

Our bilateral relations, Mr. Prime Minister, are deeply rooted in the history. We have had centuries-old cultural ties with Singapore and this region - cultural, religious, linguistic, artistic. They all have harmoniously merged with the local scene. The Indian Art Exhibition "Alamkara" in Singapore's National Museum - for which, Mr. Prime Minister, you personally have been the source of inspiration - reaffirms the solid moorings of our multifaceted relationship.

We had the privilege of hosting you, Mr. Prime Minister, as Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations in January this year. Your visit was the beginning of a new chapter of close relations between our two countries. This return visit of mine to Singapore within a short span of eight months will, I am confident, provide further impetus to this on-going endeavour My visit is a

manifestation of our keen desire to concretize, in specific manner, our wide-ranging relations with Singapore.

With the active interest of our two governments to create synergetic linkages between our two economies, more and more Indian and Singapore corporate bodies are now doing business with each other. Two-way trade is showing a healthy upward trend. We note with some satisfaction that Singapore has, of late, emerged as our 11th largest trading partner and that today, we have 35 Indian joint ventures in Singapore against only 14 three years back. Some of our States have sent delegations to Singapore to tie up various collaboration agreements. I appreciate your personal interest in meeting with them, which has been a great encouragement to them. Our aim is to move ahead at a pace that fully reflects the strength of our commitment and the abundance of our potential. Towards this purpose, India and Singapore can, I am sure, achieve a partnership that draws upon the strengths of each for the benefit of both.

Mr. Prime Minister, Singapore today stands as a model of growth for developing countries. It is an island of peace and prosperity. Under wise and dynamic leadership, it has matured into a self-confident nation, renowned as an economic nervecentre of Asia and providing crucial linkages with international commerce. We have seen for ourselves the tremendous growth of its infrastructure and the efficient running of its complex systems. It is remarkable that such development has taken place within a framework of environmental awareness and conservation. There is much that Singapore has to offer to the world not only in terms of technology and infrastructural development, but also in terms of individual commitment and disciplined national endeavour.

In this part of the world, we are conscious of the impressive progress towards regional cooperation made under the banner of ASEAN. New areas of cooperation are being developed and explored. We noted with great interest the recent deliberations of the 27th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and the first meeting of the newlyconstituted ASEAN Regional Forum. ASEAN countries have taken a timely decision to go beyond deliberations of economic cooperation to issues affecting peace and security in the region. We believe that the scope for enlarged cooperation between India and regional organisations in South East Asia is greater than ever. We will do all we can to further expand and deepen our relations with the region as a whole and we are confident that Singapore will support us in this regard. With our shared political outlook and the complementarities in our economies, I am confident that our partnership in the regional context as well will flourish.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now invite you to join me in a toast to the good health of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Madam Goh and to further successes in India-Singapore

friendship and cooperation".

PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

SEOUL

India Elected to Universal Postal Union's Main Bodies

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 12, 1994 on India election in U.P.U.:

India has been elected member with a massive majority in the elections held for the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) two main organs, viz. Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council at Seoul.

Universal Postal Union (UPU), a specialised agency of United Nations was founded in 1874. It may be recalled that Shri Sukh Ram, Minister of State for Communications, led a high level delegation comprising Shri S. C. Mahalik Secretary, Department of Posts and other senior Officers at the 21st Congress of the UPU at Seoul recently.

REA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Sep 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. M. H. Ansari, Ambassador to U.N. Visits Jeddah

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 14, 1994 regarding India's Ambassador to the U.N. Meeting with Secretary General of the OIC in Jeddah:

Mr. M. H. Ansari, India's Ambassador to the U.N. who was visiting New Dehi for the UN Secretary-General's visit, stopped in Jeddah on his way back to New York. Ambassador Ansari met the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General -164>

of the OIC Secretariat in order to maintain contact with senior officials of that organisation. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Ambassador Ansari also called on the Permanent Under Secretary of the Saudi Arabian Foreign Office, His Highness Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Thuniyan.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

President Nelson Mandela Chief Guest on Republic Day

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 23, 1994 on President Mandela Chief Guest in Republic Day'95:

President Nelson Mandela will be the Chief Guest at the Indian Republic Day celebrations in 1995. President of India, Shri Shanker Dayal Sharma had extended an invitation to President Mandela inviting him to be the Chief Guest, and President Mandela very graciously accepted this invitation. Dr. Mandela's presence on India's Republic Day would reflect the ties that exist between India and South Africa and of the high personal esteem in which President Mandela is held by the people and Government of India for his couragous and relentless struggle against apartheid and for which he was willing to pay a high personal price. Relations between India and the people of South Africa go back to the years when the African National Congress led by Mr. Nelson Mandela was engaged in the struggle against apartheid, and received unflinching political and moral support from the people of India.

President Mandela's forthcoming visit will provide an opportunity to both Governments to strengthen bilateral relations, intensify cooperation in various fields, and to reinforce the cultural and social links that exist between the peoples of the two countries.

This will be President Mandela's second visit to India, the first being in 1990. He was awarded the Nehru Award for International Understanding while still in prison 1979, and later the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

TOGO

Joint Press Statement on the State Visit of H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema President of the Republic of Togo to India

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 30, 1994 on joint press statement by President of Togo:

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India, H.E. Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo paid a state visit to India from 26 to 29 September, 1994. H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the President of the Republic of Togo held talks with Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India on 28 September. The Togolese President -165>

was assisted by the Special Adviser to the President, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Minister of Plan and Land Development, the Minister of Economy and Finance, the Minister of Public sector units and Industries and the Minister of Commerce, Prices and Transport. The Indian delegation included the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of State for Fertilizers and the Minister of State for External Affairs.

During his stay, the President of Togo visited the Hissar Agricultural University in Haryana. He also laid a wreath at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi and planted a sapling.

During his visit, the President of Togo also exchanged calls with the President of India and had fruitful discussions with the Vice President and various other Indian dignitaries. During their stay in New Delhi, they also had fruitful discussions with the Confederation of Indian Industries.

The Togolese delegation made a presentation on the Togolese economy in the course of the last few years and on the Government's strategy for economic and social development.

The two sides reaffirmed the close and friendly relationship existing between the two countries. It was felt that in keeping with the spirit of South-South cooperation, there was 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 rural development, city transportation, health care, scientific research, trade, industry and agriculture. India and Togo have finalised Agreements to:

- (i) Set up a Joint Commission; and
- (ii) Sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries.

The two parties condemned the growing menace of terrorism on a global scale and in particular state sponsored terrorism. The President of Togo was of the view that the Kashmir issue should find a negotiated peaceful bilateral solution between India and Pakistan.

The President of the Republic of Togo thanked the Government of India for the warm and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation. He also expressed his gratitude for the understanding and cooperation extended by India to Togo in all sectors.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date: Sep 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

TOGO

Plenary Session of Indo-Tunisian Joint Comission held

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 19, 1994 on plenary session of Indo-Tunisian Joint

Commission:

The opening plenary session of the 17th Indo-Tunisian Joint Commision was held here today. The Tunisian delegation was led by Mr. Hosny Toumi, General Director of Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The Tunisian delegation included Mr. Naceur Essid Counsellor, Embassy of Tunisia in India and Mr. Ali Hamdi, Joint General Director of the Chemicals Group. Later, the visiting Tunisian Minister for National Economy, Mr. Sadok Rabah, called on the Commerce Minister,

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Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Both the Ministers underlined the vast scope for increased trade between India and Tunisia and agreed that the present level of bilateral trade at about Rs. 187 crores was far below the potential.

In his opening remarks, Shri Ashok Kumar mentioned about the macro-economic changes taking plate in the Indian economy and the consequent growth in Indian gross domestic product and exports. The Indian government is paying special attention to the development of infrastructure in industries, he said.

The Tunisian delegation leaders thanked the Indian government for the warm hospitality extended to them during their stay in India.

The agreed minutes of the Joint Commission will be signed tomorrow.

Exports to Tunisia include tea, spices, engineering goods, cotton yarn fabrics, man-made yarn fabrics etc. and imports include fertilisers crude, inorganic chemicals etc. Exports to Tunisia amounted to Rs. 17.78 crores in 1993-94 and imports from Tunisia amounted to Rs. 169.70 crores during the same period. Tunisia is a country of immense opportunities for Indian exporters, especially in view of its geographical proximity to West Europe and the access it enjoys to the European Union market.

NISIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Sep 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

TUNIS

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Sep 20, 1994 on India-Tunsia signing an agreement:

India and Tunisia have signed an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation which will be valid for a period of five years. Under the Agreement, both sides have agreed to promote trade and economic cooperation, to accord each other Most Favoured Nation treatment in respect of export and import, customs duties etc., and to encourage economic, investment and technological cooperation including establishment of joint ventures in each other's territories and in third countries. The Agreement was signed here today by Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Minister of State for Commerce on behalf of Government of India and by Mr. Sadok Rabah, Minister of National Economy on behalf of the Government of Republic of Tunisia. The Agreement supersedes and replaces the Indo-Tunisian Trade Agreement of 17th March, 1976.

Both sides also promote cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology. Ecology, Tourism, Communication, Training of personnel and other spheres of mutual interest. The agreement also provides that all transactions under this Agreement will be in freely convertible currencies. Further, both sides will encourage visits of delegations, participation in fairs and exhibitions and exchange of information.

The Seventh Session of the Indo-Tunisian Joint Commission also concluded its two-day deliberations here today with the signing of the agreed minutes of the Commission by Shri Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Hosny Toumi, Director General for Economic and -167>

Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy, Government of Tunisia. Discussions in the Joint Commission covered bilateral trade, cooperation between India and Tunisia in industry, agriculture, science and technology etc., and both sides examined ways and means of developing trade on balanced and equal basis in the new context of economic liberalisation. Tunisia noted the views expressed by the Indian side that Indian exports to that country at present constituted only about 10% of its imports from Tunisia. The Tunisian side indicated that 90% of Tunisian imports were now in the free trade sector and this afforded sufficient opportunities to India to step up its exports. India's capabilities were noted in relation to specific items like tea, tobacco, meat and engineering goods. Both sides also reiterated their commitment for early finalisation of an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

Earlier, the Tunisian Minister had called on Shri Ahmed to discuss bilateral trade and commercial cooperation within the

mutually reciprocal framework. While Shri Ahmed said that there could be fruitful cooperation in fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, household accessories, Mr. Rabah urged the Indian side to follow up international tenders floated by Tunisia besides holding exhibitions of Indian products in Tunisia.

India's trade with Tunisia amounted to Rs. 187.48 crores in 1993-94, of which exports to Tunisia mainly of tea, spices, engineering goods, cotton yarn, were valued at only Rs. 17.78 crores. Imports from Tunisia consist mainly of fertilisers, rock phosphate etc.

NISIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Visit of Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary to Turkey

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 11, 1994 on Foreign Secretary's visit to Turkey:

Shri K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary was received by the Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal and held bilateral consultations with his Turkish counterpart Ozdem Sanberk in Ankara today. Subjects covered included high level visits, bilateral relations and international issues. It was agreed that the two sides would coordinate efforts at the UNGA and that they would continue to expand political and economic contacts at the highest level. Though short, the discussions were described as "intense" and "very useful".

Regional issues covered included interalia the Middle East Peace Process, UNSC expansion, UN Peacekeeping, human rights and prospects for transportation of oil and natural gas from Central Asia as well as the Middle East. The OIC was also taken up. A similarity of approach was evident on the issues discussed. It was agreed that bilateral agreements such as those on avoidance of double taxation and tourim would be signed at the next high levl visit. President Demirel is expected to visit India next year and this is likely to be preceded by a visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister. Both sides agreed that Defence cooperation could proceed after an agreement was signed in this sphere,

Foreign Secretary proposed that the Joint Business Cooperation Council could meet in New Delhi in November during the -168>

course of the 6th JEC meeting and the India Intenational Trade Fair. The Turkish side welcomed the idea and expressed themselves in favour of promoting

wide ranging contacts between the private sectors of India and Turkey. The Turkish Foreign Secretary was invited to pay a visit to India.

RKEY INDIA USA

Date : Sep 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

UAE

Indo-UAE Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 29, 1994 on Indo-UAE Joint Commission:

The Eighth meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission was held in Abu Dhabi on September 26-27, 1994. Mr. Salman Haider, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi and His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Khalifa bin Yousof Al Suwaldi, Director, Department of Economic Relations and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi, led the respective delegation.

During his stay in Abu Dhabi, Mr. Salman Haider called on His Excellency Mr. Saeed Ghobash, Minister of Economy and Commerce, His Excellency Mr. Saif Saeed Saed, Acting Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Joint Commission reviewed with satisfaction the progress made on various subjects agreed in the previous meetings. The Joint Commission discussed a wide range of issues relating to investment, trade, economy, banking, industry, agriculture and water resources, electricity, post and telegraphs, consular and manpower matters. Exchanges in the fields of education, art and culture and media were also discussed.

Both sides discussed the Extradition Treaty and noted that

considerable progress towards concluding a Treaty has been made. Discussions at technical level between the UAE and India will be held shortly to finalise the Treaty.

With a view to attract UAE investments in India, the UAE was invited to send a delegation to India during this year for examining prospects of investments in tourist and hotel sector. Both sides are expected to sign a MOU shortly with regard to construction of a hotel-cum-hospital near Bombay with UAE assistance. For consolidating existing ties in the banking sector, an invitation was renewed to the UAE Central Bank Governor to visit India soon and request for opening branches of UAE banks in India would be considered sympathetically.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady and considerable increase in the volume of trade between the two countries. The Indian side invited a health delegation to visit India in near future to make on-the-spot studies and contacts with manufacturers and exporters of Indian pharmaceuticals in order to facilitate their registration. India conveyed its intention to purchase oil from the UAE in enhanced quantity during 1994-95, the UAE side conveyed interest in-deepening cooperation in the field of agriculture and water resources sectors and both sides agreed to sign a MOU in this regard during the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture of UAE to India. A dele--169>

gation from UAE will visit India in October 1994 for carrying out feasibility study for a joint venture for supply of bauxite ore from India for setting up of an aluminium plant in the UAE. It was noted with appreciation the tremendous success of exclusive "India Exhibition held in Dubai in September 1994 and hoped that UAE companies will also participate in specialised fairs in India in future to increase bilateral trade.

Consular and manpower issues were discussed in some detail. The UAE side expressed willingness to resolve related problems through periodical discussions and notes exchanged between India Mission and the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs.

Both sides also agreed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, art and culture and media.

The Ninth meeting of the Joint Commission will take place in New Delhi in April, 1995 on mutually convenient dates.

ITED ARAB EMIRATES INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Sep 29, 1994

Volume No

UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Meeting of Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State with Secretary General of U.N.O.

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 09, 1994 on Shri Salman Khurshid Minister of State meeting with Secretary General of U.N.:

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid called on the UN Secretary General Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali today. He was accompanied by the Foreign Secretary and the Permanent Representative in New York.

- 2. The meeting took place in an extremely warm and cordial atmosphere. The Secretary General recalled his many previous visits to India, starting with 1959 when he had first come and had met Prime Minister Nehru.
- 3. The Secretary General very warmly thanked the Government of India for its support to UN Peace-keeping. He reiterated the condolences he had earlier conveyed on the deaths of Indian soldiers and doctors in Somalia and expressed his particular appreciation to the Government of India for continuing its support to the operation there. He said that the Government of India's commitment was an example for others to follow.
- 4. The Secretary General said that the UN would request two companies of Indian troops urgently for Rwanda. The Minister of State assured him that India would continue to support the UN's peace-keeping efforts, in Somalia, Rwanda and elsewhere.
- 5. The Secretary General indicated that, if peace agreements could be reached in Angola and Bosnia, the UN might need support from member states for peacekeeping operations there.
- 6. On other matters the Secretary General expressed his keenness to see high level participation from India and other countries in Asia and Africa at the Social Summit in Copenhagen next year. He was assured that this was an issue of great interest in India and our participation would be at a commensurate level. -170>
- 7. The Secretary General showed great interest in the programme drawn up by the Government of India for the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the United Nations next year. The Minister of State said that Government of India wanted, through these programmes, to interest the younger generation in the work of the United Nations.

8. On Kashmir, the Secretary General expressed his hope that a dialogue would be maintained. It was explained to him by the Minister of State that India was committed to opt for peaceful methods to resolve all problems. We had tried to encourage a dialogue through intellectuals, businessmen and industrialists among others, but Pakistan had not reciprocated. However, Government of India continued to try to persuade Pakistan to resume the bilateral dialogue to which both India and Pakistan are committed under the Simla Agreement.

DIA USA MALI SOMALIA RWANDA ANGOLA DENMARK PAKISTAN

Date: Sep 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Meeting of U.N. Secretary General with the Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1994 on U.N. Secretary General meeting with the Prime Minister:

The United Nations Secretary General Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, called on our Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, today at 12.00 hrs. The call was subsequently followed by lunch which was hosted by our Prime Minister for the distinguished guest.

During his meeting with the Prime Minister, the UN Secretary General gave a detailed outline of the United Nations activities in different fields, stressing particularly on its peace keeping operations. He elaborated on the situation in Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda and other areas where the UN was involved. Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao reiterated India's commitment to United Nations peace keeping operations and said that India would continue to cooperate with the UN in this area. The Secretary General enquired of his request for Indian troops for peace-keeping operations in Rwanda. The Prime Minister agreed that an appropriate number of peace keepers from India, including medical personnel, would be made available.

Prime Minister Shri Rao, in his discussions, stressed the activities of the UN in the field of development and said that India had vast experience in this and UN should develop a consensus on utilising such experiences from our country, in its

economic support and development programmes.

The Secretary General invited the Prime Minister for the Social Summit to be held next year as well as for the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in 1995. The Prime Minister has accepted the invitations in principle.

DIA MALI SOMALIA RWANDA USA

Date: Sep 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Visit of U.N. Secretary General to India

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 10, 1994 on U.N. Secretary General visit to India:

The Secretary General of the United Nations, accompanied by Mrs Boutros Ghali, paid an official visit to India from September 8-10, 1994.

His Excellency the UN Secretary General was received by the President of India and the Vice President and met the Prime Minister, the External Affairs -171>

Minister, the Minister of State for External Affairs, the Minister of State for Defence, and several other dignitaries, including Members of Parliament.

The UN Secretary General delivered the Maulana Azad Address to a packet gathering at Vigyan Bhavan on September 9, 1994.

Among the topics discussed were the international situation, including Yugoslavia, Georgia, Haiti, the Middle-East Peace process, Lebanon, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organisations and several other issues, including the UN agenda on development issues.

The UN Secretary General expressed appreciation for India's programme of events connected with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Special mention was made of United Nations Conferences in 1995, including the World Social Summit in March, the Con-ference on Women in September and a Summit meeting on the 50th anniversary in October.

The UN Secretary General expressed appreciation for India's commitment and support to UN peace keeping operations.

Government of India informed the UN Secretary General that India would contribute to the stand-by-forces requested by the United Nations. India reiterated its continued support to peace keeping operations such as Somalia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Angola and that it would be prepared to cooperate in the second phase of UNMIH in Haiti to assist the legitimate constitutional authorities in that country to establish an environment conducive to the organisation of the democratic process.

The Government of India assured the UN Secretary General of its high level participation in the UN Conferences in 1955.

The Government of India took the opportunity of acquainting the UN Secretary General with its position on Jammu and Kashmir, and reiterated its readiness for a constructive dialogue with Pakistan on this and all other bilateral issues, under the framework of the Simla Agreement.

DIA USA GEORGIA HAITI YUGOSLAVIA LEBANON ANGOLA MALI MOZAMBIQUE RWANDA SOMALIA PAKISTAN

Date : Sep 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Statement by Minister of State for External Affairs Shri R. L.Bhatia

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Sep 15, 1994 on statement by Shri R.L. Bhatia Minister of State on intervention by USA in Haiti:

India has no intention of participating in the expected intervention in Haiti by a multinational force led by the USA. American authorities have been indicating on several occasion recently that such an intervention is imminent.

After the withdrawal of the multinational force, if India is approached by the United Nations to cooperate in the -172>

phase of reconstruction, rehabilitation and training to assist legitimate Constitutional authorities of Haiti in establishing an environment conducive to the organisation of free and fair legislative elections, as provided for in the relevant United Nations Resolution, then India will consider it favourably. -173>

A INDIA HAITI

CHINA

Date : Sep 15, 1994

October

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Secretary

STRALIA USA INDIA BRAZIL CHINA CZECH REPUBLIC FRANCE JORDAN ISRAEL INDONESIA IRAQ JAPAN MALDIVES MAURITIUS MOROCCO NEPAL IRAN SWITZERLAND SRI LANKA SAUDI ARABIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TANZANIA

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Date : Oct 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Delegation in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1994 on visit of Australian business delegation to India:

The Australian Business Delegation led by the Minister for Small Business, customs and Construction, Shri Chris Schacht called on Shri Jagdish Tytler, the Minister of State for Surface Transport here, yesterday. The two Ministers discussed various issues pertaining to shipping, Roads and Ports. The Surface Transport Ministry made a presentation explaining the liberalisation of Indian economy and different areas in Shipping, Ports, Expressways, Bridges etc., available for private sector participation in India. The Australian Delegation appreciated the steps taken by the Government to open its economy for investment by foreign agencies and companies.

STRALIA USA INDIA

Date: Oct 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

India's Concern at ODA Reduction

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 07, 1994 on ODA reduction:

India has expressed grave concern over the reduction in Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the donor countries, both in percentages as well as real terms since the Earth Summit in Rio.

It called for the implementation of Montreal Protocol in letter and spirit to save the Rio concerns from 'collapse'.

Addressing the Sixth meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Nairobi, last night, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath regretted that enough funds are not forthcoming for implementing the Protocol to phase out the Ozone depleting substances (ODS). He pointed out that almost 80 per cent of the contributions from the developed nations assessed for 1994, are in arrears, which, if added to the arrears of earlier years, amount to a staggering 155 million US dollars. He said that in the name of achieving the cost effectiveness all sorts of concepts and ideas are being put forward which negate the spirit of the Montreal Protocol.

Shri Kamal Nath cautioned the World Community that the failure to implement the Protocol will threaten the conventions as Climate Change, Biodiversity Concervation and combating of Desertification

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leading to the negation of the Rio process. He said the Protocol is an unique experiment in global cooperation for the protection of our environment and on its success depends not merely the protection of the ozone layer, so vital for the very survival of the human race and other life forms, but also the validity of the entire effort of international cooperation towards saving and protecting our planet.

Shri Kamal Nath reminded that the contribution of developing countries to the depletion of ozone layer is negligible, but they have enthusiastically committed themselves to the requirements of the Protocol in the spirit of partnership to address the environmental problems of the planet. But he said that developing countries are clear that they do not want to be led up a path of no return and denial of financial resources. It would be better for developing countries to stop posing and initiating fresh projects for funding by the Protocol till we are absolutely certain of adequate and predictable re-plenishment, he said.

Referring to the increasingly restrictive interpretations of "incremental operating costs" and the long negative lists, Shri Kamal Nath said that the whittling way, at the implementation level, of the universal consensus arrived at in the Meeting of the Parties, results in a general mood of distrust and disillusionment which can be calamitous.

Shri Kamal Nath impressed that the Protocol will have to take some solid steps to fulfil its own commitments to the transfer of technology. The technology for the production of CFS-substitutes has to be made available to the developing countries at affordable rates and on acceptable terms. He regretted that today, even information disemmination and clearing house

functions are not half as strong as they should be.

The Environment Minister also echoed the concern of the developing countries that most of them are poised on the threshold of a massive industrial expansion and the setting up of new capacities to meet this growth in demand for consumer products must also qualify as incremental costs necessitated by switch--over and funds be provided for it.

AZIL INDIA KENYA USA PERU

Date: Oct 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

BRITAIN

Arjun Singh Inaugurates Exhibition "Made in India"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1994:

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh has called for closer partnership between India and Britain in strengthening the core sections of the Indian economy through modernisation and upgradation of technology.

