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Date : Jan 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

Visit of His Excellency Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 22, 1996 on a visit of His Excellency Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India:

His Excellency Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil will be paying an official visit to India from January 24-27, 1996. He will also be the Chief Guest at the celebration of the Republic Day on 26th January, 1996. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Science and Technology will be accompanying him.

During his visit, he would meet the President of the Republic of India and the Prime Minister. He will also hold official talks with the Prime Minister. He would witness the Republic Day parade on 26th January. The Vice-President and the Minister of External Affairs would also call on him.

He would be visiting Bombay on the 25th of January where he would meet the Governor and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He would also be speaking at a luncheon meeting with Indian business organised by the CII. At Delhi, he would be addressing a meeting of Indian business organised by the JBC Secretariat of FICCI at 1000 hours on the 27th January, and he will also be addressing a gathering at the India International Centre and speaking on the subject of "Social Consequences of Globalisation: Improvement or Marginalisation". His visit to India will give further impetus to bilateral relations and cooperation.

BRAZIL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date : Jan 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

External Affairs Minister of India called on President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 25, 1996 on a visit of H.E. Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India:

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, called on H.E. Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil on 24th January, 1996. External Affairs Minister welcomed President Cardoso to India and hoped that the first state visit of the President of Brazil, especially as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations, would give great impetus to bilateral relations. External Affairs Minister said that given our mutual economic reforms programmes, there exists a comparative advantage to strengthen economic and commercial ties.

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President Cardoso agreed that the two countries had common interests and could work together in all fields, political, science & technology, commercial, telecommunications and energy. The need to cooperate in international fora was underscored. He also spoke in favour of instituting chairs on Indian and Brazilian studies, in the respective countries.

The Vice President, Shri K. R. Narayanan called on the Brazilian President in the evening. He mentioned that there were great affinities between the two countries. President Cardoso concurred while stressing the importance of exchanges in the field of education and culture.

President Cardoso called on the President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma late in the evening in Rashtrapati Bhavan and discussed matters of mutual interest. The talks also focussed on multilateral issues. In particular, the need for the reorganisation of the United Nations system and for expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council was underlined.

Separately, the Brazilian Agriculture Minister accompanying President Cardoso had meetings with Shri Arvind Netam, Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh, Minister of Food and Shri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, Minister of State for Science & Technology.

The Brazilian Business delegation and Indian businessmen met in a special session of the JBC, which was addressed by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The meeting generated tremendous interest and raised expectations about the finalisation of concrete cooperative ventures between the private sectors of the two countries.

BRAZIL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 25, 1996

Volume No

1995

BRAZIL

Prime Minister of India met the President of Brazil

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 27, 1996 on a visit of the President of Brazil, H.E. Fernando Henrique Cardoso to India and was the chief Guest at the Republic Day function:

Prime Minister Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao met the President of Brazil, H.E. Fernando Henrique Cardoso at Hyderabad House on 27th January, 1996. Prime Minister extended a warm welcome to President Cardoso, who is the first Brazilian Head of State to visit India and was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day function.

The two leaders agreed that the climate was propitious and that there were numerous areas in which the two countries could cooperate fruitfully with each other. The areas identified were those of Science & Technology, Frontier Sciences, Infrastructure, Railways, Hydro-electric power, Gasohol Technology, Agriculture and Food Processing, Health and Medicine, Biotechnology, etc. They reviewed the programme drawn up for fostering science and technology cooperation.

The two leaders agreed that following economic liberalisation in their respective countries, there now existed great potential for increasing trade and economic cooperation. This was also stated by the President of Brazil at the meeting this morning at FICCI where he addressed a large gathering of Indian and Brazilian businessmen.

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The two leaders expressed a view that the two countries should cooperate at the international fora towards establishing an environment for development as well as for the reform of the entire UN system, including expansion of the Security Council. The area of cooperation on the multilateral economic agenda, such as the WTO, was also spelt out.

The Prime Minister expressed a view that given the possibilities of close and fruitful cooperation that can now be actuated between the two countries, it would be useful to set up a bilateral Joint Commission. This was readily accepted by President Cardoso.

At a signing ceremony following the meeting, the following documents were signed:

1. The Joint Indo-Brazilian Declaration.

2. Joint Statement on Brazil-India Agenda for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
3. Formation and terms of reference for Indo-Brazilian Commercial Council.
4. MOU on Cooperation in Nuclear Research.
5. Indo-Brazil Common Agenda on Environment.