He was speaking after inaugurating the two-day exhibition, "Made in India", in London today. Shri Arjun Singh said that with the liberalisation of the Indian economy there are vast opportunities for meaningful collaboration between India and foreign industries. He was of the view that Indo-British economic ties should be strengthened keeping in view the traditional and age old relations between the people of the two countries. -176>

Pointing out that the potential of the emerging Indian market is a positive attraction for investors and for exporters from around the globe, he said India was keen to further strengthen its economic ties with Britain.

The confederation of Indian Industry has organised this exhibition with the view to enhance the image of India's new business environment and potential to the British Industry. The exhibition will project selected Indian Technology, products and services.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Oct 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Vice-President's Visit to China October 21 to 28, 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1994 on visit of Vice President's to China:

The Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan, will be paying an official goodwill visit to the People's Democratic Republic of China from October 21 to 28, 1994.

The visit is a high level reaffirmation of the steady improvement in India-China relations. While in China, Shri Narayanan will hold talks with and be hosted by the Chinese Vice-President, Rong Yiren, and will be meeting with the Chines leadership. Shri Narayanan's itinerary in China includes Beijing, Shanghai, Dunhuang and Xian.

The Vice-President will be accompanied to China by Shri Arvind Netam, Minister of State for Agriculture, and Kumari Saroj Kharpade, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Shri Rup Chand Pal, Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Ranjan Prashad Yadav, Members of Parliament and Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Salman Haidar.

INA INDIA

Date: Oct 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

CZECH

Ambassador Designate of Czech Republic presents credentials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1994 on presentation of Credentials by Czech Ambassador to President of India:

The Ambassador-designate of the Czech Republic H.E. Dr. Odolen Smekal presented his Credentials to the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan, today.

Welcoming the new Ambassador, the President said that the relations between India and the Czech Republic have traditionally been warm and friendly and the two countries share a similarity of outlook

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on many important international issues. Recalling the visit of President Havel to India in February this year, Dr. Sharma noted that the visit has contributed in great measure to promoting better understanding between the two countries as also to the intensification of their bilateral ties.

The President emphasised that India has greatly admired the smooth and peaceful emergence of the Czech Republic together with the advent of pluralist democracy and market oriented reforms there. We must harness the potentialities of cooperation presented by these changes to build a dynamic and multi-dimensional relationship, he added.

Noting that the former Czechoslovakia was among India's leading trade partners in the Eastern Europe, Dr. Sharma said that 'India looks forward to building upon this foundation and developing mutually beneficial economic and commercial relations'. 'Economic reforms in India and the Czech Republic offer new complementarities and fresh opportunities which should be used fully', he added.

Earlier, presenting his Credentials, Dr. Smekal said that there has been a great deal of interest about India among the Czech people and the Czech indologists have played a very important role in advancing knowledge of India's civilization and culture in Europe. Dr. Smekal hoped that the close ties between the two countries will be strengthened further in terms of increased economic activity in the years to come.

ECH REPUBLIC INDIA USA NORWAY SLOVAKIA

Date: Oct 20, 1994

Volume No

FRANCE

India and France Sign MOU on Air Services

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 19, 1994 on India and France signing MOU on Air Services:

India and France signed here today a Memorandum of Understanding providing that the designated airlines of both Governments shall be entitled to operate upto six weekly frequencies from the beginning of 1994-95 winter season, upto seven weekly frequencies from the beginning of 1995-96 winter season and upto nine weekly frequencies from the beginning of 1997 summer season on agreed routes.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Shri P. K. Banerji, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation on behalf of India and by Mr. David, Joint Secretary in the French Department of Civil Aviation on behalf of his country.

In addition, the designated airline of India shall be entitled to operate one additional weekly frequency. These services could be operated either as transitting of terminating flights. The designated airline of France has also been granted Madras as a new point of call and the facility to combine Madras and Bombay on a maximum of two weekly frequencies upto the end of 1996-97 winter season.

This agreement is a landmark event in the aviation relationship between the two countries in that it will boost tourism from France to India and would thus enable Air India and Air France to realise the traffic potential in an optimum manner.

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ANCE INDIA USA

Date: Oct 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India to Host World Convention on Fruits and Vegetable Dealersin 1995

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 05, 1994 regarding Convention on Fruits and Vegetable dealers:

India will be the host for the next World Fruits and Vegetable Dealers' Convention to be held in 1995. This was decided at the International Fruit and Vegetable Dealers Convention 1994 which concluded in Beijing, China on 15th September, 1994. The convention will be attended by delegates from countries such as China, Japan. Australia, South Africa, USA, UK, France, Korea, etc. This announcement was made by the Vice Minister of Internal Trade of China Mr. He Jihai who chaired the closing ceremony session. Such a convention would be an excellent opportunity to expose the Indian horticulture industry to new markets in the world and would go a long way in export of horticultural produce. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Delhi next month.

India is emerging as a strong country in horticultural trade. It produces roughly 100 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables including onion and potato contributing to about 20 per cent of the total agricultural output of the country. In terms of yield per hectare it holds the world record for tropical grapes producing upto 60 tonnes per hectare. In vegetables India occupies the second position after China contributing 17 per cent to the world's production. India is also the largest exporter of cashewnuts and contributes about 40 per cent of the total production in the world.

Although India produces 8 per cent and 13 per cent respectively of the world's fruits and vegetables, its share in global export of these products is less than 1 per cent. The Government has given the highest priority to the creation of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure and related facilities to facilitate horticultural exports. Soft loan provisions are being made to establish cold chains, market intelligence services and upgradation of production technology. The National Horticulture Board is also assisting various organisations to create a national grid for the marketing of horticultural produce.

DIA CHINA AUSTRALIA FRANCE JAPAN KOREA SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Oct 05, 1994

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1995

INDIA

Foreign Investment in Food Processing - Maharashtra Leads

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 13, 1994 on foreign investment in Food Processing in India:

Foreign investment approved during the post liberalisation period in Food Pro cessing has reached to Rs. 2206 crores. Out of this Maharashtra has recorded largest foreign investment which is Rs. 433.7 crores. After that Tamil Nadu and Punjab have recorded foreign investment of Rs. 407.5 crores and Rs. 207.7 crores respectively.

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Statewise details of foreign investment is as follows:

State Foreign Investment

in crores

Andhra Pradesh 79.2 7.3 Gujarat Haryana 21.1 Himachal Pradesh 66.5 Karnataka 5.9 Kerala 22.0 Madhya Pradesh 7.3 Maharashtra 433.7 Punjab 291.2 Rajasthan 3.6 Tamil Nadu 407.5 Uttar Pradesh 207.7 West Bengal 0.1 24.5 Goa

Location not yet decided 628.4 units proposed are in

more than one State.

DIA

Date: Oct 13, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

FDI Approvals Show Upward Trend

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1994:

Foreign Direct Investment approvals in the first eight months (January -August) of the current calendar year, 1994 amount to Rs. 6770 crore.

This amount is over 75 per cent of the approvals of Rs. 8860 crore, given in 1993, and more than 150 per cent of the total approvals of Rs. 4420 crore given in 1991 and 1992.

In just one month (August, 1994), foreign investment approved amounted to Rs. 4170 crore, which is over 25 per cent of the total foreign investment approved (Rs. 15750 crore) in the preceding three years of the post-policy period (August 1991 to July 1994).

ACTUAL INFLOW

The actual inflow of foreign investment in the first eight months of 1994 amounted to Rs. 1770 crore, which is nearly equal to that of the entire inflow of Rs. 1786 crore in 1993. Total inflow since 1991 is Rs. 4583 crore.

In the meantime, several initiatives have been taken in the direction of onground implementation of investment intentions for a fuller realisation of the country's economic potential.

INTERACTION WITH STATES

The Department of Industrial Development has interacted extensively with the Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of State Governments with a view to focussing sharply on the ground realities as also on the direction of facilitation efforts. Apart from the identification of several issues requiring action, the interaction with States indicated a significant growth in awareness about facilitation services and procedural simplification. Several States have already installed investorfriendly and responsive mechanisms for expediting clearances and implementation of industrial projects.

DIA USA

Date : Oct 20, 1994

Volume No

INDIA

Rs. 3.1 crore UNDP Aid for Railways' Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1994 on UNDP Aid to Railway's Project:

Technical Assistance of US \$ 974,000 equivalent to Rs. 3.1 crore (approx.) will be granted to India by UNDP for "Enhancement of Indian Railways' Capability to Upgrade Existing Rail Infrastructure for Greater Throughput". An Agreement to this effect was signed here on October 20.

The objective of the project is an institutional building-cumdirect support project which aims to enhance the competence of Indian Railway Civil Engineers in upgrading the existing Rail Infrastructure to enable a higher throughput by increasing the number of trains per day on the same track.

The UNDP Technical Assistance of Rs. 3.1 crore will be utilised over a period of 3 years for the services of project personnel, training fellowships abroad, study tours and import of some essential items of equipment and other miscellaneous expenditure.

Shri Gajendera Haldea, Joint Secretary (Technical Cooperation) in the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Hans-C. von Sponeck, Resident Representative of UNDP signed the agreement on behalf of Government of India and UNDP respectively.

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Railways, Railway Board.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Modified Policy for grant of licence and approval for foreigninvestment/foreign technology agreement for drugs and pharmaceuticals industry

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1994 on granting of licence and approval for

Foreign investment/Foreign agreement for drugs and pharmaceuticals industry:

The licencing aspects of drugs and pharmaceutical industry are regulated by the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Till recently the drugs and pharmaceutical industry was under licensing in terms of Ministry of Industry's exemption Notification No. 477(E) dated 25th July, 1991.

The review of the Drug Policy of 1986 was under consideration of the Government for quite sometime in the context of the liberalised economic policies introduced since mid 1991. Government have now finalised the modifications required to be made in the Drug Policy, 1986. Details of such modifications have been outlined in the booklet "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in September, 1994. The modified policy relating to industrial licensing, foreign investment and foreign technology agreement is as follows:

1. LICENCING

Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and their formulations and for intermediates stands abolished except for the following:

(a) Bulk drugs (reserved for public sector)

ITC CODE ITEM DESCRIPTION

- 1. 253622.00 Vitamin B 1 (Thiamin anacin) and its salts and derivatives -181>
- 2. 293623.00 Vitamin B 2 (Riboflavin) and its salts and derivatives
- 3. 293629.02 Folic acid
- 4. 294130.09 Tetracycline and its salts
- 5. 294130.10 Oxytetracycline and its salts
- (b) Bulk drugs involving use of re-combinant DNA technology and bulk drugs requiring in vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles.
- (c) Formulation based on use of specific cells/tissue-targetted formulations.

(NOTE: An illustrative list of the items falling under category (b) and (c) above is at Annex -I. These items have not been classified under Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised system).

In respect of all other items, industrial undertakings are

required to file a Memorandum in the prescribed form (Form IEM) along with the proforma attached (Annex -II) with this Press Note with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA), Department of Industrial Development, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011 with 5 spare copies along with a crossed Demand Draft of Rs. 1000/drawn in favour of the 'Pay and Accounts Officer, Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry' payable at the State Bank of India, Nirman Bhawan Branch, New Delhi. All units wanting to go in for expansion would also have to file the IEM as above. However, even for delicensed items, licence would be required for locational reason. Non-Small Scale Units proposing to manufacture items reserved for small scale sector will also require industrial licence.

Where industrial licence is compulsory, entrepreneurs are required to submit the application in the prescribed form (Form IL) along with the application fee of Rs. 2500/-. The instructions relating to locational restrictions, substantial expansion and broad banding/manufacture of new article contained in Press Note No. 9 (1991 Series) dated 2nd August, 1991 will also apply to drugs and pharmaceutical industry. Grant of COB licence will also be in accordance with the existing policy and procedures.

2. PROCESSING OF PENDING IL APPLICATIONS

Applications pending for grant of Letter of Intent and other pending cases such as representations against prima facie rejection, change of name, change of location, conversion of LOI to IL etc. which do not come within the purview of compulsory licensing in terms of the modified Drug Policy will be scrutinised in the light of this Press Note and in respect of those cases which qualify for exemption from licensing, the applicants will be advised to submit Memoranda to the SIA as per procedure outlined above.

3. POSITION OF LOI HOLDER

In respect of Letters of Intent (LOIs) granted in the past for the manufacture of items now falling under exempted category, LOI holder need not file an initial memorandum if he has already taken steps to implement the project. In such cases the LOI holder shall only file that part of the memorandum which is required to be submitted at the time of annooncement of commercial production. In such cases no application fee will be paid. It is, however, open to entrepreneurs to file an initial memorandum if they so desire wherever any variation is contemplated from the conditions stipulated in the Letter of Intent.

4. FOREIGN INVESTMENT/FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS

At present drugs and pharmaceutical industry is included in

Annex-III to the Statement on Industrial Policy of July, 1991. However, approval for foreign in-182>

vestments/foreign technology agreements was being accorded according to the provisions of Drug Policy, 1986.

It has now been decided that foreign investment upto 51% and foreign technology agreements in the case of all bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations thereof (except those produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology) will be granted automatic approval subject to the parameters by the Reserve Bank of India.

The automatic approval of RBI will be available to all the items of drugs and pharmaceutical industry covered by the Annex-III of the Press Note No. 10 (1992 Series) dated 24th June, 1992.

Other proposals which do not qualify for automatic approval schemes require approval of the Government on a case basis. Applications for such proposals will be required to be submitted to Secretariat for Industrial Approvals (SIA), Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi or FIBP, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi in Form FC(SIA) as per the existing procedure.

DIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Oct 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister's Message to King of Jordan & Israeli PrimeMinister on Occasion on Signing Peace Treaty

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1994:

Prime Minister has sent messages to King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel on the occasion of the signing of a Peace Treaty between Israel and Jordan. The Peace Treaty is being signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries on October 26, 1994, at 1630 hour (IST) at the Wadi Araba crossing on the border between Jordan and Israel. India is represented at the signing ceremony by Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs.

TEXT OF MESSAGE DATED OCTOBER 21, 1994 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA TO THE KING OF JORDAN ON SIGNING OF THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 26, 1994.

On behalf of the Government and the people of India as well as on my own behalf, I welcome the signing of the historic Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel on October 26, 1994.

The Treaty signifies a fresh beginning in West Asia and is a recognition of your efforts in defining the path of peace in the region. It also raises hopes of achieving a just and lasting peace in West Asia and an era of stability and prosperity in the region.

Please accept, Your Majesty, my best wishes for your personal health and the well being of the friendly people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan".

TEXT OF MESSAGE DATED OCTOBER 21, 1994 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL ON THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN ON OCTOBER 26, 1994

"I am indeed happy to learn about the signing of a Peace Treaty between Israel and Jordan. This is a historic occasion of great significance and deserves commendation. The Treaty is a tribute to your bold initiatives. India fully supports the peace process and the continuation of these efforts in the region.

With assurances of my highest consideration and good wishes". -183>

DIA ISRAEL JORDAN USA

Date: Oct 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India to Hold International Labour Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1994 on International Labour Conference:

India will organise an international conference of Labour Ministers from Nonaligned and Developing countries from January 19-23, 1995 in which 130 countries are likely to participate. The agenda for the conference is horizontal co-operation in the field of employment and human resources. The effects of international trade and international standards on employment, working conditions and developments in the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries is an other item of the agenda.

Presiding over the meeting of the National Tripartite Standing Committee here today, Shri Sangma, Minister for Labour said that this conference will also take up social impact of structural adjustment programmes. He added that this will be Fifth conference of this type and the last conference was held at Tunis four years ago.

The Minister further informed that the Ministry Plans to have Indian Labour Conference before the International conference. Besides considering other issues, it will consider items set for the international conference.

Shri Sangma explained them about the outcome of recently concluded Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences at Bhubneshwar, Trivandrum and Jaipur. He pointed out that after the announcement of the programme for elimination of child labour in hazardous industries, the State Governments were unanimous to undertake immediate steps in this regard for which Rs. 850 crores had been earmarked. The Minister narrated to them about his experience regarding his visit to the educational institutions. He informed them about the miserable condition of children working in factories which he visited recently. He suggested that employers could come forward to adopt some of the areas where Government envisages to undertake programmes for elimination of child labour particularly in the hazardous industries.

DIA USA TUNISIA

Date: Oct 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

2500 Foreign Firms to Participate in the biggest ever IndianHandicraft Fair Inauguration on 30th January, 1995

The following is a text of press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1994 on participating in Indian handicrafts fair by foreign firms:

Representatives of about 2500 foreign companies are expected to participate in the second Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, 1995, to be held in New Delhi from 30th January to 2nd February 1995 as against 900 foreign companies in the first Fair. Organised on an international scale by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) under the aegis of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafs) in the Ministry of Textiles, this is slated to be the biggest ever Fair for handicrafts and gifts in Asia. A pointer to the growing importance to this event is the confirmation of repeat visit by 70% of the buyers who visited the last such Fair in January, 1994. Shri G. Venkat Swamy, Minister of State for Textiles, has said that the Fair is being organised primarily with a view to promoting awareness of Indian handicrafts both in India and abroad. It also reflects the relentless efforts being made by the government towards the development of Indian handicrafts and their exports. There has been a quantum jump in the exports of handicrafts which have been rising at the

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rate of 35% annually over the last 3 years to reach a level of Rs. 3360 crores during 1993-94.

Besides 2500 foreign companies and their representatives, buying agents numbering over 10000 from all over the world are also expected to visit the Fair, representing countries like the US, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal Cyprus, Romania, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore besides other countries of the Gulf, Scandinavia, Bonelux etc.

The range of crafts to be displayed will be much wider than in the previous Fair and will include almost all the known and lesser known Indian crafts such as metalcrafts, woodcrafts, EPNS wares, fashion jewellery, iron crafts, jute handicrafts, alabaster and crafted stone, papier mache, cane products etc., besides covering wide variety in houseware, kitchenware, tableware and numerous other items of decoration and utility value, Shri Ajai Shankar, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), told newsmen at a briefing here yesterday which was also attended by Shri A. L. Sarna, Chairman, EPCH, Shri Navratan Samdria, President (Fair) and Shri Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH. No retail sale of handicrafts will be allowed. Only overseas business negotiations will be conducted during the entire duration of the Fair. The whole exhibition and the related programmes will revolve around he common theme on the relevance of Indian age-old heritage in contemporary times and its enormous potential in the world market.

Business generated during the Fair last year was around Rs. 220 crores which is likely to be surpassed during the forthcoming Fair.

Over 50 lakh persons are estimated to be engaged in the production of handicrafts in India. Most of them belong to the economically weaker sections of the society. Thus, by creating market awareness both among buyers and the craftspersons, the Fair will also go a long way in improving the lot of the craftspersons economically.

DIA USA CANADA FRANCE GERMANY GREECE ITALY SPAIN UNITED KINGDOM AUSTRALIA CYPRUS ISRAEL JAPAN NEW ZEALAND OMAN PORTUGAL ROMANIA HONG KONG REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date: Oct 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Rs. 40 lakhs for World Archaeology Congress

The following is a text of press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1994 alloting Rs. 40 lakhs for world Archaeology Congress:

An amount of Rs. 40 lakhs has been provided for the World Archaeological Congress by the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development. To be held in New Delhi between December 4 and 7, 1994, it will be the third world congress and the first time in Asia. About 2000 delegates including eminent archaeologists are expected to attend it which is being jointly sponsored by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the regional chapter of the world archaeological congress.

The congress will deliberate on archaeological theory, conservation and public awareness and the cultural property. Papers will also be read on the Indus civilisation, the rock art of Asia and new archaeological discoveries among others. A number of committees have been constituted for the congress. The Director General, ISI is member of all the there executive, academic and consultative committees.

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DIA USA

Date: Oct 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Function held on 50th Anniversary of U.N. in New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 28, 1994 on celebration of 50th Anniversary of U.N. in New Delhi:

Commemoration activities marking the 50th Anniversary Year of the United Nations will be inaugurated on October 30, 1994. with a function to be held at Teen Murti House, which is to be addressed by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. Prime Minister will also be broadcasting a message to the nation on Doordarshan.

DIA USA

Date: Oct 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Press Statement

The following is a press statement issued in New Delhi on Oct 29, 1994 briefing to 26 Heads of mission of OIC by MOS(K) on situation in Kashmir and Economic programme:

Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. Salman Khurshid met 26 Heads of Mission of OIC countries today and briefed them on developments in the United Nations General Assembly session so far, the situation in Kashmir, including Government of India's economic programme for the State, and Pakistan's efforts to persuade the Security Council and UNGA to take adversarial positions against India.

2. Mr. Khurshid said that it was anticipated that efforts to derail the political process in Kashmir would be made. If signals came from New York suggesting alternatives to what the Government

of India was in the process of establishing, confusion would be created, militancy encouraged and the political process would become still harder. The vast majority who wanted peace, security, stability and prosperity in Kashmir who looked up to the UN would take heart from helpful attitudes in New York, as they had from the United Nations Commission for Human Rights in Geneva.

- 3. It was not logical that India would have any stake or interest in promoting tension with Pakistan on the LOC. India was determined not to be provoked and held no aggressive intentions against Pakistan. The Simla Agreement had kept the peace since 1972, and bilateral discussions under the Simla Agreement which had taken place at many levels and many occasions had provided several Confidence Building Measures which were in place and working well.
- 4. India was ready at any time to resume discussions with Pakistan even by going to Pakistan for the purpose. We had been prepared for such discussions earlier this year in Geneva and New York and our readiness for discussions remains the same. The Commonwealth Meeting of Senior Officials in Islamabad next month presents us with another such opportunity which we call upon Pakistan to utilize. Urging India to talk was therefore superfluous, and we did not need any monitor to persuade us or supervise the process. There was no need for an innocent-sounding resolution on the subject, which Pakistan was urging for its own domestic compulsions which had nothing to do with United Nations.
- 5. Mr. Khurshid expressed concern about repeated references and threats by Pakistan concerning their use of nuclear weapons.
- 6. Regarding the OIC, Mr. Khurshid indicated that relations had not developed -186>

sufficiently despite various efforts made by us to dialogue with the OIC Secretariat recently on matters on common interest. Those efforts would continue. It was helpful that several important member states had endorsed such contacts in discussions with India. Bilateral relations with OIC states are excellent. There was however intence public scrutiny and concern in India about what ensued at the United Nations and he urged that the OIC member states may keep this in mind since it had the potential of affecting bilateral relations if Pakistan's efforts to denigrate India at the UN received encouragement and support.

DIA PAKISTAN USA SWITZERLAND

Date: Oct 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

World Infrastructure Forum Asia-1994 at Jakarta

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 26, 1994 on World Infrastructure Forum Asia 1994 at Jakarta:

The Ministry of Surface Transport participated in the World Infrastructure Forum Asia-1994 and Exhibition held at Jakarta, Indonesia from October 17 to 21, 1994. This Forum brought together representatives of 13 countries, various Multi National Companies, Multilateral Agencies as well as International Financial Institutions with the Intention of exposing these companies and agencies to the various infrastructural requirements of the partici-pating countries and the magnitude of investment required to build up the infrastructure.

In the Transport Sector, infrastructural requirements in Roads, Ports and High Speed Trams was stressed in the Forum and specific projects available for private sector participation was explained. Literature on these proposals was also distributed to all Multi-National Companies and International Financial Institutions. Different agencies and companies are expected to get in touch with the Surface Transport Ministry very soon for firming up investment proposals.

DONESIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Statement by External Affairs Minister Shri Dinesh Singh

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 15, 1994, on developments in the Gulf regions:

We have been viewing the recent developments in the Gulf with great concern. In India's view, there must be respect for the territorial integrity of all states in the region and any use or threat of use of force must be avoided. It comes as a relief that Iraq has paid heed to the widely expressed views of the international com-

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munity and has announced that its troops are being withdrawn from the border with Kuwait. We welcome this development. We hope it will lead to full compliance by Iraq of relevant UN Resolutions for settlement of outstanding issues.

AQ INDIA USA KUWAIT

Date: Oct 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

India and Israel Sign M.O.U. on Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1994 on India and Israel signing M.O.U. on Civil Aviation:

India and Israel signed here today a Memorandum of Understanding which will entitle the designated carriers of the two countries, EI AI and Air India and Indian Airlines to operate directly between Israel and New Delhi. This service will be in addition to the two weekly frequencies already operating between Israel and Bombay.

The MOU was signed by Shri P. K. Banerji, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation on behalf of India and by H.E. Yoav Behari, Ambassador, Charge d'Affairs a i, Embassy of Israel on behalf of his country.

The MOU marks an important landmark in the relations between India and Israel and will facilitate the flow of trade and tourism between the two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed today is a follow-up to the Air Transport Agreement signed between India and Israel on April 4, 1994 by Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs and Dr. Yossi Beilin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Israel.

RAEL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh's message to theForeign Minister of the State of Israel H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 20, 1994 on Foreign Minister message to Foreign Minister of Israel on signing peace treaty:

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This is indeed a great tribute to your bold initiatives in defining the path of peace in your region and with your neighbours. India strongly endorses the peace process and a just and honourable settlement of all the issues which have caused strife in West Asia.

With highest consideration and cordial good wishes". -188>

RAEL INDIA USA

Date: Oct 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Message from the Prime Minister of India to H.E. Mr. YitzhakRabin, Prime Minister of Israel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on Prime Minister message to Prime Minister of Israel:

I write to congratulate you on the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize. This is a befitting recognition of your efforts to work for peace in your region and with your neighbours. We in India give strong support to the peace process and to the continuation of these efforts. The Prize is a tribute to your bold leadership.

With highest consideration and good wishes".

RAEL INDIA

Date: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Rs. 30 crore Japanese Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on Japanese Aid to India:

Rs. 30 crore (Yen 937 million) worth of Japanese grant will be given to India. This will be in the form of Japanese KR II Grant Aid for Increase of Food Production (Yen 700 million) and Debt Relief Grant Aid (Yen 237 million). The assistance of Rs. 22.22 crore (Yen 700 million) will be utilised for import of fertilizers while the assistance of Rs. 7.52 crore (Yen 237 million) will be utilised for import of steel rolls including special steel and alloy steel, machinery component, attachment, spares, raw materials and other such items as mutually agreed.

Notes to this effect were exchanged here today between Mrs. Rama Murali, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Mr. S. Kojima, Charge 'd' Affairs ad iterim of Japan to India.

PAN INDIA

Date : Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

JORDAN

Visit of Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for ExternalAffairs to Avava Desert to Represent India on Jordanian-IsraeliPeace Treaty

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 24, 1994 on signing of peace treaty between Israel & Jordan:

A high level delegation led by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, will represent India at the signing of the historic Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty on Wednesday, October 26th, 1994, in the Arava desert tract. (A statement welcoming the initialling of the Treaty had been issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 18th, 1994).

RDAN INDIA ISRAEL

Date: Oct 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

MALE

Inauguration of 200-bed Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital inMaldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on opening of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives:

A section of the OPD of the 200-bed of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Male, built at a cost of Rs. 400 crores by the Government of India, as a gift to the people and Republic of Maldives, was opened on October 15, 1994, by the Maldivian Health Minister. The hospital project was offered during the visit of the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in February 1986 and a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Governments to build the project was signed in October 1988. The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and has five operation theaters. There are more than 50 Indian deputationists under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme already working at the hospital as doctors, nurses and para medical staff. The hospital is also the largest structural building complex in Maldives.

LDIVES INDIA

Date: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

TCIL Bags US \$ 2 million Contract from Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1994 on TCIL Contract in Mauritius:

Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), a Public Sector under the Ministry of Communications, has been given a letter of intent by Mauritius Telecom to execute on a turnkey basis a prestigious project relating to fibre optic cable network and related equipment. The contract value will be US \$ 2 million approximately and involve laying of 230 kms. fibre optic cable. This will be the first high-tech turnkey project of its kind secured by TCIL abroad. TCIL was given preference over other internationally known firms who were in the race.

TCIL has already executed one project worth about Rs. 30 crore and is presently executing two other projects worth about Rs. 70 crore in Mauritius.

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URITIUS USA INDIA

Date: Oct 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

MOROCCO

Delegation led by Shri R. L. Bhatia Minister of State for External Affairs to Economic Conference held in Casablanca

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

on Oct 26, 1994 on India participating in Economic Summit Conference in Casablanca:

A high-level Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, will participate in the Economic Summit Conference for the Middle East and North Africa to be held at Casablanca, Morocco from October 30 to November 1, 1994. The delegation would include Shri Salman Haidar, Secretary (East) and Shri P. S. Ray, Joint Secretary (WANA) in the Ministry of External Affairs and about half a dozen leading businessmen.

The Summit Conference is being hosted by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco under the joint patronage of the USA and Russia. The objectives of the Casablanca Summit are to generate private sector investment in support of the Middle East Peace Process, to encourage public private partnership in economic development and cooperation in the Middle East. The Casablanca Conference marks a new stage for the Middle East Peace Process - the transition from peace making to peace strengthening.

MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA ECONOMIC SUMMIT STATEMENT OF GOALS

Under the presidency of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and at the invitation of Honorary Co-Chair President Bill Clinton of the U.S. and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia some 1,000 leaders of governments, business and other pursuits from over 50 countries will convene in Casablanca, Morocco on October 30 through November 1. They are gathering with one major goal - to from a new partnership of governments and business to achieve a better life for the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa. The Casablanca Summit has been conceived as the first step toward establishing institutions and creating links between leaders of government and business, all dedicated to the economic betterment of the region and its peoples.

In a "New Middle East," the economic potential of the region will grow benefiting both regional and international business. The overall goal of the Summit is to prove that business can do business and at the same time, make a major contribution to peace. We believe this conference can mark the first step for business leaders around the world to use their enhanced international power to contribute to the establishment of a new Middle East and a new international order. Under that umbrella the Summit has three specific aims:

- 1) To highlight, explain and explore the region's economic potential, prospects for growth, investment opportunities and create an overall future economic plan.
- 2) To provide a setting for business people and experts who have worked in the Middle East and North Africa to share their experiences with each other and create long-term business relationships and commitments that will bear concrete results for

the region.

3) To put in place a permanent mechanism to take advantage of the unique encounters between government and business leaders at the Summit, to continue the process of confidence building between all parties, to define and accomplish speci--191>

fic objectives and establish new institutions to bind together the nations of the region and their global partners based on common economic interests.

The Casablanca Summit will be a milestone in the historic destiny that is now playing itself out in the Middle East North Africa region. Peace can be secured only if it brings real economic benefits including enhanced trade, foreign investment, international assistance, reduced military spending and economic reforms. Only when they see their surroundings change and their livelihoods improve, will citizens of the Middle East be able to think of each other as neighbours with common goals.

ROCCO INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Oct 26, 1994

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Indo-Nepal Cooperation in Highway

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 06, 1994 on Indo-Nepal Co-operation in Highway:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways along with The National Transportation Planning and Research Centre, (NATPAC) a Kerala Government undertaking have bagged from the Ministry of External Affairs Rs. 50 crore consultancy and project management contract for the construction of 18 bridges in the Kohalpur Mahakali sector of Mahendra Rajpath (East-West Highway) in the Terai region of the far western Nepal.

These 18 bridges are being built in Nepal under the Indo-Nepal Cooperation agreed to between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal with Indian financial and other assistance to make the Mahendra Rajpath fully serviceable to all types of vehicular

traffic even during the mansoon season. At present, in the absence of these bridges, the Kohalpur-Mahakali Rajpath is closed to the traffic every year during the mansoon season.

The completion of these 18 bridges is expected to provide shorter all weather road route between New Delhi-Kathmandu.

This project, when completed is expected to benefit the people on both sides of the border.

PAL INDIA

Date: Oct 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Postponement of Iranian President's Visit to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on postponement of visit of Iranian President to India:

In response to queries regarding post-ponement of President Rafsanjani's visit to India, the official spokesman clarified that two sets of dates in October were under consideration. Neither had been

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finalised nor a concrete programme drawn up. An advance party from Iran visited India in September for this purpose and two more were expected which have, in fact, not yet come. In the meantime, Iran has suggested that President Rafsanjani's visit could take place next year. As far as we are concerned we will look into dates next year.

DIA IRAN

Date: Oct 06, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bomb blast in bus in Tel-Aviv

The following is the text of a statement issued by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Bomb Blast in bus in Tel-Aviv:

India condemns the incident of a bomb blast in a bus in Tel Aviv on Oct 19, 1994 which resulted in numerous casualties and left many others seriously in-jured. The Ministry conveys its sympathies to the bereaved families, and reiterates its abhorrence of terrorist action. India trusts that all concerned will adopt the path of restraint in bringing down tension in the area so as not to vitiate the climate which is so essential for the Middle East Peace Process, which has now entered another important phase.

A INDIA ISRAEL PERU

Date : Oct 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Iraqi Troops Movement

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1994 on Iraqi Troops movement:

Responding to queries on the Iraqi troop movements, the Official Spokesman stated that we have always believed that there should be no use or threat of use of force in international relations and the same principle applies to the present situation.

We support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all the states in the Gulf and this should be seen in the context of relevant UN Resolutions on the subject and the need for compliance with those resolutions.

AQ INDIA USA

Date : Oct 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Signing of the Agreement in Geneva on Nuclear Issue in the DPRK

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on signing of the agreement in Geneva on Nuclear issue in DPRK:

We welcome the signing of the agreement in Geneva on the 21st October that has led to the resolution of the nuclear issue in the DPRK. We hope that this agreement will reduce tensions in the Korean peninsula and the anxiety that were voiced in the surrounding region and beyond. India has been closely following the developments on this issue. We have consistently maintained that the only approach to resolution of such issue is through patient negotiations.

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ITZERLAND INDIA KOREA

Date: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bomb attack in Colombo - Death of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake

The following is the text of a statement by Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Oct 24, 1994 on Bomb attack in Colombo:

It is with the deepest shock and distress that the Government of India has learnt of the bomb attack which took place in Colombo last night, resulting in the violent death of over 40 people

including the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake who was campaigning for the forthcoming Presidential elections, and many other persons of high political status. The Government of India unreservedly condemns this dastardly act of violence which has resulted in grievous loss of life and serious injury. The Government and the people of India extend their condolences to the bereaved families.

I LANKA INDIA USA **Date**: Oct 24, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Member of Parliament toColombo on Mr. Gamini Dissanayake's Death

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994:

Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Member of Parliament, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (I) and member, Congress Working Committee is in Sri Lanka to convey condolences to the authorities of Sri Lanka and the next of kin on the tragic demise of the late Mr. Gamini Dissanayake. In this connection, he has called on the President of Sri Lanka, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Srima Dissanayake. Mr. Shinde will represent the Congress President, Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao at the funeral on October 29.

A SRI LANKA INDIA **Date**: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Nuclear Arms Race in the Sub-Continent

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on Defence Secretary of U.S. Mr. William Perry's Press-reports on nuclears arms race:

Responding to a query on press reports about US Defence Secretary William Perry expressing concern, in an address delivered to the Chinese National Defence University earlier this week about a "nuclear arms race" in the subcontinent which he said posed a threat to regional security, the Official Spokesman replied that we would like to take this opportunity to place on record that there is no question of a nuclear arms race in the subcontinent. We have always maintained that India's nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes in contrast to Pakistan's nuclear adventurism which has not been above brandishing of threats of use of nuclear weapons.

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DIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Congratulatry Message from the Prime Minister of India to H.E.Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine LiberationOrganization

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 21, 1994 on award of Nobel Peace Prize to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat:

"I congratulate you on the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize which was announced yesterday. This is well deserved re-cognition of the initiatives taken by you and your bold leadership in the peace process which has been launched for the cause of the just and legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Please accept, Excellency, my heartiest felicitations and good wishes".

DIA USA

Date: Oct 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Arrangement for Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1994 on arrangement made to Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia:

Government of India have decided that beginning with Haj 1995, all Indian pilgrims going for Haj under arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee, Bombay, would travel to and from Saudi Arabia by air. Consequently, there will be no Haj sailings.

- 2. This decision has been taken keeping in view the sentiments expressed by a number of participants representing the State Haj Committee at the All India Haj Conference held in Bombay in August 1994. At that meeting, many participants had underlined that the relatively large amounts expended from the exchequer on making direct and attendant arrangements for the carriage by ship of a comparatively small number of pilgrims could be better utilised for improving facilities and services for everyone undertaking the holy pilgrimage.
- 3. Consequently, it has been decided to increase the number of pilgrims during Haj 1995 by one thousand, to 26,000. Government also propose to increase, as appropriate, the number of medical personnel attending Indian pilgrims as well as the medical facilities provided for them in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. An increase in the number of Haj volunteers who assist pilgrims from different Indian States of India in performing the Haj is also under consideration.
- 4. The Government of Saudi Arabia have generally been in favour of all pilgrims coming by air and have over the years created airport and attendant facilities to accommodate the needs of all pilgrims going for Haj to Saudi Arabia by this mode of travel.

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- 5. Until Haj 1994, only four countries, including India. carried pilgrims by ship. Of these, another country has also decided to discontinue Haj sailings. Consequently, for Haj 1995, only two countries neighbouring Saudi Arabia would be using ferry services for their pilgrims.

- 6. Only a relatively small number of 3,600 pilgrims travel in the bunk class by ship to Saudi Arabia. Government consider that the total number of economically disadvantaged pilgrims is well in excess of this number and feel that extension of air transport facilities would be particularly beneficial to such pilgrims. Further, pilgrims travelling by ship have to spend as much as 65 days in Saudi Arabia, in addition to 15 days travel time, resulting in greater expenditure and inconvenience. By contrast, travelling by air would enable all pilgrims to complete the holy pilgrimage in 45 days and return within the time schedule stipulated by the Saudi authorities. Travel by Air would also obviate the need for pilgrims to spend 2 to 3 days in the sea port transit camp at Jeddah for completion of formalities before proceeding to Makkah.
- 7. Government propose to further improve facilities for air travel by endeavouring to provide wide bodied aircraft and better facilities both on board and on the ground. The concessional pilgrim rates provided for air passages during Haj will be continued and reviewed as necessary with a view to ameliorating the conditions of air travel.
- 8. Government have every expectation that expenditure on pilgrims' accommodation at Makkah and Madinah for Haj 1995 will be sustained at the same level as during the past two years.

UDI ARABIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date: Oct 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Visit of Shri Man Mohan Singh, Finance Minister, to Singapore

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1994 on visit of Shri Man Mohan Singh, Finance Minister to Singapore to represent Government of India on Europe East Asia Economic Summits:

Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, will be visiting Singapore from Wednesday 12th October to Friday 14th October, 1994. He would be representing Government of India at the 1994 Europe/ East Asia Economic Summit being organised by the World Economic Forum, Finance Minister would also have bilateral meetings with

the Singaporean Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Dr. Manmohan Singh would be the key note speaker on a session on India's economic reforms and how to link up India's tremendous potential with East Asia's economnic dynamism.

Dr. Manmohan Singh would also be addressing the Association of Banks in Singapore. Further, he would be addressing the CEOs of leading multinationals based in Singapore at a breakfast meeting organised by the Economist Group.

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PUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA

Date: Oct 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

RITES Bags Highway Contract in Tanzania

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 27, 1994 on RITES bagging a high way contract in Tanzania:

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways has bagged its first highway contract of US \$ 1.14 million in Tanzania. The project entails detailed engineering study and environment impact assessment for upgrading the 216 Kms. Singida-Nzega road. It will be financed by the Government of Tanzania and the African Development Bank.

RITES credentials in highway engineering in the international market are well established in seven countries. RITES is providing consultancy services of Advisory Consulting Engineers and Highway Planner against World Bank funded projects to Ghana Highway Authority. In Mozambique, RITES has successfully completed the World Bank funded detailed engineering study, including topographic survey for rehabilitation , of Quelimane-Namacurra road. In Cameroon, RITES is providing its services to the prestigious African Development Bank funded engineering studies for Mellong-Dschang road.

At home, RITES is carrying out internationally funded feasibility

and detailed engineering studies of Ankola-Bombay Road in Karnataka, four laning of Vijayawada-Chilakaluriped section of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay-Pune Expressway in Maharashtra, maintenance study for Gujarat Rural Roads in Gujarat and construction supervision of Visakhapatnam-Anakapalle section of NH-55 in Andhra Pradesh and techno-econonmic feasibility study for development of Andhra Pradesh State Highways.

NZANIA INDIA USA GHANA MOZAMBIQUE PERU CAMEROON CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 27, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNDP

Agreement with UNDP for upgradation of Railways

The following is the Press Note release in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1994 Agreement with UNDP for upgradation of Railways:

An agreement was signed here today in the Ministry of Finance with the UNDP for the UNDP Technical Assistance of US \$ 974,000 for implementation of the project "IND/94/028 Enhancement of Indian Railways' capability to upgrade existing rail infrastructure for greater throughput" of the Ministry of Railways, Railway Board.

Shri Gajendra Haldea, Joint Secretary (Technical Cooperation), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Shri Hans-C. von Sponeek, Resident Representative of UNDP, New Delhi and Shri J. T. Verghese, Executive Director (Training and Man-197>

power Planning), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi, signed on behalf of Government of India (GOI), UNDP and Ministry of Railways respectively.

Indian Railways are the back-bone of the transport infrastructure of the country and play a dominant role in the transport of bulk material for the core industries such as steel, fertilizers and power generation. Similarly, long distance passenger and suburban services in large cities are rail dominated. With the expected growth in economic and industrial activity, the transport infrastructure would have to expand and provide reliable services. Indian Railways have adopted strategies to enable it to

carry its share of both freight and passenger traffic.

As part of its overall strategy. railways are intending to upgrade their infrastructure in order to achieve greater throughput on existing broadguage railway tracks. Indian Railways have embarked on a massive project to convert much of its metre gauge track to broadguage as part of this strategy.

The UNDP has been assisting Indian Railways for several years now and the current project will focus on increasing throughput by making existing broadgauge track capable of carrying higher axle loads for freight wagons and to increase the speed of passenger trains to 160 kmph from the existing maximum of 140 kmph. The UNDP assistance for the project will Provide experts in the specialised areas of rail wheel interaction, track and track fastenings, life estimation and need based maintenance systems. The project has provisions for training in the specialised areas for the Indian Railways officials involved with the project. The UNDP will be providing funds to the extent of US \$ 974,000 and the project is expected to be completed in three years. This project is in keeping with one of UNDP's, thrust areas' which focuses on development of transport and communications.

Railways, as a mode of transport have obvious advantages being six times more energy efficient than road and emitting only a fraction of the pollutions caused by road vehicles. Diverting the increased transport needs of the country to the railways, will reduce congestion in the roadways which in turn will lead to fewer injuries and deaths and reduced travel time. Railways also have major advantages in densely populated countries such as India since two railroad tracks can carry as many people in an hour as 16 lanes of highways.

Developing capacity within Indian Railways to run passenger trains at a speed of 160 Kmph and also operating heavier freight trains over the existing tracks will help Indian Railways in achieving the corporate mission to be a modern railway system with sufficient capacity to meet the country's transport needs, both for passenger and for freight traffic, based on an optimal intermodal mix and to provide this transportation at least cost to society while maintaining the financial viability of the system.

DIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 10, 1994

Volume No

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US Ban on Skirts Resolved

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 04, 1994 on U.S. Ban on skirts:

The issue of stop sale and recall notice on Indian exports of rayon chiffon skirts to the US has been resolved to mutual satisfaction. The Government of India took a number of steps by way of immediate response to the announcement by the United States Consumer Product Safety

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Commission that rayon chiffon skirts of the kind described and exported to the US from India did not meet the prescribed flammability standards set by the US. Flammable Fabrics Act. The Government of India had also sent an expert team to the USA and the team discussed the issue with the U.S. authorities. Government of India have already established a Testing and Certification Programme for rayon chiffon skirts of the kind described and all such skirts will now be exported to the U.S. only after they have been tested in notified laboratories and have been found to comply with the U.S. authorities. Government of U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has since issued another press release on September 20, 1994, commending the initiatives and quick action taken by the Government of India to address the problem. It has also emphasised that not all rayon skirts from India are hazardous. It has further clarified that the CPSC has also notified about 50 other countries exporting similar items of the flammability requirements.

It may be recalled that the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) had announced on August 12, 1994, the stop sale and recall of a popular style of thin rayon and cotton blended skirts manufactured in India on the ground that they were dangerously flammable. The sheer rayon skirts with a gauze lining, which were the subject of this notice, constituted a very small percentage of the total export of skirts from India. However, it was felt that the recall notice might adversely affect the exports of other types of skirts/ghagras from India.

A INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Oct 04, 1994

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Visit of Ms. Robin Raphael, US Assistant Secretary of State toIndia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 10, 1994, on visit of U.S. Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs to India:

Ms. Robin Raphael, US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, is currently visiting India as part of the normal process of consultations which gives both India and USA an opportunity to exchange views on various subjects, including follow up action on the joint statement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and President Clinton of USA, during the course of Prime Minister Shri Rao's visit to USA earlier this year. Ms. Robin Raphael called on Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, today.

During their discussions, Minister of State Shri Bhatia regretted that India's offer of bilateral talks with Pakistan had been rebuffed at different levels despite the fact that we made this offer on a number of occasions. Shri Bhatia pointed out that we are ready to talk to Pakistan any time whether in India or in Pakistan. Minister of State further regretted that Pakistan has also cut people-to-people contact with India on the pretext of the plague situation as being out of control, which was totally false.

Minister of State Shri Bhatia briefed Ms. Robin Raphael on the political process that we have initiated in Jammu and Kashmir and explained that it was necessary that dissidents also participate in the process and exphasized that external support to derail the election process should cease.

The visiting Assistant Secretary of State and Shri Bhatia also discussed the problems of international terrorism as it affects the international community.

On Afghanistan, Minister of State Shri Bhatia informed Ms. Raphael that the political process could succeed and normalcy return only if external interference in the affairs of Afghanistan cease.

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A INDIA PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN

Date: Oct 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ms. Robin, Raphael, US Secretary of State meeting with Secretary to Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Finance Secretary

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 11, 1994 on U.S. Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphael meeting with Indian officials:

The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Robin Raphael, called on the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Finance Secretary today. The discussions centred around bilateral issues including forthcoming visit of US Defence Secretary Perry and Commerce Secretary Brown. The meeting next year of the Sub-Commission on Commerce and Economy and forthcoming discussion on Extradition Cooperation and Technology Transfer were also discussed. -200>

A INDIA

Date : Oct 11, 1994

November

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Foreign Affairs Record VOL XL NO 11 November, 1994

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Date: Nov 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

T.S.R. Subramanian Elected Vice-Chairman of International JuteCouncil

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 01, 1994 on election of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian as Vice-Chairman of International Jute Council:

Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles has been unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the International Jute Council (IJC) for the year 1994-95. The IJC had its 22nd Session at Dacca, Bangladesh, recently and discussed major issues concerning jute and jute products like assessment and review of world jute situation, competition between jute and synthetic and subjects like jute and environment.

The Council further approved taking up of new projects on "Environmentally Safe Production and Primary Processing Technologies for Jute and Kenaf", Specific Applications Development of Jute based Non-Wovens to enable commercialisation" and "Market Promotion in Western Europe and U.S."

NGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Nov 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

CROATIA

Croatia keen to Promote Trade with India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994 regarding promoting trade between India and Croatia:

The Croatian Assistant Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Z. Kirincic, paid an official visit to India from 13-16 November, 1994 in response to an invitation issued to him by Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee during a visit to Zagreb in September, 1994. The four member delegation accompanying the Croatian dignitary included representatives of the Ministers of Economic Affairs and External Affairs, from the Chambers of Commerce of Croatia and the Zagreb Trade Fair Organisation. The Minister had detailed discussions with the Commerce Secretary, Shri Tejendra Khanna on the entire gamut of bilateral trade and economic relations and their potential. Both sides decided to put in place a legal frame-work of agreements in various sectors to supplement the trade and economic agreement signed in September 1994 during the Commerce Minister's visit to Croatia and to take additional measures to boost the level of bilateral trade which was way below potential at only about US \$20 million per annum. -201>

The Croatian delegation also attended the inaugural ceremony of the India International Trade Fair and held detailed discussions with Shri Mahesh Prasad, CMD, ITPO. Croatia invited Indian companies to participate in the world famous Zagreb Fair next scheduled to be held in September, 1995. The delegation also toured the trade fair and identified several items of interest for Croatia. Separate discussions were held with MMTC on the prospects of importing fertilisers from Croatia. The Minister emphasised that 70% of Croatia's area was completely free of any conflict and Croatia was rebuilding itself after the tragic war in the Balkans. He invited Indian companies in the construction industry to use this opportunity to participate in the massive reconstruction effort. Other items of export identified for the Croatian market included not only traditional goods like carpets, textiles, handicrafts, leather products, spices and tobacco but also computer hardware, passenger and commercial vehicles, bicycles etc. The two sides also identified vast potential for cooperation in the tourism industry and in setting up joint venture restaurants in Croatia.