Earlier, during the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers, it was agreed that there would be a regular dialogue with the MERCOSUL countries (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay). This Customs Union represents US \$ 800 Billion GDP and opens another window for India to Latin America. India is already a dialogue partner of the Rio group.

BRAZIL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA PERU PARAGUAY URUGUAY

Date : Jan 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

CAMBODIA

External Affairs Minister's visit to Cambodia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 20, 1996 on a visit to Cambodia by External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee:

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, led a three-member delegation on an official visit to Phnom Penh from 18-19 January, 1996. The visit was at the invitation of the Cambodian Foreign Minister. During his stay in Phnom Penh, External Affairs Minister called on the Acting Head of State and President of the National Assembly Samdech Chea Sim and the two Co-Prime Ministers Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen respectively.

External Affairs Minister held extensive discussions with the Cambodian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ung Huot to explore new avenues of mutual interest and areas of cooperation wherein Government of India could provide assistance and expertise to the Royal Government of Cambodia to augment its development plans.

During the visit External Affairs Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Technical and Economic

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Cooperation. The main features of the MOU are:

- i) Training of the Cambodian nationals in designated Indian institutions.
- ii) Deputation of Indian experts to Cambodia in mutually agreed fields.
- iii) Conducting of feasibility studies and setting up of pilot projects in Cambodia by Indian experts.
- iv) Extension of consultancy services by Indian experts.
- v) Setting up of joint projects.

CAMBODIA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

CAMBOIDA

Visit to India by First Prime Minister of Cambodia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 29, 1996 on a visit to India by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia:

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia is visiting India from January 29 to February 01, 1996 on his way to address the World Economic Forum at Davos. He would be accompanied by Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh and Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia, including Foreign Minister Mr. Ung Huot, Tourism Minister Mr. Veng Serevyuth and Secretaries of State for National Defence, Finance & Economy and Commerce.

The First Prime Minister shall address a luncheon meeting on "Investment Possibilities in Cambodia" organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries in Calcutta on January 29. On January 30, he will visit Holy Buddhist sites in Bihar and shall come to Delhi in the evening. On January 31, he is scheduled to call on the President of India, the Prime Minister and on the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Indian Prime Minister will host a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitaries. This is the first visit by a Head of Government from Cambodia since the Royal Government of Cambodia was formed two and a half years ago following UN-sponsored elections in the country.

CAMBODIA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

CAMBOIDA

Visit of First Prime Minister of Cambodia H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 31, 1996 on a visit of First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh to India:

H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh and other senior officials paid an official visit to India from 29-31 January, 1996. The distinguished guests visited Calcutta on 29 January, 1996. They also visited the Bodhi Temple at Gaya. In Delhi, the Cambodian First Prime Minister held talks with the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest in a very warm and cordial atmosphere. The two sides agreed to sign an Agreement for setting up a Joint Commission for Economic, Technical, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This will be signed at a later date. He also called on President of India and met Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Smt. Najma Heptullah.

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During the visit of the Cambodian First Prime Minister, a Cultural Agreement was signed between India and Cambodia. India has age-old cultural and historical ties with Cambodia. The Angkor Vat, Angkor Thom and other monuments dotting the Cambodian landscapes are a testimony to our age-old historical and cultural contacts.

The Cambodian First Prime Minister met Indian businessmen at Calcutta and Delhi and invited them to invest in Cambodia and participate in the economic development of his country.

CAMBODIA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 31, 1996

Volume No

1995

Visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1996 on a visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India:

The Prime Minister of Canada H.E. Mr. Jean Chretien was accorded a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi today by Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Chretien later called on President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and on Vice President Shri K. R. Narayanan. In the evening the two Prime Minister held a tete a tete which was followed by delegation level talks. Both sides expressed strong interest in reviving the close bilateral relationship that used to exist between the two countries and resolved to make up for lost time. The Canadian side took note of the great potential that existed in India following economic liberalisation and showed keenness in availing of the opportunities offered.