The Minister also called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia to discuss a range of bilateral political issues.

OATIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

FAO

India Offers Expertise in Agriculture for African Nations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1994 on India offering expertise in Agriculture to African Nations:

India has offered to share its expertise in agriculture with countries in Africa through the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This offer was made by Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, the Union Agriculture Minister to Ms. Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the WFP when the latter called on him this morning. The Minister said that India had successfully tackled its domestic food security problems and at present, had a record level of buffer stock of foodgrains. He said that India was ready to send agricultural experts to Africa and other nations to help them overcome problems in this sector.

The Minister also informed Ms. Catherine Bertini of the steps initiated by the Government to optimize use of irrigation water through sprinkler and drip irrigation systems. He said that a massive programme had been taken up in all States in the country. A special plan was also being formulated to set up these systems in the Rajasthan Canal Command Area.

Ms. Bertini is in India on a five day visit. During her stay, she will visit WEP aided projects in Udaipur, Bikaner and Jaipur districts of Rajasthan.

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DIA LATVIA USA

Date: Nov 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

France Offers Advanced Technology in Food Processing

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 09, 1994 on visit of French business delegation in Food Processing Industries:

A French business delegation led by Mr. Claud Bernet, General Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, France called on Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Tarun Gogoi here today. During the meeting the leader of the delegation offered latest technology in the various areas of the food processing. He informed that number of French companies were very keen to have joint ventures with their Indian counterparts.

Shri Tarun Gogoi was informed that leading French Institutes will very soon have joint research projects with Central Food and Research Institute, Mysore, Dairy Development Board, Anand and other Indian agencies working in the food processing field. A French Government owned fishing company will open its permanent office in India very soon. French Government was also trying to ensure that French companies participate in a big way in coming AHARA FESTIVAL in January 1995. It will help to encourage bilateral cooperations between Indian and French companies.

Inviting Indian Food Processing Products in the French Markets, the French delegation said that India could take advantage of low tariff rates on imports as a result of Agreement and had good opportunities in French markets. Some of Indian marine products like shrimps are in great demand in France.

Welcoming the French offer, Minister of State for Food Processing, Shri Tarun Gogoi stressed the need for more coperation in the infrastructure areas. He said India would like to take the advantage of the experience of France as Indian food processing sector was in its very primitive stage. He said there was lot of scope for setting up joint ventures in third countries.

ANCE INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

Date: Nov 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indian Films Win International Awards

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1994 on Indian film's winning International Awards:

Indian Feature Film "SHILPI" directed by Nabendu Chatterjee has won the best film award for the artistic contribution in cinema in the 14th Festival International DU Film D'AMIENS - France. The award was received personally by the director.

"SHELPI" was also selected as the best film in the world television competition in Osaka. Chatterjee as director of this film has received cash award of three lakhs yen. "SHILPI" has also participated in Berlin, Karlovary, Sidney, Toranto and Vancouver Festival.

The film "ILLAYUM MULLUM" also won two awards namely "PRIX DU JURY" and "PRIX DES LYCEENS DE ST FLOUR" in the recently concluded RECONTRES DU MONDE RURAL, Festival, SAINT FLOOR, FRANCE.

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ANCE INDIA JAPAN GERMANY

Date: Nov 17, 1994

Volume No

1995

GENEVA

ITC Sees vast scope for Trade Promotion Projects with India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 11, 1994 on ITC trade promotion projects in India:

International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/GATT (ITC), Geneva, is keen to promote closer cooperation with India in the area of trade promotion which could contribute significantly towards expanding the country's export by helping to tap new overseas markets. This was indicated by Mr. Denis Belisle, Executive Director of ITC at a meeting here today with the Commerce Secretary, Shri Tejendra Khanna. ITC, which is the focal point in the UN system for technical cooperation with developing countries in trade promotion, was created by GATT in 1964 and has since been operated jointly by GATT and the UN acting through UNCTAD assisting developing countries in their trade promotion programmes. Mr. Belisle who is on an official visit to New Delhi from 6-8 November, 1994 at the invitation of the Commerce

Secretary said he viewed India as a partner country and underlined the scope for undertaking many joint projects with ITC providing technical support in terms of consultancy to improve product developments, design and market information in specified export sectors. Shri Khanna referred to the possibility of cooperation in areas such as agro and allied products including floriculture, spices, marine products etc. where there was scope for upgradation of quality with emphasis on packaging and value addition, sericulture and studded jewellery. The possibility of availing ITC's technical expertise for the proposed airfreight city to facilitate movement of export items from India specially perishables by air also figured in the discussions.

Mr. Belisle emphasised that sectors having potential for employment generation were being given special attention.

Mr. H. C. Graf Von Sponeck, Resident representative of UNDP and Resident coordinator of the UN and concerned senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce were present at the meeting. Mr. Belisle is also having discussions separately with representatives of FIEO, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM besides meetings with UNDP and ITC project authorities such as APEDA, Spices Board, MPEDA etc.

ITC which has completed 30 years of its existence this year, is implementing a number of projects with which India has been associated including an Integrated Programme of technical cooperation in trade promotion under which 6 export development programmes had been implemented. India contributes around \$50,000 annually to the Trust Fund of ITC which also serve as part of our contribution to economic cooperation among developing countries.

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ITZERLAND INDIA USA

Date: Nov 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Positive Reaction to Indian Re-assurance Campaign in Germany

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 15, 1994:

Re-assurance campaign launched by the Department of Tourism,

Government of India in various parts of the world following a steep decline of tourist arrivals due to plague incidents in certain parts of the country have elicited a positive response.

Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur, Minister of State for Tourism who visited Frankfurt recently as part of the reassurance campaign had an intensive dialogue with German Tour Operators and discussed ways and means to revitalise the tourist traffic from Germany to India. German Tour Operators appreciated the various steps taken by the Department of Tourism of Government of India during and after the recent plague incidents in India. They felt that the grossly exaggerated reports in Indian and foreign media were the main reason for scaring away tourists from India. They suggested that a PR agency should be appointed immediately for consistent PR work to retrieve the lost ground in this area. The German tour operators felt that the crisis in the market was not yet over and the image of India impaired recently due to adverse publicity following plague and malaria incidents, need to be improved not just by marketing but also by improving the products and services in the destination.

Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur invited the German tour operators to visit India in the first week of December for an inter-action with the Indian Tourism Industry and to workout joint strategies for attracting more German tourists to India in the short and long term.

During her stay in Frankfurt, Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur also visited the 'Travel Trend' Tourism Fair being held there for the first time. India too is a participant in this tourism fair.

RMANY INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

National Seminar on Patents in Promotion of BiotechnologicalInventions'

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1994:

A 3-day National Seminar on "The role of patents and patent information in promoting Biotechnological inventions" begins here on Monday November 7, 1994. it is being organised by the World

Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) the National Institute of Immunology, Departments of Biotechnology and Industrial Development of Government of India. Five international experts, leading Indian scientists working in premier research institutes, experts of Government of India -205>

Patent Property Rights (IPRs) are participating in the Seminar.

The Seminar aims at educating the scientific, academic as well as industrial community associated particularly with Biotechnology. This would help technological innovations and their legal protection and determining strategies for licencing in the field of Biotechnology in developed countries. Besides, the deliberations will focus on patentable subject matters in Biotechnology in India and legal aspects of its transfer dissemination service facilities. The Seminar would provide an opportunity for interaction amongst experts. This would facilitate framing guidelines for patenting of genes and other Biotechnological inventions.

DIA USA

Date: Nov 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Experts up by 12% India's Foreign Trade Data for April-September 1994

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 04, 1994 on exports data by India:

India's exports in April-September, 1994 are estimated at US \$ 11,620.62 million as against US \$ 10,351.11 million during April-September 1993 signifying a growth of 12.3. The compound growth of exports during April-September 1994 over corresponding period in 1992-93 and 1991-92 work out higher at 16.6% and 12.8% respectively.

Imports during April-September 1994 are estimated at US \$ 12,851.06 million as against US \$ 10,791.59 million during corresponding period in 1993-94. This shows a growth rate of 19.1%. Compound growth rates of imports during AprilSeptember 1994 over April-September 1992-93 and April-September 1991-92 are 7.3%, and 12.1% respectively. POL imports during April-September

1994 are estimated at US \$ 2,650.30 million as against US \$ 3,044.99 million during the corresponding period in 1993-94. POL imports indicate 13% decline. Non-POL imports during April-September 1994 are estimated at US \$ 10,200.76 million as against US \$ 7,746.60 million in April-September 1993 indicating a growth of 31.7%.

BALANCE OF TRADE

The trade deficit during April-September 1994 is higher at US \$ 1230.44 million compared to US \$ 440.48 million during April-September 1993.

MONTHLY TREND

Exports during September 1994 are estimated at US \$ 1997.90 million indicating an increase of 24% over the corresponding month of 1993. Exports during September 1994 are observed to be higher than those during months of May to July 1994 each. However, the level of export is lower than the record level of August 1994. Imports during September 1994 at US \$ 2357.76 million is 28.4% higher than those during September 1993. The level of imports in September 1994 is highest of all the months during the current year.

ASSESMENT

Half-yearly export growth at over 12% is encouraging considering the deceleration in the beginning of the year and long-term annual export growth rate of 7.5 - 8%. Export-friendly environment created by the government and increased coordination among the concerned departments have contributed to accelerated growth compared to previous months. This holds promise for attaining the Eighth Plan target of 13.6% export growth. However, increase in the exports in the latter half of the year needs sustained efforts from all quarters.

Apprehension regarding fall-out of plague on exports has been found to be unnecessarily alarmist, except for adverse effect on a few items particularly on gems and jewellery. Given the resilience of Indian economy and entrepreneural talents, -206>

we are confident that short-term adverse effects could be contained/recovered within the coming weeks.

Among the macro-economic factors, inflation still remains a matter of concern. Though on point-to-point basis, the rate of inflation (WPI) has declined to 8-8.5%; average rate of WPI works out to 10.6% for the period April-September and may have had adverse effect on exports from the point of view of cost competitiveness. Clearly, a further decline in the rate of inflation would help exports.

Product-wise, an alternative to IPRS is yet to be worked out. In the case of textiles and leather goods, competition being intense, innovative measures by exporters in the area of marketing are called for.

Government on its part is pursuing the policy of debottlenecking and taking promotional measures. A recent GATT study has shown that with post-Uruguay Round trade order coming into action the export potential would expand significantly. All efforts have to be made to prepare for our participation in growth.

The significant rise in growth of imports indicates a revival of industrial production which would also help in expanding the export production base. The rising industrial growth and newly emerging export growth products in the changing conditions, points to the ensuing change in the pattern of exports and imports. More and more import-related exports i.e. foreign trade based on increasing inter-dependence, is in store which is consistent with the objective of opening-up of the economy and sustaining it.

Since the actual foreign investment compared to approvals is now picking up, there may be expected benefits of technology, management and marketing links which should be fully utilised by the export sector.

The trade deficit is rising in comparison to the previous year and previous months, and the half yearly total comes out to \$ 1.2 billion which is three times of the level observed last year. But, imports during April-September include sugar imports for demand-supply management and aircraft in the context of privatisation of airlines.

It is quite probable that when complete port-wise figures are available, there is some revision in the above estimates of DGCP&S. The figures remain seasonally unadjusted.

DIA USA URUGUAY FRANCE

Date: Nov 04, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

World Conference on Human Resource Development

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1994:

A World Conference on Human Resource Development opens here tomorrow.

The President will inaugurate the three-day conference to be attended by about 1000 delegates from all over the world.

The conference will bring together professionals in management and human resource from over 40 countries across the world to deliberate on HRD related issues with the theme "Global Changes and Stability in 2000 AD-Strategic Issue." The conference is being held under the aegis of the International Federation of Training and Development Organisations (IFTDO) and hosted by the Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD).

The Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Professor J. K. Galbraith, noted economist and former American Ambassador to India, will be among the plenary speakers. The objective of the conference will be to explore and examine serategic issues related to human resource development in the context of the political, economic and social changes and their influence on organisations and their work culture.

Several key Government departments, commerce and industry chambers, universities, management institutes and PSUs have come together in a collaborative effort in making this global event a participative effort.

DIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Nov 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Export Growth of 18% likely in 1994-95: Commerce MinisterAddresses National Symposium on Role and Relevance of EOUs/EPZs

The following is the text of a press release ismed in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1994 on export growth by India in 94-95:

Export growth during the current financial year (1994-95) is likely to reach a level of 17 to 18 % in dollar terms. Inargurating the National Symposium on Role and Relevance of EOUs/EPZ sector in a Liberalised Economy, orgagnised by the Confederation of Export Units (CEU) here today, Shri Pranab Mukherjet, Commerce Minister, said that export growth of at least 20% annually would have to be achieved in the next 2 years 1995 and 1996 to reach the targetted export figure of \$ 35 billion by the terminal year of the 8th Plan. He indicated that although export growth in the month of October 1994 was 27%, the overall growth during the 7 months from April to October 1994 was around 14% on account of declaration in the first four months (April-July). He assured that the government would continue to promote exporter-friendly policies and desist from following a switch on, switch off approach. He said that there would be no tampering with export-import policies through frequent changes, adding that changes would be made wherever considered necessary only on the basis of suggestions from trade and industry. "Domestic compulsions should not stand in the way of meeting our export commitments as it is necessary to make our presence felt (in international markets) as a dependable supplier. This will be our approach", he said.

The Minister, who also gave away awards of excellence instituted by CEU for the first time, congratulated the award winners and noted that export oriented units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) had been performing well especially in 1993-94, having achieved a growth of over 44% and hoped that the performance would improve further with the removal of residual impediments. He informed that many of the recommendations of the J. S. Gill Committee had been implemented. Recently, he had taken up some of the outstanding issues with the Finance Minister who assured that these would be looked into, Shri Mukherjee said. Referring to the series of measures taken by the government to strengthen the export infrastructure, Shri Mukherjee said 7 proposals from different states had been cleared so far under the Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme and 3 more werel likely to be cleared soon in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and U.P. He said he would like to have one such park in each state.

Ms. Francine Henrich, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Commission, in her address highlighted the emerging new opportunities for trade and joint ventures in Europe. She said that trade between India and the European Union (EU) had grown faster than EU's trade with -208>

all the other Asian countries with the exception of China. India's exports to EU increased by 20% last year, when Europe's imports from the rest of the world actually declined by 1%, which she said proved that the EU was an open market for Indian products and "contradicted the myth of Fortress Europe". She said

EOUs & EPZs in India were well placed to make a positive contribution to this expanding bilateral trade especially in the wake of post-Uruguay Round opportunities. She suggested that India should diversify its exports to the EU which at present was dominated by 3 items, viz., textiles, leather goods and jewellery. A Business Information Centre being set up under the aegis of European Chambers would become operational in Bombay in 1995 to promote business level contacts, while the EC Investment Partnerships Scheme was helping to identify projects and specific joint ventures as well as providing finance to meet capital requirements through major financial institutions, including the EXIM Bank. About 40 projects had been cleared under the scheme in the last 2 years and 12 new ones were in the pipeline, she said.

In his welcome address, Shri Rakesh Himatsingka, President, CEU, urged that EOU/EPZ sector be given all support with minimal controls and procedures as it had the potential to become the most dominant sector in the country's export drive. He said despite all hurdles, exports of about 320 operating EOUs and units in EPZs were around Rs. 5000 crores in 1993-94 and remarked that with a little more operational freedom it could reach Rs. 10,000 crores within 3 years. He stressed the need for units under the EOU/EPZ to have "assured" competitive edge over the Domestic Tariff Area units and said this sector could be better utilised to accelerate the flow of direct foreign investment. He referred to a poll of US corporate executives by the International Financial Corporation (IFC) (which indicated that the main problems perceived by US investors were the high risk factor, lack of return on investment, undue controls and procedures, foreign exchange problems government indifference and logistical bottlenecks.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri R. Veeramani, alternative President of CEU.

Referring to the launching of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in January, 1995, the Minister reiterated that the results of Uruguay Round should not be diluted by bringing in extraneous issues like social clause, environment etc. These issues should be debated in the appropriate fora, not in the WTO and trade sanctions should not be used to promote these lofty ideals, he added.

DIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CHINA URUGUAY

Date: Nov 08, 1994

Volume No

INDIA

International Seminar of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 10, 1994 on ASOSAI Seminar being held in New Delhi:

The Fifth International Seminar of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) will be held in New Delhi from November 13 to November 19, 1994. The Vice-President, Shri K. R. Narayanan will inaugurate the Seminar. The Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh will also address the gathering. To mark the occasion, a commemorative special cover would also be released.

Auditors to governments from 18 countries will discuss the theme "The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Promoting Effective Accounting and Adequate Internal Control System in Governments". In addition, observers representing several international bodies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank will also be joining the deliberations.

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The congregation at New Delhi will be the sixth in the series of Triennial Assemblies. As the Charter Member of ASOSAI, India had hosted the first Assembly in New Delhi in May, 1979.

Supreme Audit Institutions represent the institutional arrangements made to ensure governmental accountability. Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) is a regional group of International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. This body promotes professional understanding, research, training and cross culturing of methods and techniques.

DIA USA

Date: Nov 10, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

India becomes Chairman of ASOSAI

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1994 on India's election as chairman of ASOSAI:

Shri C. G. Somiah, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, has been elected as the Chairman of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for a three year term.

This is second time that India has become the torch bearer for ASOSAI. Earlier, Shri Somiah was elected as member of the Board of Auditors of United Nations, for a three year term from July 1993.

ASOSAI is a regional arrangement to share ideas, information and initiatives amongst auditors to various governments. Twenty four countries stretching from New Zealand to Cyprus comprise the ASOSAI. Apart from auditors to national Governments, Observers from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) participate in the deliberations.

The Sixth Assembly and Fifth International Seminar of ASOSAI was inaugurated in New Delhi on November 13, 1994 by the Vice-president, Shri K. R. Narayanan. From the very beginning India had played a significant role in ASOSAI, As a charter member India has hosted the first conference in 1979.

DIA USA CYPRUS NEW ZEALAND

Date: Nov 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to bepresented to Maurice F. Strong

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994:

The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1992 will be conferred on Mr. Maurice F. Strong by Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan tomorrow. The award carries an amount of Rupees fifteen lakhs in cash (convertible into foreign currency) and a citation. The function will be graced by Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Diplomats and other eminent people.

Mr. Maurice F. Strong was appointed Chairman and Chief Executive

Officer of the Ontario Hydro, North America's largest utility in December 1992. Until September 1992 Mr. Strong was Secretary General of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (The Earth Summit) and under Secretary General of the United Nations. Born on 29 April 1929 and a resident of Toronto, Canada, Mr. Strong has longstanding ties with both the private and public sectors. The last receipient of the award was Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali and the first Mr. U. Thant in 1965.

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding was instituted as a tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and to his life long dedication to the cause of world peace and international understanding, goodwill and friendship among peoples of the world. The award is made by a jury consisting of seven eminent Indians including the Vice President of India and the Chief Justice of India who are exofficio members. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, creed or sex, but an association, institution or organisation is not eligible.

DIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CANADA USA

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

North Countries urged to Moderate their Consumption Patterns

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1994:

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Shri Kamal Nath has called for a proper evaluation of impacts of highly excessive energy consumption in the developed countries on the global environment. He said that their consump ing patterns and living styles are consuming the non-renewable resources of the Earth at an alarming rate. Since the energy has to be extracted from nature a price has to be paid not only in financial terms but also in social and environmental terms.

Addressing the International Conference of Energy organised by the Institution of Engineers and Indian Chapter of World Energy Council, Shri Kamal Nath said that an average North American consumes energy worth 8 tonnes of oil equivalent per capita as compared to one-twentieth of this by a South-Asian. Comparing the energy needs of North and South in the energy sector, he said that there was a dimensional difference between their concerns. The countries of North require increasingly more energy, to sustain their rising levels of consumption and affluent lifestyles whereas for the South it is a question of making energy available to full the minimum needs of society like drinking water, irrigation, one point light connection in villages and expansion of industry to provide jobs, he said.

Turning to the Indian scene, Shri Kamal Nath said that the country is pois ed to take its rightful place in the world economic order through its latent entrepreneurship coupled with its technological and intellectual skills and it is necessary to assess our energy requirements and availability. He said that India's energy production at present is 70,000 mw against the requirements of 1,00,000 mw. He said, in another decade the requirement would be 5,00,000 mw.

In this regard, Shri Kamal Nath stressed that Indian Energy Sector cannot persist with the present technology which is most polluting and it has to adopt cleaner technologies. The energy sector must in ternalise the environmental costs. He also called for improvements in the production processes to make them energy efficient which will finally lead to lesser consumption of resources. He wanted the energy efficiently to be extended to the consumption sector to maximise the effect.

Shri Kamal Nath asked the Industry and business not to leave the R & D to the Government and public sector alone. They also must take it up in a big way, identify the areas and problems and involve them serous seives to their own advantage as well as to the advantage of society by efficient resource utilisation and sustainable development.

The Jawaharlal Nehru International Award Winner, Shri Maurice Strong in his address said that the energy consumption could be reduced by 55 per cent through cost effectiveness and it was absolutely necessary in economic and environmental -211>

terms. Shri Maurice, Strong, who was Secretary General of the UNCED Earth Summit at Rio, praised India's constructive role at the Summit and said that no other Environment Minister in the world enjoys the universal respect as Shri Kamal Nath because of his untiring efforts at the Global Environment scene.

DIA USA LATVIA

Date: Nov 13, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Faleiro calls for Global Consensus on Coordinated Policy Decisions Between Developed and Developing Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1994 on environment for fertilizer raw materials:

The world fertilizer community should evolve a global consensus on ensuring coordinated policy decisions between the developed and developing countries on the one hand and amongst the developing countries on the other to facilitate a more stable global supplies and pricing environment for fertilizer raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizer products. This was stated by Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers here today. He was inaugurating the "UNIDO-Conference on Policy Environment Conducive to the Growth of the Fertilizer Industry in the Developing Countries". He said the consensus on these decisions was absolutely necessary as without these supporting measures, adoption of the market oriented policies could lead to catastrophic consequences for the agriculture in the developing countries which were heavily dependent on imports for both raw materials and intermediates as well as finished fertilizer products.

The Minister said that the international community could also coordinate the necessary efforts to enhance the level of investment in the fertilizer sector in countries where fertilizer demand was heavily concentrated and which aimed at self-sufficiency in the fertilizer production to the extent possible. He said that enormous potentialities existed for joint venture arrangements amongst different countries and international institutions like the UNIDO, could play an important role in facilitating establishment of such joint ventures.

Shri Faleiro pointed out that much of the fertilizer production capacity in the developing countries was either redundant or underutilised for want of timely efforts to modernise and upgrade the plants. He said that lack of skills and trained manpower was a major limitation besides lack of foreign exchange in some of the developing countries and it was yet another area where international assistance by way of supporting modernisation and technological upgradation programme, would be of great help in activating much of the capacity and ensuring optimum utilisation.

Shri Faleiro said that the challenge before the developing countries, majority of whom were in the process of implementing

reforms and liberalising their fertilizer sectors was to also succeed in their endeavours to achieve the goal of fertilizer and food security consistent with macro economic stability.

Referring to the scenario of fertilizer production in India, Shri Faleiro said that India was the third largest producer of nitrogenous fertilizers and fourth largest producer of phosphatic fertilizers in the world. In a bid to reduce production cost and make the industry more competitive, the Government abolished customs duty on import of phosphoric acid, fertilizer project imports and even import of plant and machinery for carrying out revamping and rehabilitation of existing plants. Customs duty on spare parts imports was also slashed considerably, he said. -212>

The Minister said that during the period of just about three years, the Government made bold moves towards liberating the Fertilizer industry from controls, allowing free play of market forces, and even provided the necessary reliefs by way of reduction in the customs duty. He said the Government's aim was to create a policy environment which was conducive to the exploration of the best in the Indian fertilizer industry; an environment which not only helped the existing units to grow but also attracted more investment. an environment that would enable India to meet the increasing requirements of fertilizers from the domestic capacity itself.