The following Agreements and MOU's were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers:

- 1) Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union Minister of Finance and Hon'ble Roy Maclaren, Minister of International Trade of Canada.
- 2) MOU on cooperation in Surface Transport by Shri R. Murthy, Minister of State for Surface Transport and Hon'ble Michael Harris, Premier of Ontario.
- 3) MOU on cooperation in Telecommunication by Shri R. K. Takkar, Secretary, Telecommunications and H.E. S.E. Gooch, Canadian High Commission.
- 4) Two MOUs on cooperation in Heavy Oil Industry by Shri B. C. Bora, CMD, ONGC & Oil India Ltd. and Mr. Biran Barge, President and CEO, Alberta Research Council.
- 5) Declaration of Intent on Treaty on Transfer of Convicted Offenders by Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haidar and Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Gooch.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao hosted a banquet in honour of the distinguished Canadian guest and his accompanying delegation.

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CANADA INDIA USA IRAN

Date : Jan 11, 1996

1995

CANADA

Joint Statement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 14, 1996 on a visit of the Prime Minister of Canada to India:

1. At the close of their discussions in New Delhi on January 14, 1996, Prime Ministers Narasimha Rao and Jean Chretien affirmed their commitment to revitalize the traditionally warm bilateral relationship between India and Canada. They shared a determination to provide a strong impetus for establishing close and broad-based cooperation between the two countries.
2. The two Prime Ministers stressed the value and mutual benefit for both countries of close and regular consultations on matters relating to the changing world situation. They agreed to expand the pace and scope of high level exchanges and bilateral consultations on the full range of political, economic, security, commercial, science, technology and social issues. They looked forward to further and regular ministerial, head-of-government and head-of-state visits.
3. The two Prime Ministers expressed confidence that the agreement signed on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the one on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection in the process of finalisation would enhance business activity between the two sides. They welcomed the conclusion of other Memoranda of Understanding, including those on cooperation in energy, telecommunications and surface transport.
4. The two leaders agreed that the ongoing economic reforms and liberalisation in India provided vast opportunities for intensifying trade and investment between India and Canada. They noted that Canada's impressive capacities in power, transportation, telecommunications, environment and food processing were well-matched to Indian needs, and indicated that every effort should be made by both sides to expand and facilitate business ventures. They also took note of the unique opportunities which the Canadian market offers to Indian exporters and the important investment opportunities which existed for India in Canada.
5. The two leaders commended the role of Canadians of Indian origin, whose dynamism has made an outstanding contribution to the prosperity and quality of life in their new home. They agreed that this large, diversified and vibrant community constituted an important and valuable bond of friendship between India and Canada.
6. The two leaders shared a common perspective on the importance of maintaining the unity of pluralistic states, based on the commitment of both India and Canada to strengthening democracy and respect for human rights, and the rich diversity of language, religion, culture and ethnicity of their two societies. The ideal of unity in diversity provides the best guarantee for stability, harmony and human rights in multi-cultural societies.

7. The two leaders were united in their determination to work together with the entire international community to combat terrorism in all its forms. They called upon all States that assist terrorists to renounce terrorism and to deny financial support, the use of their territory or any other means of support to terrorist organizations.

8. The two Prime Ministers underlined the importance of the United Nations and their continuing commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter. They agreed that the United Nations needed to be rejuvenated, and that it required adequate resources to meet the challenge before it at this particular juncture. They also agreed on the need for comprehensive

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reform and modernisation of the United Nations, including a more representative and transparent Security Council. The two leaders avowed that India and Canada would work to increase their cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral forums in their common effort to fortify these forums and contribute to international peace and security.

9. The two leaders agreed that special efforts should be made by all state in supporting the strengthening of the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. They recognized that both Canada and India share a long standing and deep dedication to the ultimate objective of nuclear disarmament, and strongly encouraged efforts by the Conference on Disarmament in that regard.

CANADA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 14, 1996

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1995

FRANCE

Condolence Message from the President of India to President of France on the Passing away of the former President of France

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1996 on the condolence message from the President of India to H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of France on the passing away of the former President of France, Mr. Francois Mitterrand:

It was with profound sorrow that I learnt of the demise of Mr. Francois Mitterrand, former President of France, on 8 January. We in India fondly recall his two visits to our country, in 1982 and 1989, and his contribution to the growth of Indo-French relations, which have historically been close and warm.

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I convey to you, to members of the bereaved family and to the people of France, our sincere and heartfelt condolences.