Referring to the abolition of pricing and distribution controls on phosphate and potassic fertilizers and significant increase in the urea selling price, the Minister said that it led to some immediate problems, most of which now had been overcome. These, he said were essentially the problems of adjustment in transition, for which the Government had even provided a "safety net" by way of introducing the ad hoc subsidy scheme. On the basis of the production and consumption data for the first of the current year i.e. April to September, 1994 still trickling down, it appeared that the recovery process had started, the Minister said and added that most of the DAP plants operated at more than 100 per cent capacity during this period and sales of DAP were also higher than in the corresponding period of 1993.

Shri Faleiro said that there were some inherent constraints which though not completely insurmountable, continue to be a matter of concern. He said that in regard to phosphatic fertilizers, the country was heavily dependent on imports and this would remain so even if we created additional production facilities within the country, simply because we did not have the raw materials. The Minister said that in respect of urea also, a major limitation was coming up because of the insufficient availability of gas. He said while the Government was seeking to augment the supply of gas through tie-ups with countries like Oman and Iran, the cost implications and in particular, the effect on the cost of production of urea could not be brushed aside.

Date: Nov 30, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Note

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1994:

Government of India is pleased to take note of the formal recognition yesterday by the Revolutionary Command Council and National Assembly of Iraq of the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait. We hope that this positive step would mark beginning of a process of reconciliation which would bring peace and ensure security of the region which is in India's neighbourhood. We also encourage Iraq towards early compliance of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to pave the way for early lifting of the economic sanctions.

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AO INDIA KUWAIT

Date: Nov 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Visit of Iraqi Delegation to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1994 on Joint Commission between India and Iraq:

A six-member Iraqi delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Jamil Ibrahim Ali al-Saleh, Permanent Under Secretary for Transport and Communication and Deputy Co-Chairman of the Indo-Iraqi Joint Commission, has concluded a five-day official visit to India beginning November 21, 1994. The delegation comprised representatives of the Ministries of Oil, Industry, Trade and Foreign Affairs as well as the Central Bank of Iraq.

The delegation held discussions with the Indian side led by Shri Salman Haidar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. They also met Secretary (Commerce), Secretary (Petroleum) and Chairman, Railway Board on November 24. Additionally, the members of the delegation had separate sectoral meetings with their Indian counterparts. They also visited the India International Trade Fair.

H.E. Mr. Jamil Ibrahim Ali al-Saleh paid a courtesy call on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs.

India and Iraq had co-operated extensively in various economic sectors during the period 1975-90. Indian construction companies have successfully executed 71 large projects in Iraq valued at nearly US \$ 5 billion. Iraq had been the largest source country for India's oil needs. A large number of Indian experts had also contributed to Iraqi socio-economic development. However, during the past decade, Indian companies in Iraq have faced considerable difficulties in receiving their payments and the dues have become substantial.

Preliminary discussions on these and other pending economic matters were held during the September 1993 official visit of His Excellency Mr. Abdul Jabbar Omar al-Douri, Permanent Undersecretary for Political Affairs in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. It was decided on that occasion that an Iraqi expert team should visit India to seek to resolve pending problems. The present visit took place in that context.

The visiting Iraqi delegation undertook extensive discussions with their Indian counterparts to review the status of bilateral economic relations and to address bilateral economic problems pertaining to, inter alia, lack of a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA), payments outside DPA, Compensation for take-over of the assets of Iraqi-based Indian companies and authentication of completion certificates for projects already executed. The Iraqi side has invited an Indian delegation to pay an official visit to Iraq to continue these discussions. The visit is expected to take place shortly.

The delegation was informed of the imminent gift of a substantial consignment of life saving medicines to the Iraqi people by an Indian NGO, as our expression of sympathy for the Iraqi people in their current difficulty.

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Date: Nov 25, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Round Table Conference on "Israel and India in the Changing World Scenario

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1994 on Israel and India in the Changing World Scenario:

In his inaugural speech at the Round Table Interaction Conference on "Israel and India in the changing world scenario" in New Delhi today, Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs underlined the immense potential for cooperation between India and Israel and expressed hope that their bilateral interaction would intensify in the years to come. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in January 1992, an intensive exchange of high level delegations has taken place. Two-way trade, which has been rapidly increasing, reached US \$ 342.71 million in 1993. Both countries are keen to have wide ranging contacts through trade and joint ventures. A bilateral Trade Agreement according MFN status to each other is to be formally signed in December 1994.

Shri Bhatia referred to the liberal economic reforms programme launched by India which has been making satisfactory progress. It is expected that India will increasingly become a more dynamic player in the world economy. India offers attractive investment options to foreign investors. He also mentioned about Israel's "miracle economy" which had raised its GNP from \$ 2.5 billion in the 1960s to US \$ 54.3 billion today and said that with the advent of peace the Israeli economy will flourish even more.

RAEL INDIA USA

Date: Nov 14, 1994

Volume No

ISRAEL

Visit of Shri V.C. Shukla, Water Resource Minister to Israel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994 on visit of Shri V. C. Shukla, Water Resource Minister to Israel:

The visiting Water Resource Minister Mr. V. C. Shukla met his Israeli counterpart Mr. Vaacov Zur in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr. Shukla arrived in Israel on November 13, as a member of the Indian Parliamentary delegation in his capacity as the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed possible areas of co-operation in modern water management technics and irrigation projects. Mr. Shukla briefed the Israeli Minister of the water situation in India's desert areas and steps being taken to conserve depleting water resources in the country. He expressed India's interest in benefitting from Israeli water management technics to effectively use the scarce water resources and increase productivity. The two leaders observed that many Israeli companies are already working in this direction in India, particularly in the desert areas of Rajasthan and expressed satisfaction at their work. -215>

RAEL UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Dr. Ramgoolam Calls on Vice President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 11, 1994 regarding meeting of Shri Ramgoolam, Head of the Labour Party of Mauritius with Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan:

Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, Leader of Opposition and Head of the Labour Party of Mauritius met Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India here today. Recalling very close and extensive relationship covering every sector of national life Shri Narayanan said that India would like to maintain the best of relations with all political forces in Mauritius. He underlined the need for

consolidating political unity amongst Indo-Mauritians.

Shri Narayanan expressed happiness on the significant improvement in the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. A number of joint ventures are in the process of being set up in Mauritius and some Mauritian firms are also establishing a presence for themselves in India. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of relations between India and Mauritius and expressed the hope that frequent high level exchange of visits will lead to further consolidating and enhancing these relations.

URITIUS USA INDIA **Date**: Nov 11, 1994

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Nepal Elections

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 30, 1994 on General Elections in Nepal:

As a close and friendly neighbour, we have watched with interest the recent general elections in Nepal. The people of India feel happy at the successful completion of the elections which are a testimony to the democratic process in Nepal.

The Government of India wishes His Majesty King Birendra Bikram Shah Dev, the Government and people of Nepal all success in their tasks of development and progress. The Government of India looks forward to continue the process of further strengthening the multifaceted relations between India and Nepal. -216>

PAL INDIA

Date: Nov 30, 1994

Volume No

NETHERLANDS

Vice Mayor of Rotterdam calls on Commerce Minister Additional Dutch Funding for India International Marketing Centre

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1994 on visit of Mr. H. Simons, Vice Mayor of Rotterdam:

Mr. H. Simons, Vice Mayor of Rotterdam (The Netherlands) accompanied by Mr. F. G. Van Der Stoep, Senior Adviser in the Rotterdam Municipal Port Management, called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, here today. Mr. Simons is in India in connection with a series of seminars being held in the country to create awareness of the facilities being provided by the newly established India International Marketing Centre Limited (IIMC) at Rotterdam. IIMC Limited is subsidised by the Government of India through the Ministry of Commerce and is assisted by the Government of Netherlands. The government of Netherlands had given a grant of 750,000 Dutch gilders for the project. During the discussions, Mr. Simons informed that the government of Netherlands would extend additional financial assistance for this Centre.

IIMC Limited was established by a group of Indian eentrepreneurs to promote exports of small and medium Indian companies in October 1993 following the signing of the Trade Protocol between the Government of India and the Government of the Netherlands. IIMC has also established IIMC B. V. as a wholly owned subsidiary company in Rotterdam. The objective of the Centre is to Promote exports of Indian goods and products; establish offices, marketing and distribution centres, warehousing facilities and processing facilities in India and abroad; and to act as a nodal agency to bring buyers, sellers, exporters and importers together for undertaking export promotional activities. Shri Gokul Patnaik, Chairman of Agricultural and Processed food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is also Chairman of IIMC as APEDA is playing a coordinating role in this endeavour.

IIMC, Roterdam has already acquired land in the Euro Trade Park which has been specially created by the Rotterdam Municipality for promoting Trade and Distribution Centres in the European Union. The Centre will become operational by September, 1995 to coincide with the India Trade Fair '95 proposed to be held in October-November 1995. Rotterdam is the largest seaport in the world and is ideal location to serve US \$ 400 billion European Market.

Seminars have already been held to promote awareness about IIMC, Rotterdam at Chandigarh, Bombay and Ahmedabad and three more seminars had been scheduled to be held in New Delhi, Calcutta and Lucknow in the coming weeks. -217>

DIA THE NETHERLANDS UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Nov 21, 1994

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 Nov 02, 1994 on claims for compensation for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990:

Replying to a question, about the status of claims for compensation for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the official spokesman stated that no payments have yet been received by Indian claimants from the United Nations Compensation Commission. It is likely that some category "B" claims would be settled by March 1995. However, it is recognised that the United Nations Compensation Fund is acutely short of money to make payments for the claims ranging from categories "A" to "E" from numerous countries and individual claims. All individual claims have to be lodged with the United Nations Compensation Commission by the end of this year, and all individual claims received by December 1st of this year will be sent to Geneva by the Special Kuwait Cell of this Ministry by the due date.

AQ INDIA KUWAIT USA SWITZERLAND

Date: Nov 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman on Nov 24, 1994 on OIC statement on Kashmir:

In response to media reports which had appeared regarding a 14th November OIC statement on Kashmir, the Official Spokesman regretted that OIC continued to articulate partisan and prejudicial views on the situation in the state. India has reiterated its consistent willingness to have a dialogue with Pakistan under the Simla Agreement. This could be undertaken at the Foreign Secretary level on the occasion of the Commonwealth meeting currently taking place in Islamabad which is being attended by India's Foreign Secretary. There has been no escalation in tension in Kashmir except due to foreign inspired terrorism. We also note that the OIC statement ignores the sincere efforts made by India to revive the political process in the Jammu and Kashmir as well as our efforts to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the OIC Secretariat.

DIA PAKISTAN

Date: Nov 24, 1994

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 Nov 11, 1994 on the visit of Chairman of the Russian Lower House to India:

The Chairman of the Russian Lower House, the State Duma, Mr. Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, is presently in India leading a 12-member delegation representing a range of Russian political parties and factions. The delegation includes Mr. Vladimir P. Lukin, Chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee on International Relations. The delegation is in India on a five day visit which will take them to Agra and Bombay besides Delhi. It is the first -218>

visit by a delegation for the new Russian Parliament which was elected in December 1993. Mr. Rybkin is here on an invitation of

the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He said that at a recent Russian Parliamentary hearing on International Relations (in which) a consensus among all political parties for good relations with India was underlined.

Mr. Rybkin called on the President and the Prime Minister earlier today and had two extended sessions with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. During the afternoon he would have called on the Vice President, and is also scheduled to meet Commerce Minister who is the Co-Chairman of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission, and Minister of State Shri R. L. Bhatia.

During his meetings with the Indian leadership, Mr. Rybkin conveyed that the visit of the Parliamentary delegation represents a consensus among all factions and parties of the Russian political spectrum for good and friendly relations with India. Secondly, he stated that there had been considerable talk of restructuring of international organisations, of late. The delegation felt that India must form part of any new restructured international organisation that take the place of the system at present. Referring to "hot spots" in India in which there is evidence of the involvement of a neighbouring country, he said that the Russian Parliament was clear that bilateral problems should be resolved on a strictly bilateral basis.

He also called for greater contacts between Parliamentary Committees of the Parliaments of India and Russia, specifically the International Affairs Committees saying that Parliamentary contacts constituted an extra dimension of the multifaceted and historical relations between India and Russia.

In his meeting with President and Prime Minister, it was emphasised that both India and Russia as large multi-ethnic, multi-cultural societies faced common challenges. In this context, the Moscow Declaration on "Protection of Interests of Pluralistic Societies" signed by President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, was recalled and reiterated. This was an unusual bilateral document which had been noted in many world capitals.

On trade and economic relations, Mr. Rybkin said that India and Russia should restore relations at least to the level of 1990, by next year. In 1990, trade turnover with the former Soviet Union stood at Roubles 3 billion (equivalent to \$ 3 billion). Currently, trade stands at approximately \$ 1 billion.

SSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Nov 1@, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee hosted a lunch on November 15, 1994, in honour of the visiting US Congressional delegation led by Representative Gary Ackerman. Members of Parliament, senior officials of the Government and representatives of the US Embassy were among the invitees. There was a useful exchange of views between the Parliamentarians of the two countries including on the working of the respective Parliamentary/Congressional Committee. The visiting delegation spoke warmly of India -219>

and stressed the bonds of democracy that tied the two countries. The Congressional delegation was briefed by Members of Parliament on the challenges facing India the situation in South Asia, and other issues of common interest.

A INDIA

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Arjun Singh to visit Pakistan for Education Meet

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 24, 1994 on visit of Human Resource Minister, Shri Arjun Singh to Pakistan:

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Arjun Singh is going to Pakistan on November 26, 1994 on a 4-day visit as leader of the Indian delegation to the 12th Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference in Islamabad. The theme of the conference

is changing role of the state in education which is assuming importance in view of the current concern with maximising resources and the focus on the need for collaboration in education. It will provide an opportunity for sharing experiences about the successful mobilisation of a broad range of partnerships in education including the NGOs, external agencies, industrial and local communities.

Four ministerial committees will be constituted to examine the issues of decentralisation, partnerships and participation, the role of the private sector in education and the state's role in education in an international context. Shri Arjun Singh is to chair the committee on partnerships and participation. The ministerial committee reports are expected to highlight national and regional experiences, suggest new roles for states for improvement in education and make recommendations for national planning and international cooperation.

Besides, roundtable discussions will also be organised during the conference. These will cover school inspection for promoting quality education, out of school education underlining the need for flexibility and innovation, teacher education and regional cooperation. Several Commonwealth educational projects are also expected to be considered. These include the commonwealth scholarship and fellowship plan under which the number of scholarships and fellowships are proposed to be increased and the commonwealth high education support scheme which was established in 1990 to strengthen the institutional capacity of higher education in developing countries through collaborative endeavour but is facing financial problems. An important point of discussion will be the commonwealth of learning, established in 1988 to promote cooperation in distance education.

The 5-day meeting from November 27 to December 1, 1994 will be preceded by official level discussions. The Indian delegation consists of Shri S. V. Giri, Union Education Secretary and Shri Sudeep Banerjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Education. Shri Giri will also be the key speaker on the roundtable discussion on out of school education.

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KISTAN INDIA USA **Date**: Nov 24, 1994

Volume No

Successful Repatriation on IDPs in Somalia by Indian Army PeaceKeepers

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1994:

The last batch of nearly 1000 internally Displaced Personnel (IDPs) were successfully repatriated by the Indian Brigade on 29 October 94 from Mogadishu to Bonkal and Audinie villages in Bay Region, involving distances between 250 to 300 kms one way. The mission which commenced during the early hours of the morning was completed before nightfall. The returnees were happy and excited throughout the long but comfortable journey undertaken in a mix of TATA trucks of the Indian Brigade and civil hired trucks. They became ecstatic on arrival in their villages and upon meeting their near and dear ones whom they had not seen for the past three years due to civil war. However, the journey was not totally uneventful. Nearing its Bonkai destination a couple of civil hired vehicles of this convoy came under fire by a few Somali bandits, perhaps with the intent of looting. Indian escorts quickly retaliated and neutralised the threat, and in the process a few of the bandits were injured and were soon evacuated to the Baidoa civil hospital for treatment. Interrogation is on to identify the culprits and ascertain the exact purpose of the attack. Nevertheless, the mission continued as per plan.

As on the earlier occasions, the entire arrangements for this humanitarian mission was undertaken by the Indian Brigade to include coordination, provision of cooked food, drinking water, tea and light refreshments enroute, security from ground and air, medical, repair and recovery throughout the journey.

With the successful execution of this mission alongwith the repatriation of IDPs from Mogadishu to Jilib in the Bas Juba Region also undertaken by the Indian Brigade concurrently, more than 7000 IDPs have been resettled in their original homes. The Somalis are ever grateful to the Indian Brigade for this massive humanitarian task executed with clockwork precision, excellent coordination and by ensuring maximum comfort and security to the thousands of families who will never forget such kindness and concern for many years to come.

LI SOMALIA INDIA LATVIA USA

Date: Nov 08, 1994

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Exhibition on Gandhiji in South Africa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994 on exhibition on Gandhiji in South Africa:

An exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa was opened at the National Archives here today by the Deputy Minister for Education and Culture, Km. Selja. The forthnight long exhibition entitled "A Satyagrahi in South Africa" has been organised to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Gandhiji and is part of the Archives Week celebrations.

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The exhibits on display include photographs, file notings, newspaper clippings and books depicting the struggle of the Indian immigrants in South Africa, Phoenix settlement and Tolstoy farm, activities of the Natal Indian Congress, Gopal Krishna Gokhale's visit to South Africa, letters between Gandhiji and General Smuts on relief to the problems of Indians and emergence of Gandhiji -- the Satyagrahi.

Established in 1891 the National Archieves of India is the custodian of the country's documentary heritage. It has more than 30 kilometres of shelf area of public records besides private paper collections, microfilm rolls and valuable holdings. It is also providing training on various aspects of archival studies and reprographic and conservation facilities for archival material. The Archives Week is celebrated every year when exhibitions of original historical records, photographs and other material are mounted.

UTH AFRICA INDIA USA TOTO

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Visit of Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of SouthAfrica

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 25, 1994:

Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa is on a visit to India at the invitation of Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs. This is the first ever ministerial visit from South Africa after the election of the Government of National Unity there, headed by President Nelson Mandela.

During his visit to India, Mr. Aziz Pahad has met a number of senior Indian leaders including the President, the Vice President, Home Minister and Commerce Minister. His other engagements included laying a wreath on the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, and a meeting with members of the FICCI and the Indo-South African Joint Business Council.

Shri Khurshid and Mr. Pahad, both assisted by senior officials from the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs held discussions yesterday. The two Ministers initialled a bilateral agreement to set up an Indo-South Africa Joint Commission. and another Protocol providing for regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries. During their discussions the two sides covered a wide range of issues including bilateral relations, international issues, and their assessments on the situations in Africa and South Asia. The two sides recalled with warmth the age old historic ties between the peoples of India and South Africa, dating back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi who first started his non-violent struggle against racial discrimination in South Africa and which later proved to be as inspiration to the African National Congress in their struggle against apartheid. The two sides also recalled the consistent and unwavering support of India to the African National Congress in their struggle against apartheid. The visiting South African Deputy Foreign Minister thanked India for its political support during the period of their struggle and emphasised that India's support proved crucial in the successful culmination of their struggle.

The two sides expressed a keen desire to build upon on this immense fund of mutual goodwill and trust. Shri Khurshid told his South African counterpart about the eagerness with which the Indian Government and people were awaiting the forthcoming visit of President Nelson Mandela to India as Chief Guest during the Republic Day celebrations. Mr. Pahad told the Indian side that President Mandela too was keenly looking forward to visiting -222>

India. The two delegations were sure that President Mandela's visit would open yet another chapter in the rapidly growing ties between the two countries. The two sides discussed details of President Mandela's visit including the agreements that could possibly be signed at that time. Drafts of these agreements are

already under consideration by both sides. These cover a variety of subjects including on principles of Inter State relations, culture, science and technology, telecommunications, tourism, etc.

Both sides exchanged views and ways to furthering bilateral cooperation in trade, culture, economic and technical areas. The Indian side offered to the South African Government assistance in various sectors including for the South African Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). This included sharing of Indian expertise and experience in low cost housing, small scale industries, land reforms, rural water schemes, rural employment programmes, etc. The Indian delegation renewed its offer of the 60 training slots set aside earlier for South African trainees under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). The Indian side also offered to train South African diplomats, trainers for the South African police force, civil servants, etc. The South African side accepted these offers and enquired if it would be possible for Indian diplomats to be sent to South Africa to advise them on training procedures, curriculam for South African diplomats, etc. This was agreed to by the Indian side.

Shri Khurshid offered to share India's experience with South Africa in the Constitution building process, and suggested that experts from India could visit South Africa in this connection. Seminars could also be organised to discuss various constitutional issues. The South African side accepted this offer, and suggested that a delegation led by Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, Chairman of the South African Constituent Assembly could visit India in December 1994. This was agreed to by the Indian side.

Shri Khurshid briefed the South African side on the Indian proposal to hold a Festival of India in South Africa. Mr. Pahad welcomed the idea and said that further details and modalities could be worked out after further discussions between officials of the two sides.

The two sides also exchanged views on international issues including the restructuring of UN, NPT, MTCR, etc. The matter of the Indian Ocean Rim and the forthcoming conference of experts in Mauritius on this subject were also discussed.

The South African Deputy Foreign Minister briefed his Indian counterpart on the situation in Africa including in Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, the role of OAU, SADC, etc. The Indian Minister of State briefed the South African side in detail about Jammu & Kashmir and measures taken by the Government of India to restart the political process. He also briefed his South African counterpart on India's offer to Pakistan to hold bilateral talks on all issues.

The South African side also discussed the matter of smuggling of mandrax drug from India to South Africa and the situation of some South African undertrials and convicted prisoners in Indian jails for crimes concerning trafficking in narcotics. The Indian side assured the South African side that all possible measures would be taken to see that trials of South African prisoners are expedited. The two sides also agreed to take steps to cooperate in combating organised crime, trafficking in narcotics and terrorist activities.

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UTH AFRICA INDIA USA MAURITIUS ANGOLA LESOTHO MOZAMBIQUE PAKISTAN

Date: Nov 25, 1994

Volume No

1995

SURINAM

Indo-Surinam Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1994:

The first session of the Indo-Surinam Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on November 7 & 8, 1994. The Joint Commission was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Surinam, Dr. Subhas Mungra on behalf of the Government of Surinam, and by Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs, on behalf of the Government of India. The two Ministers signed the agreed minutes of the Joint Commission on November 8, 1994. On this occasion, instruments of ratification of a Cultural Agreement signed in 1992 were also exchanged.

The Joint Commission succeeded in identifying concrete areas for bilateral cooperation between India and Surinam. Under the exchange programme, Indian and Surinamese scholars, artistes and cultural personalities would be exchanged on a regular basis.

Two areas of special attention identified for closer cooperation in the economic field were food processing and small scale industries. It was agreed to mount business-cum-expert missions to identify specific proposals for implementation in these fields. Other areas identified for cooperation included water resources management, establishing a joint business council between the private sectors of the two countries, and increased exchange of appropriate technologies under the overall umbrella

of South-South Cooperation.

The Joint Commission has provided a successful backdrop for the forthcoming visit of the Vice-President of Surinam, H.E. Mr. J. R. Ajodhia to India from November 10 to 16, 1994.

DIA SURINAME USA

Date: Nov 08, 1994

Volume No

1995

SURINAM

Surinam Vice President Calls on the President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1994:

The Vice President of Surinam, Mr. Jules Rattankoomar Ajodhia and Mrs. Ajodhia called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimla Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Mr. Ajodhia conveyed to the President the greetings of the President of Surinam and Speaker of Surinam. He briefed him on the fruitful discussions he had with the Indian Government. He also informed him of the results of the meeting of Indo-Surinam Joint Commission.

The Surinam Vice President referred to the efforts to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture and horticulture, areas where India's assistance would be particularly useful. The expectation was expressed that Indian experts in these fields would be visiting Surinam shortly.

Mr. Ajodhia also expressed appreciation of the contribution of the Indian Cultural Centre in Surinam in bringing to that country the heritage of India.

The call lasted for half an hour. -224>

DIA USA

Date: Nov 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement Signed with Switzerland

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1994 on avoidance of double taxation:

The Agreement between the Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed here today. Shri T. S. Srinivasan, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Jean Pierre Zehnder, Ambassador of Switzerland in New Delhi, on behalf of the Swiss Confederation.

The Agreement provides for lower rates of taxation as compared to the domestic rates on income such as dividends, interest, royalties and fees for technical services and this is expected to pave the way for increased mutual trade, flow of investment and transfer of technology.

The Agreement provides for a mutual agreement procedure for resolving tax problems encountered by tax payers in the respective countries. It also provides for exchange of information between the two Governments for preventing tax evasion.

The Agreement will come into force after both the countries complete necessary legal formalities and exchange the relevant Instruments of Ratification.

ITZERLAND INDIA MALI

Date: Nov 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairsof Thailand (November 9-12, 1994)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 09, 1994 on visit of Dr. Surin Pitsuwan Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand to India:

His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand arrived in New Delhi early this morning on a goodwill visit to India. He is accompanied by a large delegation of senior officials as well representatives of Thai business and industry. He called on Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, before the two sides met for delegation level talks. The talks were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and good understanding.

The two sides took note of the positive trend in their bilateral relations and underlined the significance of frequent bilateral interaction. It may be relevant to recall that India-Thailand Joint Commission had met about a year ago. The Indo-Thai Joint Business Couuncil met in July this year and the Joint Trade Committee in the following month. Dr. Surin and his delegation will have meetings with the Joint Business Council (under the -225>

aegis of FICCI and ASSOCHAM) as well as Confederation of Indian Industries during the visit.

During the talks this morning, the two delegations reviewed their bilateral relations, including in areas of trade and investment, cooperation in fisheries, civil aviation, security and defence matters. Shri R. L. Bhatia briefed the visiting dignitary on India's relations with neighbours, with particular reference to the current situation relating to the Kashmir problem. He also expressed India's interest in forging closer relationship with the ASEAN and APEC groups. The Thai Deputy Foreign Minister from his side shared his country's assessment on situation in Cambodia, relations with neighbours as well as regional developments.

India is the 14th largest investor in Thailand with 14 joint ventures. Thailand, on the other hand, has emerged last year as the seventh largest foreign investor in India, mainly on account of CP Group's projects in aquaculture amounting to approx. Rs. 370 crore.

On fisheries, the need for an effective framework to enhance cooperation, which will also control illegal fishing, was stressed. In response to the Thai request for release of fishermen under detention in Orissa, India conveyed its agreement, in principle, to release the fishermen The actual release will take place as soon as procedural formalities have been completed.

The Thai Minister later also called on Vice-President Shri K. R. Narayanan, Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for

Human Resource Development Shri Arjun Singh as well as the leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. His engagements also include calls on Minister of Home and Agriculture as well as the Talk on 'Security Concerns in Asia Pacific' at India International Centre. He would also visit Agra before leaving for back home on Sunday 13th November, 1994.

AILAND INDIA USA CAMBODIA MALI UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Nov 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Smt. Margaret Alva to Attend UN-ESCAP Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 23, 1994:

The Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs, Smt. Margaret Alva is leaving for Bangkok today to attend a conference on 'Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resource Development' to be held from November 24-26, 1994 there. This meeting is being organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and will be chaired by Mr. Anand Panyarachum, who was Thailand's Prime Minister from 1991-92.

The theme of the fifty-first session of the Commission to be held in April, 1995 is 'Strengthening of Regional Co-operation in Human Rights Development with Special reference to the social obligations of sustainable economic growth in the Asia and the Pacific'.

The aim of the present meeting, in which Smt. Margaret Alva will be present--226>

ing a paper on the theme of the Conference, will be to propose innovative ideas of regional cooperation in human resource development. These proposals, to be included in the study, will be considered by the Commission, at the fifty-first session in April, 1995. The Panel will deliberate 20 draft proposals in this regard and the areas being covered are governance, education, employment, science & technology, entitlement, population and institutional support.

Besides Smt. Alva, Ministers from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and several authorities from India and other countries are taking part in this two-day Conference.

AILAND INDIA USA BANGLADESH INDONESIA VIETNAM

Date: Nov 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

British Business Delegation in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1994:

The British business delegation led by Mr. Richard Needham called on Shri Jagdish Tytler the Minister of State for Surface Transport here yesterday evening. Shri Jagdish Tytler gave an overall view of liberalisation of Indian economy in general and the infrastructure projects under the Surface Transport Ministry, in particular. He also explained the India's infrastructure needs and opportunities available for private sector participation in Shipping industry, Roads, Ports, Inland Water Transport etc. There was a question answer session during which one of the members of the delegation wanted to know what would be the status of land if they want to take up a highway-expressway project and whether they would be allowed to develop the associated facilities. The Delegation also evinced keen interest in the high-speed Tram Project in Delhi and other cities. There was a slide presentation by the Ministry projecting the political stability of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao's Government and its achievements for the last three years thereby stressing that the economic reforms and policies were irreversible.

The British Minister was accompanied by about 25 businessmen from the infrastructure sector out of 100 members of his trade team.

The British business delegation is in India on a five-day tour and will visit Bombay and Madras to have discussions with State Governments and private business houses. In Madras, Mr. Needham is likely to meet the Chairman of the Madras Port Trust. -227>

Date: Nov 16, 1994

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Visit of Mr. U. Sultanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republicof Uzbekistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1994 on meeting of Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister with Foreign Minister Shri Dinesh Singh:

Mr. U. Sultanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan called on Shri Dinesh Singh, Minister for External Affairs this evening. He was accompanied by Mr. Habibullaev, Chairman, State Committee for Science and Technology, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan and other officials. Shri Salman Haidar, Secretary (East), Shri Dalip Mehta Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan, and Shri P.P. Shukla, Joint Secretary assisted the External Affairs Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister is visiting India for the second meeting of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission. External Affairs Minister extending a warm welcome to him and his delegation expressed satisfaction with the present state of Indo-Uzbek relations and the hope for strengthening further the bonds of cooperation between Uzbekistan and India. He stressed the need to develop multifaceted cooperation and for the early implementation of decisions taken in the Joint Commission. The Uzbek DPM agreeing with the External Affairs Minister expressed happiness with the expanding relations, and with the increased interaction and communication between the two countries and for the cooperation that is being extended by India for strengthening bilateral ties. He too looked forward to faster growth in bilateral, economic and commercial relations.

BEKISTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Nov 21, 1994

Volume No

UZBEKISTAN

Joint Commission between India and Uzbekistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 28, 1994 on 2nd session of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission:

The second session of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission met on 21-22 November. The Indian side was led by Commerce Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Uzbek side was led by the Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister U.T. Sultanov, who was also received by the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh.

- 2. The discussions identified new areas where the two countries could cooperate successfully. These areas include Science & Technology, Telecommunications and Electronics, besides the more traditional ones such as Food Products, Textile, Pharmaceuticals and Leather Products. In order to keep up a steady momentum in these directions, the sides agreed to set up two sub-commissions, respectively on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and Science & Technology. These decisions are reflected in the Memomandum of Under standing signed today by Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Mr. U. T. Sultanov.
- 3. The two sides also signed an agreement on opening a second line of credit of US \$ 10 million from the Government of India to the Government of Uzbekistan.

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The first credit line has been fully utilised and the second one will also be used to finance the setting up of Joint ventures in Uzbekistan.

4. Mr. Sultanov is also scheduled to have high-level meetings on Thursday, 24 November. He will also visit Agra and Bombay before returning to Uzbekistan.

BEKISTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA OMAN

Date: Nov 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 18, 1994 on visit of Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts to India:

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, this morning. They had a very useful exchange of views on a number of issues which included the development challenges facing India, domestic and international economic issues, the growing cooperation between the US and India in various fields, the situation in and around the subcontinent, etc. Mr. Kerry, who is also leading a business delegation from his State, highlighted the opportunities for closer cooperation including business opportunities of interest to the delegation led by him.

Later, Senator Kerry met the Foreign Secretary, Shri K. Srinivasan. They discussed a number of issues including the growing opportunities for cooperation in different areas, the post-cold war senario, United Nations Peace Keeping, the recent US elections and its impact on foreign and domestic policy, business opportunities, etc. Senator Kerry spoke warmly of India and how the new opportunities would inevitably help bringing the two countries closer.

A INDIA

Date: Nov 18, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

International Air Cargo Association Award to the Government for New Economic Policies

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 01, 1994 on IACA award:

The International Air Cargo Association has given an award for excellence to the Government of India for the new economic policies, with its special thrust towards free flow of foreign trade.

The Washington-based International Air Cargo Association, reputed

to be the most prestigeous association as far as air cargo is concerned, presented the award to the Indian Airlines, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce. The Award states: "Recognising the new realities in the global market place, the Government of India, in a series -229>

of related actions has moved to reduce or eradicate those controls which inhibit or obstruct the free flow of foreign trade. Beginning with a move toward open skies for air cargo operations, India has eased regulations on monetary conversion, encouraging foreign investment and collaboration. At the same time it has relaxed licensing requirements for imports and reduced import duties. A programme of incentives to encourage exports added to the transition. The result has been:

- * an economic revival,
- * a sharply increased potential for air cargo growth, and
- * a stronger competitive position in world trade.

A CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date: Nov 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

YEMEN

WAPCOS secures IDA Funded Consultancy for Irrigaton Schemes in Yemen

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 17, 1994:

Water and Power consultancy Services (India) Limited, a Government of India Undertaking under the Ministry of Water Resources has been awarded a consultancy contract for technical services to study the feasibility of ten irrigation schemes under the Southern Regional Agricultural Development Project in the Republic of Yemen.

This is a "pure engineering consultancy" assignment devoid of any supply procurement etc. and was won against Stiff Global competition for a value of 0.74 million US dollars. Funded by IDA, the assignment is for a period of 12 man months wherein key experts from WAPCOS will be stationed in Yemen.

The project covers the Southern Regions of Yemen under Taiz and Ibb Governments. The aim is to identify and implement the small irrigation scheme in the area through local efforts and resources. The services include field investigations and surveys, feasibility studies, technoeconomic analysis, detailing of chosen alternatives and preparation of technical specifications, tender documents and O&M guide lines in respect of ten irrigation schemes. The ultimate aim of these schemes is to derive direct benefits to the local community by ensuring more irrigation and resultant increased agricultural production.

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MEN LATVIA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 17, 1994

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Date: Dec 31, 1994

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1995

BHUTAN

Hospital Foundation Stone laid in Thimpu

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 15, 1994 on Foundation Stone for Jigme Dorji Wangchuk hospital:

The foundation stone for the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital was laid in Thimpu on December 14, 1994, at a colourful and traditional ceremony. The Indian Ambassador was the Chief Guest at the function, which was also attended by the Crown Prince of Bhutan and several Cabinet Ministers and senior civil servants of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

The Government of India has committed an amount of Rs. 8.7 crores for the construction of the Hospital, which would facilitate a qualitative upgradation in health facilities in Bhutan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Education, Royal Government of Bhutan, referred to the close ties and friendship between the people and the governments of the two countries and expressed his Government's gratitude to the Government of India. The Indian Ambassador reiterated India's commitment in providing full support to Bhutan for implementation of its development plans.

It is noteworthy that Government of India is also providing funds to the tune of Rs. Six crores for the construction of three other hospitals in Eastern Bhutan, where health facilities are inadequate. Government of India also provides support to the malaria eradication programme in Bhutan and provides seats in the medical colleges in India for Bhutanese students.

Dec 15, 1994

BHUTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Dec 15, 1994

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India and China Cooperation in Coal Sector

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 29, 1994 on India-China cooperation in Coal Sector:

India and China agreed that cooperation in coal sector will be enlarged and developed on long term basis to cover a number of new areas, covering long wall technology, development of spares, construction of coal washeries and open cast mines. The protocol was signed today by Shri S. K. Lall, Secretary Coal on behalf of Indian Government and by Dr. Fan Weitang, Vice Minister of Chinese Ministry of coal on behalf of that Government.

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In order to monitor the progress of implementation of projects, both sides agreed to constitute a task force comprising experts from both the countries. Suitable projects will be identified for mine construction work with Chinese technology on a commercial basis.

The Chinese side expressed interest An construction of coal washeries in India. They were informed that Coal India has recently invited global tenders and requested that Chinese enterprises may participate in the tender. They will also take up study in briquetting of Indian coal with Chinese technology and India's offer for the development of opencast mines in China was accepted and it was agreed that Chinese side would soon invite the Indian side for collection of data and making up suitable offer.

The Chinese side is also visiting some of the areas in Dhanbad. Dec 29, 1994

CHINA INDIA

Date: Dec 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

indo-French Financial Protocol for 1994 Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 1, 1994 on Indo-France Financial Protocol for 1994:

The Indo-French Financial Protocol for 1994 was signed here today in the presence of the Finance Secretary, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the French Ambassador Mr. Philippe Petit. The agreement was signed by Mr.V. Govindarajan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Ludovic de Monti le, Director, French Treasury.

The Protocol was signed for an amount of Rs. 125 crores approx. (FF 223 million) committing funds for financing specified projects in a number of sectors including Coal, Mines, Telecommunications, Urban Development and Environment.

The signing of the Protocol is an important step forward in the bilateral economic and financial cooperation and is expected to further promote interest amongst French companies wanting to invest in India. Dec 01, 1994

FRANCE INDIA

Date: Dec 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

International Task Force to he set up on Diversification of Jute and Allied Fibres

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 1, 1994:

The government has offered its infrastructural facilities for the establishment of an International Task Force on diversification of jute and allied fibres. Announcing this while inaugurating the first ever International Symposium on Biocomposites and Blends based on Jute and Allied Fibres, Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, Sec-

<P-233>

retary, Ministry of Textiles, said that the Government of India had conveyed its offer at a recent meeting of International Experts organised by the Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO) at Bangalore, recognising the rich potential of jute, kenaf, sisal and allied fibres. The setting up of this Task Force would provide greater opportunities for producers and consumers of these natural fibres to work more closely for the development of new technologies,

establishment of joint ventures and innovative strategies for marketing of jute and allied fibres; he said.

Referring to the vast potential of jute and allied fibres and renewed interest in them for both textile and non-textile applications. Shri T.S.R. Subramanian said that the long-term survival of this sector depended on its ability to stand on its own feet and jute had the inherent strength to do so. He said a lot more developmental and research work would have to be done to develop new products for utilisation of jute in textiles as well as new areas tike non-woven, composites and geo-textiles, but the basic strength was there and there was every indication of the jute and allied sector having a very bright future. He assured that the government was fully committed to extend assistance to the jute and allied sector in all possible ways, keeping in view the large scope of employment generation and possibility of new units coming up to develop jute products in the small sector.

In his address Shri N.R. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest, said that jute could be a money spinner for the country considering its intrinsic properties as an eco-friendly, natural fibre. He observed that research and development for diversifying into other areas was of vital importance. Had this been done earlier, the jute and allied industry would have been better off today, he added. Shri L. V. Saptharishi, National Project Manager (Jute), UNDP called for an coordinated approach among concerned departments for the development of jute. Besides the immense potential of jute for textile applications, the symposium was intended to primarily focus-on non-textile applications which would help in conserving precious raw material like wood etc., he said.

The 2-day symposium, organised by the Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA), Calcutta, in association with the National Jute Programme Management of UNDP, is being attended by leading International and National experts in the field including experts from USA, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Singapore, Malaysia etc. Some of the national experts participating are from the National Aeronautical Laboratory (Bangalore), CBRI (Roorkee), IPIRI (Bangalore), Indian Institute of Packaging (Bombay) and Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (Delhi) and several other institutions. Among others who spoke were Shri Ajay Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Shri Bimal Pande. Jute Commissioner, Mr. Irv Koons of UNDP and Dr. B. C. Mitra of IJIRA

The importance of the Conference lies in the fact that WIRA which was essentially an industry R&D association for work on packaging products is now playing a multifaceted role in the context of diversified end users of jute fibre which has thrown up immense new possibilities of utilising jute non-woven and composite materials in areas hitherto unexplored. Activities in the area of jute non-textiles received a fillip from the UNDP assisted project on non-conventional uses of jute undertaken by MIRA during 1986-91. This is continuing with their next major project being implemented under the UNDP National Jute Programme (1992-97).

The objective of the International Symposium is to learn from international experts regarding similar work being undertaken in different parts of the world with reference to jute and other agro-based fibres which have today emerged as an important source of renewable raw materials for countless applications such as building construction, furniture, interior decoration automobile industries and other industrial uses.

Dec 01, 1994

INDIA USA CANADA GERMANY THE NETHERLANDS MALAYSIA

Date: Dec 01, 1994

Vol	um	e N	0

1995

INDIA

Continued Participation in Multilateral Trading System in India's Interest

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 12, 1994:

While there have been differing perceptions on one or the other aspect of the Uruguay Round results, government is of the view that India's continued participation in the multilateral trading system will be in our national interest.

Government have carefully examined the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and found that :

- reductions in tariffs will contribute to increased trade flows.
- the Agreement on textile, though it disappoints us by not mandating early integration, nevertheless represents a definite, time-bound and legally enforceable commitment to integrate this sector into the multilateral rules governing international trade;
- India has not undertaken any reduction commitments in any area of support to agriculture and our development policies remain unaffected;
- there is no obligation on us to patent seeds and plant varieties and a suigeneris system, which protects the rights of the farmers and researchers will be in our own interest;
- our Patent regime will indeed have to undergo a change, but even here we have a 10 year tradition period for introducing a full products patent regime;

the rules governing trade policy instruments like anti-dumping and grey areas measures such as voluntary export restraints have been improved; and

multilateral dispute settlement provisions have been made more effective.

All countries which had participated in the negotiations had authenticated the results of the Uruguay Round at Marrakesh by signing the Final Act. Additionally 104 countries had also signed by Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation, 33 of them having done so definitely. Since then 10 other countries are reported to have completed their ratification procedures. Major trading nations such as USA and Japan have also completed their ratification formalities in December 1994. It has also been decided in the Preparatory Committee which met OP 8.12.94 in Geneva that the World Trade Organisation Agreement will be brought into effect from 1.1.1995.

With its continuously increasing increasing membership, the GATT system is rapidly approaching global membership. There are discernible shifts in the pattern of world trade and the WTO will have to reflect these emerging realities in its functioning. India has been a member of the multilateral system from its very inception and intends to continue its participation to the mutual benefit of all.

Taking all relevant factors into account government have decided to ratify the WTO Agreement. The necessary instrument will be deposited with the concerned authorities shortly. Dec 12, 1994

INDIA URUGUAY CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA JAPAN MALI SWITZERLAND

Date: Dec 12, 1994

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Textile Minister to Inaugurate GARTEW94 on December 19

The following is the text of a press is release issued in New Delhi on December 19, 1994:

GARTEX'94, an international exhibition on Garment Machinery, Textiles and Accessories, is scheduled to begin on December 19,1994. Shri G. Venkat Swamy, Minister of State for Textiles, will inaugurate the Exhibition at a function, here at Pragati Maidan.

The Exhibition, sponsored by the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), under the Ministry of Textiles, will among other things, display state of the art machinery, equipment and technology for cost efficient production of garments. It will also provide a unique opportunity to the Indian industry to see the latest technological developments in the field and also interact with their counterparts from foreign countries and negotiate trade deals.

Leading companies from abroad, including USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Prance, Italy, Spain the Netherlands, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, besides India would display and demonstrate their latest machinery, equipment and technology. A large number of serious buyers from neighbouring countries are also expected to visit the four-day exhibition.

During this period, a high-tech conference on Garment Industry will also be field from December 20-21, 1994 in which eminent national and international experts are likely to participate.

Dec 19, 1994

INDIA USA CANADA GERMANY UNITED KINGDOM TAIWAN HONG KONG ITALY JAPAN KOREA THE NETHERLANDS REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE SPAIN THAILAND

Date: Dec 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

IRAN

LCs for Tea exports to Iran

The following is the text of a press relapse issued in New Delhi on December 1, 1994 on LCs for tea export to Iran

The technical problem regarding operation of letter of credit (LCs) for export of tea to Iran has been resolved and operations will normalise in the near future, according to a recent communication received in the Ministry of Commerce from the Embassy of Iran. This is expected to go a long way in boosting exports of tea for the current year (1994-95).

It may be recalled that in order to sort out the bottlenecks in export of tea to Iran, the Ministry had sent a trade delegation under the leadership of Shri P. K.Bora, the then Chairman, Tea Board in July, 1994. This delegation had signed an MOU with concerned authorities of Iran to the effect that LCs would be opened within 45 days. Unfortunately, this was not implemented and as a result the Ambassador of Iran was summoned by the Commerce Secretary, Shri Tajendra Khanna, for an urgent meeting in September, 1994 to sort out the issue. Consequent to this meeting, it was informed by the Embassy of Iran that LCs would be opened soon. In the meanwhile, the trade had expressed great concern about the delay and as a result, a fresh communication was sent to the Ambassador of Iran on 28th October, 1994 to expedite, the matter.

Dec 01, 1994

IRAN INDIA MALI

Date: Dec 01, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Israel Offers Joint Ventures in Food Processing

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 21, 1994 on Israel offer for joint ventures in food processing:

Israel has offered joint ventures in various food processing sectors, especially in fruit and vegetable processing and soya based products. The offer was made by the Israeli Minister for Trade- and Industry, Mr. Michael Harish in a meeting with Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Tarun Gogoi here today.

During the meeting Israeli delegation also shown keen interest in Contract Farming Scheme to upgrade quality of raw materials at farm level. They said Israel could provide the suitable technology for this purpose.

Outlining the latest development in the Indian food processing sector, Shri Tarun Gogoi welcomed the Israeli offer for greater bi-lateral cooperation. He said India with its vast raw material resources and Israel with its sophisticated technology in food processing could set up successful joint ventures in third countries also. Dec 21, 1994

ISRAEL INDIA USA

Date: Dec 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Call by Mr. Michael Harish, Minister of Trade and Industry of Israel on Shri Dinette Singh, External Affairs Affairs Minister

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 20, 1994:

Mr. Michael Harish, Minister of Trade and Industry of Israel called on Shri Dinesh Singh, External Affairs Minister, today. Mr. Harish is leading a large delegation consisting of eminent businessmen and industrialists. Both expressed satisfaction at the growth of bilateral trade and setting up of joint ventures in the field of agricultural products, Light and heavy industry, and software. Dec 20, 1994

ISRAEL USA INDIA

Date: Dec 20, 1994

Volume No

1995

KUWAIT

Indo-Kuwait Cooperation in Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 7 1994 on Indo-Kuwait Cooperation in Civil Aviation:

India and Kuwait today exchanged views on furthering cooperation betweenthe two countries in the field of civil aviation. The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, while the Kuwait delegation was led by H.E. Mr. J. M. Al-Oun, Minister of Communication, Electricity and Power.

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During discussions, the Kuwait delegation sought changes in the 1987 Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Aviation between the two countries so as to make it more broadbased and an instrument to strengthen the economies of the two countries. India, too, sought certain changes in the flight's pattern to that country. The two leaders agreed that officials of the two countries would meet for a detailed discussions on these subjects.

Shri Azad, also brought to the notice of the visiting dignitory the difficulties faced recently by the Indian Air Carriers and passengers during the 'plague' crisis. He stressed that India lay particular emphasis an bilateral relations and hoped that sucb situations will not develop in future between our two friendly countries.

Dec 07, 1994

KUWAIT INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 07, 1994

Volume No

NASSAU

India calls for a Protocol on Bio-Safety, Shri Kamal Nath's Address at BIO-Diversity Convocation Meet Nassau (Bahamas)

The following is the text of a press release-issued in New Delhi on December 21.1994:

India has demanded a clear comprehensive and legally binding International Protocol on Bio-Safety under the Convention on Bio-Diversity.