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

FRANCE INDIA

Date : Jan 10, 1996

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1995

FRANCE

Condolence Message from the Prime Minister of India to President of France on the Passing away of the Former President of France

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 10, 1996 on the condolence message from the Prime Minister of India to H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of France on the passing away of the former President of France, Mr. Francois Mitterrand:

"I have learnt with great distress of the passing away of former French President Mr. Mitterrand. I knew that he had been ailing for some time; but this does not by any means detract from the shock and sorrow felt at his demise.

President Mitterrand had a long and distinguished political career in France; and in the course of his Presidency, he placed his distinct stamp on French governance and public life. His many-faceted personality reflected France's great traditions in politics, art, literature

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and culture. He was an illustrious representative of your great country, and a worthy spokesman for it in global councils. His demise is a great loss to France and to the world.

I had the personal privilege of meeting President Mitterrand on several occasions. His manifold contributions to France-India friendship and cooperation, and his active interest in our bilateral ties, are remembered by us with pleasure and gratitude. Indeed, his determined advocacy of developing countries gave him a place of honour in these countries. He will be long remembered for his many achievements.

On behalf of the Government and people of India, and on my own behalf, I would like to offer heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of France. Our condolences may in particular kindly be conveyed to Madame

Mitterrand and the bereaved family".

FRANCE INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jan 10, 1996

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1995

INDIA

Agreement signed between India and Pakistan on the Prohibition of attack against Nuclear Installations and facilities

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1996 on an agreement signed between India and Pakistan on the prohibition of attack against nuclear installations and facilities:

Under the agreement on the prohibition of attack against Nuclear Installations and facilities signed in December 1988 between India and Pakistan, the two countries are to inform each other on 1st January of each calendar year of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under this agreement.

For the fifth consecutive year, India and Pakistan today exchanged through diplomatic channels, simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under this agreement.

INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Jan 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Nomination of Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha by UNDP to serve as a Distinguished Human Development Ambassador

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 03 1996 on Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha who has been nominated by the United Nations Development Programme to serve as a Distinguished Human Development Ambassador, together with world renowned

personalities:

Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha has been nominated by the United Nations Development Programme to serve as a Distinguished Human Development Ambassador, together with a small number of other outstanding, world renowned personalities. The Human Development Ambassadors would help ensure that people's concerns move to the top of the international agenda for action. By leading and participating in activities and events organized by UNDP, as a Human Development Ambassador, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla is

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expected to contribute to the establishment of a new world order based on security for people, not just security for nations, and on shared human progress and greater social justice around the globe. Along with the select group of eminent personalities, she is expected to greatly help mobilize the much needed public support for change towards global human development.

INDIA USA

Date : Jan 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Second Meeting of the India-Uganda Joint Committee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 09, 1996 on the second meeting of the India-Uganda Joint Committee, which was held in New Delhi:

The second meeting of the India-Uganda Joint Committee was held in New Delhi on January 8 and 9, 1996. The Indian delegation was led by Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs and the Ugandan delegation by Mr. Chris Katsigazi, Permanent Secretary Head of Diplomatic Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An agreement to set up the Joint Committee was signed between the two governments in August 1993 with the aim of promoting and reinforcing economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The first meeting of the Joint Committee was held in Kampala in January 1994.

The second Joint Committee meeting took place in the background of substantive economic reform and liberalisation programmes in both India and Uganda which has considerably expanded opportunities for trade and investment exchanges between the two countries. President Museveni of Uganda has taken a

keen personal interest in consolidating economic links with India. He himself led a large business delegation to India in September 1994. A delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industries also visited Uganda in June 1995 following which a joint Task Force was constituted between the CII and the Ugandan Manufacturers' Association to promote trade and investment flows between the two countries. The Ugandan Vice President Mrs. Wandira Kazibwe is also leading a delegation to attend the CII centenary celebrations in Bombay later this month. A Joint Business Council was set up in September 1994 and is expected to hold its first meeting in February 1996. There is considerable interest among the Indian private sector industry to do business in Uganda. The Mehta Group is already well established in Uganda in the fields of sugar, cables, paper, insurance, banking, etc. The Roadmaster Industries has set up a bicycle manufacturing unit in Kampala recently. The Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation, a joint sector company, is negotiating a contract for setting up a phosphoric acid and TSP plant at Tororo in eastern Uganda. The Birla Engineering Services are interested in setting up a sponge iron plant in Uganda. After a gap of over two decades, Air India has recommenced services to Entebbe from January 1996.