Addressing the first meeting of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at Nassau, Bahamas, today, the Minister of Environment and Forests Shri Kamal Nath demanded immediate and adequate safeguards against hasty experimentation and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GM0s), since these could have unimaginable repercussions. He said, the GM0s have manifoled dimensions which also involve a whole lot of ethical issues,

Shri Kamal Nath said that while indiscriminate and unregulated use of GM0s pose a threat to all of mankind, It is the poor and economically deprived who are most vulnerable to harm. He feared that the developed world could become a playground for experimentation with such GM0s and it can only be checked through a legally binding agreement.

Shri Kamal Nath called for the removal of distortions in the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regimes in areas related to prior existence of knowledge in indigenous systems of medicine, health care and nutrition. He referred to the harsh fact that IPR regimes in these areas result in a virtual denial of benefit flows of financial return and markets to those very communities who have, by their sustainable lifestyles preserved these systems and the natural resources on which they are based.

Shri Kamal Nath referred to the estimates calculating the market value of allopathic medicines derived from plants used in traditional remedies to be over 43 billion dollars annually. Less than 0.01 per cent of profits i.e. me-ten thousands part, have gone to the indigenous people who have led the researchers to them. He said, the removal of these distortions should be a crucial aspect of the financial mechanism of the Bio-Diversity Convention if the Convention is to have any meaning beyond superficialities.

Shri Kamal Nath regretted that the technology transfer is not considered a

<P-238>

two-way process. He said, in the context of bio-diversity, the issue is not merely a trade off between South's resources and the North's technology, but an equitable and fair exchange between the natural resources as well as the knowledge of the South and the North's technical and financial strengths. The South has not merely preserved much of its precious bio-genetic resources, but also the knowledge and Practices about their optimum and sustainable utilisation. Access to these resources would have to be regulated and careful exercise. in keeping with the objectives of the Convention and with due compensation to such people who have preserved their resources.

Referring to the Convention emphasis on the need for adequate financial resources, Shri! Kamal Nath said that the financial mechanism to be created for implementing the Convention provisions must be provided adequate financial backing. He said this would help in carrying out the mandate on more 'than a "token basis". The Minister also advocated the strengthening of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice so that it could function as a potent instrument in the formulation and implementation of policy and strategy. It would help effective review of project proposals for funding. He said, it should identify scientific and technical organisations in various geo-climatic regions of the world as 'Centres of Excellence".

Shri Kamal Nath suggested joint plans of action on regional basis and regional initiatives be given special importance. In this connection he referred to the International Consultation hosted by India at Bangalore among the countries of the region.

Dec 21, 1994

BAHAMAS INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date: Dec 21, 1994

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao called on H.M. The King of Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 13, 1994 on Prime Minister meeting with King of Nepal:

The Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao called on H.M. The King of Nepal today. The Prime Minister congratulated His Majesty on the recently successful exercise of democracy in that country and expressed admiration for the impeccable way in which His Majesty had dealt with the situation leading to the elections. Both the leaders shared the hope that Indo-Nepalese relations will continue to strengthen in all fields in the months to come.

Dec 13, 1994

NEPAL INDIA

Date: Dec 13, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

OIC Summit in Casablanca

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 19, 1994 on one-sided view of the situation in J & K adopted by OIC Summit:

Responding to queries regarding the OIC Summit in Casablanca, the Official Spokesman stated that the OIC Summit at Casablanca has predictably once again repeated its one-sided and distorted view of the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, taking no cognizance of perpetration of terrorism in that part of India by a member-State of the

OIC itself, nor of the unwillingness and obstruction shown by that same member-State of the OIC to a dialogue with India. India has taken numerous initiatives at several levels in the past few months to embark on a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan, which have all met with rejection from Pakistan. Rather than mechanically' echoing Pakistan's views on Kashmir, it is to be hoped that the member-States of the OIC would instead identify the country among their own membership which is responsible for terrorism, violence and abuse of human rights in Kashmir and for the set-backs to resumption of a constructive dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Dec 19, 1994

INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date: Dec 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India-Chinese armies holding joint exercise

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in NewDelhi on December 22, 1994:

While briefing newsmen, the Official Spokesman stated that there were somereports in the newspapers that personnel from Indian and Chinese armies were holding joint exercises in Ladakh. The Spokesman denied the reports saying that they were incorrect.

Dec 22, 1994

INDIA

Date: Dec 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of H.E. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary General to India

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 2, 1994 on visit of H.E. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary General to India:

H.E. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, will be paying an official visit to New Delhi from 3-5 December, 1994 at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh. Chief Anyaoku will be coming to India after visits to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

During his visit, the Commonwealth Secretary-General will be calling on President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, External Affairs Minister and Leader of the Opposition. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid will call on the CSG. The Minister will host a dinner in the CSG's honour and the Foreign Secretary will host a reception for the CSG at which Commonwealth Heads of Mission in Delhi will be present.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General's visit will focus on preparations for

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the Auckland CHOGM to be held from 10-13 November, 1995.

In response to a query regarding whether the CSG has come with an offer to use his good offices to resume dialogue with Pakistan, the -Spokesman stated that the CSG has already made it clear, in response to queries raised in Islamabad, that there is no question of his good offices or mediation unless he is specifically requested by both sides.

Dec 02, 1994

INDIA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA

Date: Dec 02, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Violence in Karachi

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 22, 1994 on violence in Karachi:

In response to a query regarding a story by Mr. Christopher Thomas and Zahid Hussain published in The Times of London dated 21.12.1994, conveying Ms Bhutan's belief that the violence in Karachi is caused by India, the Spokesman stated that the report on India's involvement is absurd, ridiculous and unworthy of comment or rejoinder by the Government of India.

Dec 22, 1994

PAKISTAN UNITED KINGDOM USA INDIA

Date: Dec 22, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Statement by Official Spokesman on Closure of Consulate General ofIndia in Karachi by Pakistan

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 26, 1994 on closure of Consulate General of India in Karachi by Pakistan:

It is a matter of the greatest regret that the Pakistan Government has decided to close down the Indian Consulate General in Karachi and asked its personnel to leave within 10 days.

The allegations made by the Pakistan Government of interference by our Consulate General in Pakistan's internal affairs are completely unfounded and are rejected in totality by India.

The Pakistan Government withdrew its Consulate from Bombay earlier this year without justification, and have now decided to close the Indian Consulate General in Karachi also without justification. These unilateral decisions by Pakistan adversely impact on the lives of countless people in both countries.

While the Indian Government will perforce comply with the request of the Pakistan Government, the Ministry points out that the withdrawal of the 18 Indian nationals manning the Consulate General will inevitably lead to increased difficulties and hardships in the matter of grant of visas to Pakistan! citizens, people to people contacts and consular, commercial and cultural relations between the two countries, and is yet another manifestation of Pakistan's consistently negative approach towards bilateral ties with India.

Dec 26, 1994

INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date: Dec 26, 1994

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Closure of C. G. 1. in Karachi

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 28, 1994 On Pakistan Foreign Secretary's statement announcing Pakistan decision to close The Indian Consulate in General in Karachi:

The text of the Pakistan Foreign Secretary's Statement at a Press Conference in Islamabad on 26th December 1994 at which he announced Pakistan's decision to close the Indian Consulate General in Karachi has been seen by the Ministry. The examples given by the Pakistani spokesman of alleged Indian interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan are totally concocted, absurd and do not merit any response or rebuttal.

This whole exercise is another pathetic attempt on Pakistan's part to seek excuses for its inability to handle its own domestic problems.

Dec 28, 1994

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Dec 28, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Deportation of a Pakistan! Journalist

The following is the text of official Spokesman's statement issued in New Delhi on December 29, 1994 on deportation of a Pakistani journalist:

In response to a query regarding a report received from Pakistan that India had 'deported' a Pakistani journalist, Wasim Khalid, the Spokesman stated that the report is distorted, tendentious and factually wrong. Mr. Khalid's visa expired on 30th October, 1994, and has been extended by three months until 31st January, 1995.

- 2. In. the recent past, Pakistani journalists in India have been given far more facilities than Indian journalists in Pakistan including the duration of visa. The Government of India has proposed to Pakistan that there should be parity of visa and travel treatment between Pakistani journalists posted in India and Indian journalists posted in Pakistan. We are still waiting for Pakistan to revert to our suggestion for parity of visa travel treatment between Indian and Pakistani journalists in each other's countries and parity inter se between journalists themselves of one nationality in the other country.
- 3. India has not resorted to the practice of refusing extension of visa without assigning any reason, as is the case with Pakistan, because of our conviction that the media constitutes an important channel of communication between the two countries and can contribute positively to efforts to improve bilateral relations.

 Dec 29, 1994

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Dec 29, 1994

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

United States of America

The following is the text of Official Spokesman's statement issued on December 19, 1994 on Dixon Plan to end Kashmir row:

In reply to a query regarding a story published in The Indian Express of 19December, 1994 about 'US reviving

the Dixon Plan in a bid to end Kashmir row', the Spokesman stated that the report is totally speculative and has no basis, in fact.

Dec 19, 1994

USA INDIA

Date: Dec 19, 1994

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Russian Federation Prime Minister held talks with Indian Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 23, 1994:

The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. V. S. Chernomyrdin, held talks with Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Roa today.

Welcoming the Russian Prime Minister on his first visit to India, Shri Narasimha Roa characterised the visit as one of great importance for bilateral relations between the two countries. He further stated that the interaction between the two countries in various fields had become close, and we would like it to continue and be enhanced.

The two Prime Ministers referred to the productive work of the bilateral Joint Commission. At the same time, they felt that it could consider exploring newer areas of cooperation. The two Prime Ministers laid stress on the Moscow Declaration signed during Shri Narasimha Rao's visit to the Russian Federation in June-July this year, and expressed their conviction that India-Russia friendship and cooperation had an important role to play in regional and global peace and stability.

His Excellency Mr. Chernomyrdin reffered to the various Agreements that were to be signed, including the one on a rolling plan for Russian purchase of Indian commodities. Prime Minister Shri Rao expressed appreciation for this as well as for the extensive and intensive cooperation that the Agreements symbolised, and the mutual efforts being made to widen this cooperation.

Dec 23, 1994

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date: Dec 23, 1994

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

The following is the, detail of Agreements being signed in New Delhi between the two Governments:

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Merchant Shipping.

Replaces the 1976 Merchant Shipping Agreement with the USSR. Provides the legal conditions for shipping operations between India and Russia. Parties will pro. mote the participation of their vessels in carrying cargos between ports of the two countries; bilateral liner trade governed by Convention on Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, 1974; MFN Treatment for vessels of the other country; provides for special advantages by Russia to other CIS States, and from receiving benefits by joining customs union etc.; taxation on income derived from bilateral shipping services regulated by Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement of 1988 with USSR until new agreement concluded bilateral liner trade governed by Convention on Cod- of Conduct for Liner Conferences, 1974; the setting up Indo-Russian Maritime Commission under Sub-group on Transport created within the framework of the Joint Commission to monitor bilateral shipping related matters (Minister of State for Surface Transport - Shri Gadget Tytler & Minister for Transport, Mr. V. B. Efimov)

2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Govern

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ment of the Russian Federation on implementation of the long-term Programme of Military and Technical Cooperation for the period upto the year 2000.

Guided by Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 28th January, 1993; based on foundations of close long Term interaction in the past; intention to continue and further strengthen military technical cooperation; authorised organisations to conclude relevant contracts to implement Programme (Minister of State for Defence, Shri Mallikarrjun & Deputy Chairman of Government of Russian Federation, Mr. D. 0. Davydov)

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments.

The Agreement is directed at creating conditions favourable for greater investments in each other's territory by the other party and also recognises that the promotion and mutual protection of investments will be conducive to the stimulation of business initiate in both states. (Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh & Dy. Chairman of Government of Russian Federation, Mr. D. 0. Davydov)

4. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on longterm purchases of certain commodities in India.

Russia to provide the Indian side specific data on annual purchases during- 1995 to 1997 for purchases of soyabean cake, tea, tobacco and pharmaceuticals out of funds available from debt-repayment. The implementation of this rolling plan will be monitored by the Indo-Russian Joint Commission (Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Dy. Chairman of Government of Russian Fed., Mr. D. 0. Davydov).

5. Memorandum between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of Indiaand the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on issue of Multi-Entry Visas for officials and staff members of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions holding Diplomatic or Official passports and their family members.

Multiple entry visa to Heads of Mission and their family members for duration of assignment. 4 year multiple entry visas to diplomatic passport holders of diplomatic establishments in each other's country. 2 year multiple entry visas to official passport holders of diplomatic establishments in each other's country. (Foreign Secretary, Shri K.

Srinivasan & Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. A. S. Chernyshev).

6. Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Russian Space Agency on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Agreement within framework of the umbrella agreement on space cooperation signed in Moscow on 30th June, 1994. ISRO and Glavkosmos: executing agencies. Fields of cooperation include space meteorology, monitoring the earth's environment, material processing, remote sensing, space medicine bio-technology, use of space equipment infrastructure. Cooperation envisaged in joint research, production, unmanned manned space activities and practical applications of spin-off from space technology, cooperation in design, production and testing of hardware, exchange and training of scientists, joint use of lunch related facilities. (Secretary, Department of Space, Shri K. Kasturirangan & D. G., Russian Space Agency, Mr. Y. N. Koptev)

7. Protocol to implement the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Information signed on 28.1.1993.

Agreed on following guidelines for cooperation and exchange; RIA Novosti of Russia and Press Information Bureau (PIB) to collaborate in facilitating ex

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change j dissemination of information among mass media; promote contacts at levels of newspaper, magazine and periodical, editor, owner and encourage exchanges of journalists'editors media experts; facilitate information exchange on current affairs development issues by commissioning authors journalists to write articles. (Principal information Officer, Shri S. Narendra & Chairman, Board of RIA (Russian Information Agency), Mr. V. N. Markov).

8. Exchange of letters on the Inter. Governmental Indo-Russian Joint Commission.

This provides for broadening the scope of the Joint Commission by including cultural cooperation. (Commerce Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee & Deputy Chairman, Government of Russian Federation Co Chairman Indo-Russian Joint Commission, Mr. Y. F. Yarov).

Dec 31, 1994

RUSSIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM IRAN

Date: Dec 31, 1994

SAARC Workshop attended by Representatives Members !U Copenhagen

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 14, 1994:

A two day workshop was hosted by India on December 12-13, 1994, to formulate a collective SAARC position for the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March 1995. The workshop was

attended by representatives of all the seven SAARC Member States. The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri K. R. Venugopal, Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, who also chaired its Plenary and valedictory sessions.

The report of the Workshop will be presented by the SAARC to the World Summit for Social Development and will constitute one of the important documents for the Summit. The Meeting addressed key social development issues in the SAARC Region and identified the basic elements of a common SAARC approach to the issues to be raised at the World Summit for Social Development. The participants recognized and reiterated the importance of poverty eradication, maximizing productive employment and achievement of full employment and social integration. They reaffirmed the resolute determination of the Member States to ??her in a new order that would make deprivation of all kinds - human, social and economic - a memory of the past, within the shortest possible time.

The participants expressed gratitude to the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made and thanked Shri Venugopal for his guidance and advice.

Dec 14, 1994

DENMARK INDIA

Date: Dec 14, 1994

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka H.E. Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar to India

The following is the text Of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 7, 1994 on visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's to India:

H.E. Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, accompanied by a four-member delegation, arrived in Delhi last night on a three-day visit to India.

Mr. Kadirgamar had a meeting with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia, this morning, followed by delegation level talks which were held in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and cooperation. The Sri Lanka Foreign Minister briefed the Indian side on his Government's political and economic agenda following the electoral victories of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga. He said that the results of the election signified support from all segments of society and a clear mandate for peace. He emphasised the importance accorded by the Sri Lanka Government to good relations with India.

Shri Bhatia wished the Sri Lanka Government success in its endeavours. He also briefed the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister about the progress in India following liberalisation. Both sides agreed on the need to step up economic cooperation in substantive areas through the forum of the Joint Commission.

Matters concerning regional cooperation and the SAARC were also discussed together with the UN-related subjects.

Dec 07, 1994

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Dec 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Speech by MOS (RIA3) on the Occasion of Lunch in Honour of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister

The following is the text of speech by Minister of State, Shri R. L. Bhatia issued in New Delhi on December 7, 1994 on the occasion of Lunch in Honour of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister:

Your Excellency Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Members of the Sri Lankan delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to India, Excellency, on your first visit to our country after your assumption of office as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. 1 would also like to extend a warm welcome to the members of your delegaton, many of whom are old friends from the ongoing interaction between our two countries.

2. Relations between India and Sri Lanka have traditionally been close, cordial and based on the deep understanding that we have of each other. The progress of history through ancient religious, cultural, economic, and familial ties has buttressed our bonds of friendship, geographical proximity and shared aspirations. Our Governments recognise that the basis of a sound and enduring relationship can best be the common goal of the improvement of the quality of life of our respective people in an environment of friendship, cordiality, good neighbourliness and cooperation. Excellency, we in India have heard your pronouncements regarding the importance that Sri Lanka attaches to its relation with India and all of Asia. We

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recognise that they reflect your Personal convictions and the policies of your Government. we fully reciprocate these sentiments which echo the vision and foresight of the prime architect of modern India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We look forward to working closely with you and to strengthening our mutual understanding as we, pursue the dialogue we have begun today.

- 3. Excellency, the people of India have at all levels watched with great interest and admiration the working of the democratic process in Sri Lanka during the recent Parliamentary and Presidential elections by which Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has won the mandate of the Sri Lankan people. We applaud her courage of conviction and wish the Sri Lanka Government every success in its endeavours as it addresses the challenges ahead. We are aware that among the foremost of these is the restoration of peace. India has always supported peaceful, negotiated settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic problem and we are watching developments within your country with close interest.
- 4. Excellency, given the affinities of our culture, peoples and traditions, and the pluralistic nature of our societies, the scope for people-to-people contact and cooperation is self-evident. The India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission aids at strengthening wide ranging and enduring interaction in several fields. The Government of India stands ready to use this forum to give even greater focus and direction to specific programmes that are in the mutual interest. We are keen that our economic ties also grow in a mutually beneficial manner and are prepared to work with you in all seriousness to identify specific measures that might be called for.

5. Excellency, we have welcomed this opportunity to exchange ideas with you and look forward to close further interactions, The Government and the people of India wish the Sri Lankan Government every success in its endeavours to bring peace and prosperity to Sri Lanka.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast:

- to the health and personal well-being of His Excellency, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and
- to lasting friendship and cooperation between Sri Lanka and India. Dec 07, 1994

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date: Dec 07, 1994

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Detention Of Thai Fishermen

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 5, 1994 on handing over 51 Thai Fishermen to Thai Consulate.

In keeping with our close relations with Thailand, the Government of India, on the eve of the auspicious birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand and the National Day of Thailand, is handing over ,51 Thai fishermen, under detention until now in Orissa for fishing in India's territorial waters. They have been handed over to the representative of the Thai Consulate General today for onward journey to their home country.

From time to time, fishermen from Thailand have been apprehended in Indian

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territorial waters. The matter was discussed during the recent visit of Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. It was agreed that there was a need to find a permanent solution to the problem. Separately, an Agreement for the Exchange of Offenders as well as an Extradition Treaty are under consideration by the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the field of Fisheries is also being negotiated.

Dec 05, 1994

THAILAND INDIA USA

Date: Dec 05, 1994

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Visit of U.S. Under Secretary of Defence for policy, Walter Slocombe to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 9, 1994 on visit of U. S. Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Mr. Walter Slocombe to India:

US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, Walter Slocombe visited India from December 7 to 9, 1994. Under Secretary Slocombe's visit was to prepare the ground for the visit of US Defence Secretary Perry, scheduled to take place in January, 1995. During his stay in Delhi Under Secretary Slocombe, US Ambassador Frank Wisner and the US delegation had intensive discussions with an Indian delegation led by Defence Secretary K. A.Nambair These discussions related to exploring avenues for enhancing our defence cooperation as an integral part of our overall bilateral relationship, in keeping with the new partnership called for by Prime Minister Rao and President Clinton in May, 1994.

Under Secretary Slocombe called on MOS for Defence, Air Chief Marshal S. K. Katil (Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee), MEA Secretary Salman Haider and Principal Secretary to PM Shri A. N, Varma. He also addressed a meeting organised by the United Service Institute on Indo-US defence cooperation. During his stay, Under Secretary Slocombe also visited Naval establishments in Bombay. The discussions were positive and fruitful and would contribute to the success of Defence Secretary Perry's visit.

Dec 09, 1994

USA INDIA

Date: Dec 09, 1994

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the RussianSpace Agency on Cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space forpeaceful purposes

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Russian Space Agency (RSA) hereinafter referred to as "The Parties",

Guided by the Agreement Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Exploraeion and the

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Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, concluded on June 30, 1994;

Taking into consideration that die Government of the Republic of India has designated the Indian Space Research Organisation, and the Government of the Russian Federation has designated the Russian Space Agency as their principal agencies for executing the cooperation envisaged under the above mentioned Agreement and implementation of the international obligations of their countries in the field of space activity;

Expressing satisfaction with the contacts established between the scientists and experts of both countries in the field of exploration and use of the outer space for peaceful purposes and taking into account the positive experience of Indo-Soviet cooperation in space;

Desiring to contribute to the effective use of space science and technology in the interests of economic and social development of both countries;

With the aim of providing a legal and organisational basis for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between ISRO and RSA in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes:

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation within the framework of this Agreement includes in particular such fields and forms of activities as.

- 1) Space science, exploration of outer space, use of space equipment and ground infrastructure, space technology, space meteorology. monitoring of the Earth's environment from outer space, materials processing in space, space medicine and biotechnology, remote sensing of the Earth, space communications and navigation.
- 2) Joint scientific research, development activities, and experimental, manufacturing and operational works related to the production and use of spacecraft and systems,
- 3) Carrying out works and research activities on manned and unmanned spacecraft:
- 4) Carrying out manned space fights.,
- 5) Exploration of outer space using ground and space based instruments, and joint data analysis;
- 6) Developing multi-profile forms of cooperation in the practical application of space equipment and using the spin-off benefits of space technologies.

ARTICLE 2

FORMS OF COOPERATION

Joint programmes and cooperative projects shall be carried out in the following forms:

- 1) Planning, preparation and implementation of joint mutually beneficial projects on the basis of scientific, industrial and experimental experience of both countries;
- 2) Conducting joint scientific, research and development activities;
- 3) Joint design, manufacturing, testing and use of space hardware:

- 4) Exchange of experimental data and results, scientific and technical information, and equipment,
- 5) Holding joint scientific and technical symposia, conferences, work-shops and exhibitions;
- 6) Exchange of scientists and other specialists, training of personnel, and facilitating their participation in joint research activities and projects:

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- 7) Joint use of launch vehicles, launch pads, space based and ground facilities for conducting agreed works and research activities.
- 8)Mutual provision of equipment and services, as well as joint production of components and systems for use In outer space;

as well as in other mutually agreed forms.

ARTICLE 3

MODE OF EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 1. The contents and framework of specific projects and forms of joint activities, individual and common responsibilities of the Parties related to their execution, financial arrangements, criteria and procedures regarding the provision of legal protection and use of industrial and intellectual property created or provided within the framework of this Agreement, as well as all other relevant norms and principles shall be the subject of separate Project Agreements or Working Protocols.
- 2. For implementation of individual aspects of joint activities, as well as for formulation of, proposals regarding specific ways and fields of cooperation, the Parties shall set up joint Working Groups.
- 3. The Parties shall provide support and assistance to the establishment and development of cooperation between organisations, institutions, enterprises and firms of both countries and shall ensure favourable opportunities for their participation in jointly executed projects and activities, within the framework of this Agreement.
- 4. Upon mutual consent, the Parties may provide the possibility to a third party to participate in the execution of joint activities.

ARTICLE 4

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

- 1. The Parties shall inform each other of their plans, trends of their national space programmes, and the course of their execution, and shall hold consultations on these issues.
- 2. Within the framework of joint projects, the Parties shall transfer the information necessary for the execution of the joint projects as well as data received in the course of their execution to each other "e of charge, unless otherwise agreed to in separate Project Agreements. The Parties shall not be allowed, without prior mutual consent, to transfer to a third party or to publish information on the contents of joint projects, as well as results and data received in the course of their execution.

ARTICLE 5

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS

Each Party shall provide assistance, under the laws and rules in force in their respective States, for the entry of specialists of the other Party into its country, their stay in and departure from that country, as well as for the import and export of the goods of the other Party, necessary for the execution of activities under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

STATUS REVIEW AND CONSULTATIONS

1. The Parties shall hold annual consultations at the level of their Heads on the issues relating to cooperation in the field of exploration and use of outer space in order to monitor the execution of relevant arrangements and to examine new proposals.2. For the purpose of considering specific issues relating to the execution of this Agreement, the Parties, upon mutual consent, may hold meetings with the participation of relevant officials and experts.

ARTICLE 7

RESPONSIBILITY

Unless otherwise agreed to in specific Project Agreements, the Parties shall re-

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frain from making claims against each other for damages which can be caused to their staff members as well as to their Property during the execution of activities related to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Disputes regarding the interpretation and execution of this Agreement shall be settled through consultations between the Parties.

ARTICLE 9

VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT

- 1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for an initial period of five. years and thereafter shall be automatically extended for subsequent five year periods, unless one of the Parties expresses Its intention to terminate it by written notification submitted to the other Party six months prior to the expiry of the relevant period.
- 2. The Parties can make, upon mutual consent, amendments and additions to this: Agreement in written form.
- 3. In case of the termination of this Agreement, its provisions shall remain legally applicable to all unfinished projects and works executed under the arrangements, made on its basis unless the Parties agree on something different regarding specific projects and forms of activities.
- 4. The termination of this- Agreement shall not he the reason for revision, suspension or termination of financial and contractual obligations, assumed by the Parties as the participants of this Agreement and shall not affect rights, obligations and legal status of the Parties, acquired. assumed and established, respectively, as a result of the execution of this Agreement.

Done at New Delhi on December 23, 1994 in duplicate each in Hindi, Russian, and English, all texts being equally authentic.

Forthe Indian Space Research Organisation

(K. Kasturirangan)

Forthe Russian Space Agency

(Y. Koptev) Dec 31, 1994

RUSSIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IRAN

Date: Dec 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Memorandum between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on issue of Multi-entry Visas for Officials and Staff members of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions holding Diplomatic or Official Passports and their family members

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of. Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties',

Guided by the desire to develop friendly relations between the two countries, and aiming at further improvement of visa ties between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

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Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Parties shall issue multi-entry visas to the Head of Missions and their family members for the entire duration of their assignment.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties shall issue multi-entry visas to holders of diplomatic passports and their family members assigned to diplomatic or consular Missions in each other's country for four years at a time.

ARTICLE 3

The Parties shall issue multiple entry visas to staff members of Embassies and Consulates and their family members who are holders of official passports and are stationed in diplomatic consular Missions in each other's country for two years at a time.

ARTICLE 4

The present Memorandum shall enter into force on the thirtieth day from the date of its signing and shall remain valid until the expiry of three moths from the date when either of the Party gives to the other Party a written notice of its Intention to terminate It. .

Done at New Delhi, on 23 December 1994 in two originals each in Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd/-For the Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of India

Sd/-For the Ministry ofForeign Affairs of theRussian Federation Dec 31, 1994

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date: Dec 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE-III

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on long-term purchases of certain commodities in India

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation, in the spirit of friendly relations between the two countries and for the sake of further expansion of bilateral trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1

The Russian side shall take all necessary measures and render assistance to the Russian business entities and organisations through, inter alia, market-determined mechanisms that might be considered appropriate by the Russian Government, for annual purchase in India, in the period 1995 to 1997, of the following approximate volumes/values of items:

1) Tobacco 20,000 MTs2) Tea 30,000 MTs3) Soya Bean Meal - 100,000 MTs4) Pharmaceuticals -Valued at US\$ 100 million.

The purchases shall be made using funds accruing to the Russian side on account of repayment of State Credits granted by the former USSR to India and shall be in conformity with bilateral agreements pertaining to the utilization of these funds.

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ARTICLE 2

The Russian Side shall designate agencies or organisations, which are juridical persons, to purchase soyabean meal, tea, tobacco and pharmaceuticals. Under the present Agreement, supplies of commodities shall be effected in

accordance with contracts concluded between Indian juridical or natural persons and Russian designated agencies or organisations, on mutually and internationally acceptable terms and conditions.

ARTICLE 3

In the first quarter of every calendar year, the Russian Side shall communicate to the Indian Side, specific quantities or values determined for purchases within one year, of various items mentioned in Article 1 of this Agreement and shall also Inform the Indian side of names of designated purchasing agencies.

ARTICLE 4

Before the end of 1996, the two Sides shall meet and work upon a long-term rolling plan for further purchases of specified items in India by Russian designated organisations or agencies, utilising funds accruing on account of repayment of State Credits, for the period beyond 1997.

ARTICLE 5

The two Sides shall provide conditions for fulfilment of various contractual obligations under the present Agreement and shall, at the same time, promote expansion of bilateral trade on a long-term basis in other commodities as well.

ARTICLE 6

Implementation of the present Agreement shall be monitored by the InterGovernmental Indian-Russian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, which, if necessary, shall make appropriate recomendations to both Sides.

ARTICLE 7

The Present Agreement shall come into force, provisionally on the date of its signing and finally on the date on which both Sides inform each other in writing of the completion of internal procedures necessary for the present Agreement to become valid.

Done in New Delhi on 23rd December, 19M, in two originals each in the Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd/-

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation Dec 31, 1994

INDIA RUSSIA USA

Date: Dec 31, 1994

Volume No

ANNEXURE-IV

Protocol to implement the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of Information signed on 28.1.1993

Expressing the desire to implement the Information Agreement for further strengthening of cultural ties between India and the Russian Federation and to facilitate active interaction and for comprehensive exchange of information, the

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Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation have agreed on the following guidelines for cooperation and exchange:

ARTICLE 1

Both Parties shall implement on a regular basis the provisions of the Information Agreement and facilitate the exchange of Information and its dissemination among the mass media of both countries. The RIA Novosti of the Russian Federation and the Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India shall actively collaborate to realise this objective.

ARTICLE 11

Both Parties shall facilitate creative contacts between Russian and 1ndian newspapers/magazines and periodicals and shall develop mechanisms for active interaction between editors/owners of newspapers and magazines of the two countries by mutual consultations.

ARTICLE 111

Both Parties shall facilitate journalist's of each other's. country in fulfilment of their professional activities on a reciprocal basis.

ARTICLE 1V

Both Parties shall encourage exchange of visiting journalists, editors and experts on information and mass media. Details will be worked out by mutual consultation between the Press Information Bureau and RIA Novosti.

ARTICLE V

Both Parties shall facilitate exchange of information on current affairs and development issues by way of commissioning authors/journalists to write analytical articles and features. The RIA Novosti of the Russian Federation and the Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall actively collaborate in this area by mutual consultation.

ARTICLE VI

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

ARTICLE VII

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

Signed at New Delhi on this 23rd day of December, in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Four in two originals each in Hindi, Russian and English, all the three texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-(Sundarrau Narendra) Principal Information Officer Press Information Bureau Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India

Sd/-(V1adimir N. Markov)Chairman of TheBoard of RIA Novosti Dec 31, 1994

RUSSIA INDIA USA

Date: Dec 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments

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

(hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties)

Desirous of creating conditions favourable for greater investments by investors of one Contracting Party in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party;

Recognising that the promotion and mutual protection of such investments will be conducive to the stimulation of business initiative and will increase prosperity in both States;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Agreement

- 1. The term "investment" means every kind of asset, including intellectual property rights, invested by an investor of one Contracting Party in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party in accordance with the laws of the State of that Contracting Party, in particular:
- a. movable and immovable property, as well as related rights in rem;

b. shares, stock and any other form. of participation in a company, enterprise, corporation, firm, association or other legal entity;

- c. claims based on rights to money or to any performance under contract having a financial value;
- 2. The term "investor" means with regard to each Contracting Party:
- a. Any natural person having the citizenship of the State of that Contracting Party in accordance with its laws.,
- b. Any legal entity, including a corporation, company, firm, enterprise or association incorporated or constituted in the territory or the State of that Contracting Party in accordance with its laws;
- 3. The term "returns" means the monetary amounts yielded by an investment such as profits, interest. dividends, royalties and other fees;
- 4. The term "territory" means: the territory of the Russian Federation or the territory of the Republic of India including the land territory, internal waters and territorial sea, air space above as well as the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf within which the respective State has and exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with its laws and international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ARTICLE 2

APPLICABILIT'Y OF THE AGREEMENT

1. The provision of this Agreement shallapply to all investments made on or after

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Ist January, 1987 by investors of either Contracting Party in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to taxation matters.

ARTICLE 3

PROMOTION AND MUTUAL PROTECTIONOF INVESTMENTS

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall encourage and create favourable conditions for investors of the other Contracting Party to make investments in the territory of its State, and shall admit such Investments in accordance with its laws and regulations.
- 2. Investments of the investors of each Contracting Party shall at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy full protection and security in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party.
- 3. The provisions of this Agreement shall not preclude the application by either Contracting Party of measures necessary to safeguard its essential security interests, or to the prevention of diseases and pests in animals or plants.

ARTICLE 4

TREATMENT OF INVESTMENTS

1. Each Contracting Party shall grant to investments made in the territory of its State by investors of the other Contracting Party treatment no less favourable than that which it accords to investments of its own investors or to investments of investors of any third State. The same treatment shall also be granted with respect to the management maintenance, use, enjoyment or disposal of investments.

- 2. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to make or maintain exceptions from national treatment granted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, in accordance with the laws and regulations of its State. However, any new exception shall not apply to investments made in the territory of its State by investors of the other Contracting Party before the entry into force of such exception.
- 3. The most favoured nation treatment granted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article shall not -apply to advantages and privileges which:

a. Any of the, Contracting Parties is providing or may Provide in future in connection with its participation in a common market, free trade area, a customs union or economic union;

b. The Russian Federation is providing or may provide in future by virtue of agreements with the States that constituted the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

ARTICLE 5

EXPROPRIATION

- 1. Investments of investors of either Contracting Party shall not be nationalised, expropriated or subjected to measures having effect equivalent to nationalisation or expropriation (hereinafter referred to as "expropriation") in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party except for a public purpose in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of the latter Contracting Party, on a nondiscriminatory basis, and against compensation.
- 2. The compensation provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be equivalent to the market value of the investment immediately before the date on which the actual or impending expropriation becomes public knowledge. The compensation shall be paid without undue delay. It shall H carry interest from the date of expropariation until the date of payment at the commercial rate established on a market basis.

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3. The investors whose investments have been expropriated shall have a right under the laws and regulations of the Contracting Party making the expropriation for a review of his case of expropriation by a judicial or other independent authority of the State of that Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 6

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES

investors of one Contracting Party whose investments in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party suffer losses owing to war or other armed conflict, a state of national emergency, civil disturbances or other similar circumstances, shall be accorded by the latter Contracting Party treatment, as regards compensation, restitution, indemnification or other forms of settlement, no less favourable than that which the latter Contracting Party accords to its own investors or to investors of any third State.

ARTICLE 7

TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS

- 1. Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with the laws and regulations of its State, ensure to investors of the other Contracting Party, the free transfer of payments in relation to investments, and in particular the transfer of:
- a. Initial capital and additional amounts to maintain or increase the investment.
- b. Returns;

- c. Funds in repayment of loans, connected to an investment;
- d. Proceeds of sale or liquidation of the whole or any part of the investment;"
- e. Compensation, according to Articles 5 and 6 of this Agreement;
- f. The unspent earnings of citizens of the State of the other Contracting Party who work in connection with the investment in the territory of the State of the former Contracting Party.
- 2. The transfer of payments provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be effected without undue delay, in a freely convertible currency and at the rate of exchange on the date of transfer, applied in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations of the State of the Contracting Party in whose territory the investment has been made.

ARTICLE 8

SUBROGATION

Where one Contracting Party or its designated agency has granted a guarantee against non-commercial risks to an investment by its investor with regard to his Investment in the territory of the State of the other Contracting Party, the latter shall recognise the rights of the first Contracting Party or its designated agency by virtue of subrogation to the rights, including claims, of the investors, when payment has been made under this guarantee by the first Contracting Party or its designated agency. The subrogated rights shall not exceed the rights of the investor.

ARTICLE 9

DISPUTES BETWEEN AN INVESTOR OF ONE CONTRACTING PARTY AND THE OTHER CONTRACTING PARTY

1. Disputes between an investor of either Contracting Party and the other Contracting Party arising in relation to investments made in the territory of the State of the latter, concerning obligations under this Agreement, shall as far as possible be settled amicably including resort to, upon mutual agreement of the parties to the dispute, conciliation procedures under the Conciliation Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

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- 2. If a dispute cannot be settled in such a manner within six months from the date either party to the dispute requested in writing amicable settlement, unless otherwise agreed to by both parties, the investor concerned may submit the dispute to an ad hoe international arbitration tribunal set up in accordance With the Arbitration Rules of UNCITRAL. In respect of such arbitration proceedings the following shall apply:
- a. The arbitration tribunal shall consist of three arbitrators. Each party to the dispute shall select an arbitrator. These two arbitrators shall appoint by mutual agreement a Chairman of the arbitration tribunal who shall be a citizen of a third State. The arbitrators shall be appointed within two months from the date when one of the parties to the dispute informs the other in writing of its intention to submit the dispute to arbitration.
- b if the necessary appointments are not made within the period specified in (a) above either party to the dispute may, in the absence of any other agreement, request the President of the International Court of Justice to make such appointments.
- c. The arbitral award shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- d. Each party to the dispute shall bear the cost of its own arbitrator and its representation in the arbitration

proceedings. The cost of the Chairman in discharging his functions and the remaining costs of the tribunal shall be borne equally by the parties to the dispute. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two parties.

ARTICLE 10

DISPUTES BETWEEN THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

- 1. Disputes between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement should, if possible, be settled through negotiations.
- 2. If a dispute between the Contracting Parties cannot be settled within six months from the date either Contracting Party requested negotiations it shall, upon the request of either Contracting Party, be submitted to an arbitral tribunal.
- 3. The arbitral tribunal shall consist of three arbitrators. Within two months of receipt of the request for arbitration, each Contracting Party shall appoint one arbitrator and the arbitrators shall jointly select a citizen of a third State who on approval by the two Contracting Parties shall be appointed Chairman of the tribunal. The Chairman shall be appointed within two months from the date of appointment of the other two members of the tribunal.
- 4. If within the periods specified in paragraph 3 of this Article the necessary appointments have not been made, either Contracting Party may, in the absence of any other agreement, invite the President of the International Court of Justice to make such appointments. If the President is a citizen of the State of either Contracting Party or if he is otherwise prevented from discharging the said function, the Vice-President of the International Court of Justice shall be invited to make such appointments. If the Vice-President is a citizen of the State of either Contracting Party or if he too is prevented from discharging the said function, the Member of the International Court of Justice next in seniority who is not a citizen of the State of either Contracting Party shall be invited to make such appointments.

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5. The arbitral tribunal shall reach its decision by a majority of votes. Such decision shall be binding on both Contracting Parties. Each Contracting Party shall bear the cost of its own member of the tribunal and of its representation in the arbitral proceedings. The costs of the Chairman and the remaining costs shall be borne equally by the Contracting Parties. The tribunal may, however, in its decision direct that a higher proportion of costs shall be borne by one of the two Contracting Parties. The tribunal shall determine its own procedure.

ARTICLE 11

APPLICABLE IAW

To all investments, subject to this Agreement, shall be applicable the laws and regulations of the State of the Contracting Party in the territory of which such investments are made.

ARTICLE 12

APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES

If in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of a Contracting Party or an international agreement to which both Contracting Parties are parties, treatment more favourable is accorded to investments of investors of the other Contracting Party than that which is provided for in this Agreement, the more favourable treatment shall apply.

ARTICLE 13

ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last written notification confirming the fulfilment of all necessary constitutional procedure by the Contracting Parties.2. This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of ten years and shall continue in force until the expiry of twelve months from the date on which either Contracting Party gives written notice to the other Contracting Party of its intention to terminate this * Agreement.
- 3. In respect of investments made prior to the date of termination of this Agreement, its provisions shall continue to be effective for a further period of fifteen years from this date.

Done at New Delhi on this 23rd Day of December, 1994 in two originals each in the Hindi, Russian and English, all texts being equally authoritative.

In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall be used.

Sd/-

For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-For the Government of the Russian Federation Dec 31, 1994

INDIA RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 31, 1994

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VI

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India. and the Government of the Russian Federation on Merchant Shipping

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

Proceeding from the common aspiration for all possible expansion and deepening of mutually beneficial economic and

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trade cooperation between the two countries and

Desirous of developing merchant shipping between the two countries,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

For the Purposes of this Agreement:

- 1. The term "vessel of the Contracting Party" shall mean any merchant vessel plying under the national flag of the Party in accordance with its legislation. This definition excludes warships, fishing and sport vessels, pleasure yachts from the sphere of application of this Agreement.
- 2. The term "Member of the crew" shall mean the master and any other person actually employed for duties on board during a voyage in the working or service of a vessel and included in the crew list.

ARTICLE 2

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, grant all possible assistance to the vessels of the other Contracting Party and shall refrain from taking any action which might cause harm to the development of merchant shipping.

ARTICLE 3

The Contracting Parties shall continue their efforts to maintain and develop effective working relationships between the authorities responsible for maritime affairs in their countries. In particular, the Contracting Parties shall carry on mutual consultations and reciprocal exchange of information between these authorities and shall encourage the development of contacts between their respective shipping organisations or enterprises.

ARTICLE 4The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to promote the participation of their vessels in the carriage of all cargoes between the ports of the two countries open to the entry of foreign vessels;
- b) to co-operate in elimination of the obstacles which might hamper the development of sea trade between the ports of their countries;
- c) the liner conference trade between the two countries shall be governed by the Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, 1974 as long as it remains in force for both Contracting Parties.
- d) in the non-liner trade, where problems arise the Joint Maritime Commission shall make recommendations to the relevant enterprises and organisations in both countries on measures directed at effective co-operation between the respective shipping companies, charterers and shippers;
- e) not to hinder the participation of the vessels of one Contracting Party in sea trade between the ports of other Contracting Party and the ports of third countries.

ARTICLE 5

Each Contracting Party shall grant to the other Contracting Party and its vessels the Most Favoured Nation treatment in all matters concerning merchant shipping unless otherwise provided for in this Agreement.

However, the said treatment shall not extend to the advantages:

- which result from a Customs Union and/or free trade area of which either

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Contracting Party is, or may become a member;

- which the Russian Federation has granted or may grant to the states members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

ARTICLE 6

Each Contracting Party shall afford to vessels of the other Contracting Party the same treatment as it affords to its own vessels engaged in international trade in respect of free access to ports open to entry of foreign vessels, and their use for loading and unloading of cargoes and for embarking and disembarking passengers, Payments of tonnage and other port dues, use of services, intended for navigation and normal commercial operations.

- 2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article:
- a) shall not apply to the activities reserved by each of the Contracting Parties for its organisations or enterprises, including, in particular, national cabotage and ocean fishing;

b)shall not oblige a Contracting Party to extend to vessels of other Contracting Party exemptions from compulsory pilotage requirements granted to its own vessels;

c)shall not apply to the regulations concerning entry and stay of foreigners.

ARTICLE 7

The Contracting Parties shall adopt, within the limits of their laws and port regulations all appropriate measures to facilitate and expedite maritime traffic, to prevent delays to vessels, and to expedite and simplify as much as possible the carrying out of customs and other formalities applicable in ports.

ARTICLE 8

- 1. The documents relating to registration of vessels, certificates of tonnage and survey and other ship's documents issued or recognised by one of the Contracting Parties shall be recognised by the other Party.
- 2. The vessels of each of the Contracting Parties holding legally issued certificates of tonnage shall not be subjected to remeasurement in the ports of the other Party and the data specified in the certificates shall he taken as the basis for calculation of the tonnage dues.

ARTICLE 9

Each of the Contracting Parties shall recognise the seamen's identity documents issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party.

These identity documents are:

in respect of the Republic of India an Indian Seaman's Continuous Discharge Certificate.

in respect of the Russian Federation a Seaman's Passport.

ARTICLE 10

Holders of the seaman's identity documents specified in Article 9 of this Agreement shall be permitted in case of members of the crew of the vessels of the Contracting Party which issued the seaman's identity documents, to land on temporary shore leave without visa in accordance with the regulations in force in that port during stay of the vessel in port of the other Contracting Party, provided that the master had submitted the crew list to the competent authorities.

While landing and returning to the vessel the said persons shall be subject to frontier and customs control in force inthat port.

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ARTICLE 11

- 1. Holders of the seamen's identity documents specified in Article 9 of this Agreement shall be permitted to, enter by any means of transport the territory of the other Contracting Party or to pass through its territory in transit on the way to their vessel or while going to another vessel or on the way to their home country, or for travelling or any other reason which will be approved by the authorities of the other Contracting Party,
- 2. In all the cases specified in paragraph 1 of this Article the seamen must have appropriate visa of the other Contracting Party which shall be granted by the competent authorities within the shortest possible time.
- 3. If the holder of the seaman's identity document specified in Article 9 of this Agreement is not a citizen of either country, the visa specified in this Article for entry into or transit passage through the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be granted provided that return to the territory of the Contracting Party, which had issued the seaman's identity document, is guaranteed to the holder of such document.

ARTICLE 12

- 1. Subject to the provisions of Article 9 to 11 of this Agreement .. the regulations in respect of the entry, stay and departure of foreigners retain their force in the territories of the Contracting Parties.
- 2. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to deny entry into its territory to any seamen whom it considers undesirable. In that event the competent diplomatic or consular official of the Contracting Party whose seaman has been denied entry shall be informed of the decision.

ARTICLE 13

The taxation of income derived from use of vessels in international traffic shall be regulated by the provisions of an intergovernmental Agreement between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income, and until the conclusion of the above Agreement - by the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income of 20 November, 1988, notwithstanding the termination of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Merchant Shipping of 19 July, 1976.

ARTICLE 14

- 1. If a vessel of one of the Contracting Parties suffers shipwreck, runs aground, is cast ashore or suffers any other accident within the national limits of the other Contracting Party, the vessel, the crew, the passengers and the cargo shall receive, in the territory of the latter Party, the same assistance which is accorded by that Party to its national vessel, crew, passengers and cargo.
- 2. No customs duty shall be levied by one Contracting Party against a shipwrecked vessel, its cargo or stores of the other Contracting Party unless they are delivered for use in the territory of the first mentioned Party.

ARTICLE 15

The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party arising from other international agreements.

ARTICLE 16

For the purpose of efficient implementation of this Agreement and for consider-

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ation' of any other matters of mutual interest in the sphere of shipping the Contracting Parties agree to set up the Indo-Russian Joint Maritime Commission which will meet periodically and report on its activities to the Sub-group on transport of the working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Inter-Governmental Indo-Russian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological cooperation. The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Bombay and the Department of Maritime Transport of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the will form the above Commission and attend to matters of normal day to day shipping operations between the two countries.

Each Party may, if necessary, nominate any other organisation in place of the above by notifying to the other Party.

ARTICLE 17

- 1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify the other Party about completion of necessary procedures for this Agreement to enter into force. The Agreement shall enter into force after thirty days from the date of the last notification.
- 2. From the date of the entry into force of this Agreement in relations between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Merchant Shipping signed in New Delhi on 19th July, 1976 and Letters of Exchange pursuant to that Agreement of the same date shall cease to be effective.
- 3. This Agreement shall remain in force until six months from the date on which either Contracting Party shall have notified in writing to the other Party its desire to terminate or renegotiate the Agreement.

Done at New Delhi on this the 23rd day of December, 1994 in two originals each in Hindi, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

Sd/-For the Government of the Republic of India

Sd/-For the Government of the Russian Federation Dec 31, 1994

INDIA RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date: Dec 31, 1994