During the Joint Committee meeting both sides reviewed the progress of their cooperation in various sectors such as trade, agriculture, minerals and mining, energy, transport, civil aviation and tourism, education and training, and culture and sports. Specific proposals are under consideration for Indian assistance to Uganda in the fields of road construction, non-conventional energy resources, and cost-effective housing.

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INDIA UGANDA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jan 09, 1996

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INDIA

Visit of Secretary General of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 18, 1996 on a visit of Mr. Jean Claude Paye, Secretary General of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to India:

Mr. Jean Claude Paye, Secretary General of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is visiting Bombay and New Delhi from January 20-23, 1996. This is the Secretary General's first official visit to India. During his stay in India, the Secretary General is expected to meet the External Affairs Minister, the Finance Minister, the Industries Minister, the Commerce

Minister and other senior government officials, including Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will be interacting with leading businessmen, industrialists and bankers at Bombay and Delhi. Meetings are being organised jointly by the Indian Merchantes Chamber (IMC) and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) in Bombay, and by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI in Delhi. The Secretary General will also hold discussions with academics and think-tanks like Research and Information System for the Non-aligned and other Developing countries (RIS), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). Secretary General is expected to pay a visit to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and meet senior officials of the BSE. The Secretary General also proposes to address a Press Conference in New Delhi.

2. OECD is an economic policy consultation and think tank organisation of 26 developed market economy countries (DMECs) that have a major share in the world economy in trade and investment; play a major role in determination of global policies in finance, trade, technology and environmental issues; and are India's major partners in these areas. It will be recalled that the OECD Ministerial Meeting of December 1994 had decided to engage India, as one of the big three Dynamic Non-Member Economies (DNMEs) (other two being Indonesia and China) in a policy dialogue. The Secretary General's visit is part of the increasing exchanges between India and the OECD within the framework of the expanding policy dialogue relationship. The visit is expected to provide an opportunity for mutual exchange of views, policy experiences and better understanding of economic issues of common concern.

INDIA USA CHINA INDONESIA

Date : Jan 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of Foreign Minister of Iran to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 13, 1996 on a visit of H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of Iran to India:

H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of Iran, called on Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs today. The discussions between the two leaders covered Indo-Iran bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

2. The two leaders agreed that, in the tradition of the close and friendly relations between their countries, bilateral co-

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operation was proceeding well. It had been enhanced in the last few years and important projects were now being actively pursued. They looked forward to the successful implementation of these projects.

3. The two Ministers exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan and called for an end to violence there so that the people of Afghanistan could lead their lives in peace.
4. The Minister of External Affairs briefed Dr. Velayati on the efforts being made by the SAARC countries to strengthen cooperation among themselves. Dr. Velayati welcomed these developments and said that there were possibilities of cooperation between SAARC and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).
5. The meeting was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

IRAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Jan 13, 1996

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1995

LAOS

External Affairs Minister's visit to Laos

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 19, 1996 on External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Laos:

External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee accompanied by his wife, Smt. Suvra Mukherjee arrived Vientiane, Laos this afternoon from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. At the airport, he was warmly received by the Foreign Minister of Lao PDR, Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, his wife and other senior officials of the Government of Laos. Welcoming Shri and Smt. Mukherjee were the Ambassador of India, Shri Himachal Som, and his wife, Dr. Reba Som, members of the Indian Community and Embassy. Almost the entire Indian community of around 100, led by the President of the Indian Association, Mr. E.A. Rahim, turned up with their families at the airport waiving Indian and Lao flags and greeted the visiting dignitary. The Minister was accompanied by Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and Smt. Nilima Mitra, Joint Secretary.

This is the First visit by a Cabinet-level Minister to Laos for more than a decade. The Minister was visiting Laos at the invitation of his Lao counterpart, who had visited India in August, 1994 and had signed two Agreements on Economic & Cultural Cooperation.

Shortly after his arrival, the Minister went to the Lao Foreign Office for a two-hour session of discussions with his Lao counterpart on bilateral matters as also a survey of the international scene. It is understood that the two Ministers discussed various ways of reinvigorating the historical and civilizational relationship by introducing new economic content, especially in the fields of agriculture, human resource development, mining and infrastructure development in Laos. One of the most important areas of emerging cooperation appears to be Agriculture. As a result of the recent visit by the Lao Agriculture Minister to India, several areas of cooperation have been identified including deputation of Indian experts to assist their Lao counterparts in wide-ranging areas of specialisation covering agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and irrigation. There is also a proposal for a joint venture to produce agricultural pumps in Laos with a US \$ 2 million soft term 15 years loan extended to Laos. The two Ministers discussed ways of enhancing

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cooperation in human resource development. Shri Mukherjee expressed India's interest in participating in infrastructural development projects in Laos including construction projects and hydro-electric projects. It is understood that the Government of India has also agreed to assist Laos in the mining sector by deputing a team of experts to carry out a feasibility study on mining of potash in Lao PDR. India has been importing potash for its fertilizer industry. A Cultural Exchange Programme detailing cooperation in the field of education, culture, health and mass media, was also discussed. The CEP will be signed by Mr. Vang Lattavong, Director General in the Lao Foreign Office and Smt. Nilima Mitra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs on 21st January 1996 before the departure of External Affairs Minister.

The two Ministers also discussed about furthering cooperation in international relations including cooperation in international organisations and regionally. External Affairs Minister briefed the Lao side about Pakistan's assistance to terrorist and fundamentalist forces in Jammu and Kashmir and of threat of international terrorism. It is understood that the Lao side fully appreciated India's concern and reiterated their well-known view that the matter should be settled bilaterally and peacefully between India and Pakistan. The two sides also discussed about the need of reforming the United Nations and of restructuring the United Nations Security Council so as to reflect the realities of today's world and of giving greater representation to developing countries.

After the bilateral talks, the Minister called on His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh, President and His Excellency Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR. The Lao leaders expressed their satisfaction with the close bilateral relationship between the two countries and discussed ways and means of further improving the historical relationship. They also expressed appreciation of the historic role played by India as Chairman of the International Control Commission on Indo-China and of the role presently being played by India in international Affairs as leader of the NAM movement and of the South. The Lao leaders informed Shri Mukherjee about the steps that have been taken by Laos towards the development of a market-oriented economy and of the progress achieved so far. Shri Mukherjee, while explaining economic reforms in India, stated that India was particularly appreciative of the New Economic Mechanism

policies of the Government of Laos. He also expressed to the Lao leaders about India's desire to play a greater role in the economic development of Laos and that Indian companies were particularly interested in participation in infrastructural development projects in Laos. External Affairs Ministers was informed by the Lao leaders about Lao intent to join the ASEAN and play a greater role both regionally and internationally. Shri Mukherjee, while welcoming these developments, briefed the Lao leaders about India's relationship with ASEAN and that India considered itself to be natural partners in the economic development of this region as well as sharing its security concern.

Shri Mukherjee handed over a letter from Prime Minister cordially inviting the Lao Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, to visit India during 1996. The invitation was warmly accepted and the dates of the visit are to be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Same evening, the Foreign Minister of Laos held a dinner in honour of Shri and Smt. Mukherjee.

A Joint Press Communique will be issued on 21st January shortly before External Affairs Minister's departure.

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LAOS INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CAMBODIA PERU USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
PAKISTAN CHINA

Date : Jan 19, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 24, 1996 on a visit of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Nepal:

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, heading a high-level delegation comprising the Foreign Secretary, Secretaries in the Ministry of Power and Water Resources, as well as representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs and Commerce, is paying an official visit to Nepal from January 26-28, 1996. This is the first Ministerial visit from India to Nepal since the new coalition Government came into power in Nepal.

India has always enjoyed close and cordial relations with Nepal. Bilateral relations were given a boost during the visits of former Deputy Prime Minister

Madhav Kumar Nepal to India in February 1995 and former Prime Minister Adhikari in April 1995; these visits resulted in a better understanding of matters of mutual concern. We are confident that relations with Nepal would be further expanded with the forthcoming visit of External Affairs Minister to Nepal.

During the visit Shri Pranab Mukherjee will call on H.M. the King and Prime Minister Deuba. External Affairs Minister would be holding discussions with a Nepalese delegation led by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. Prakash Chand Lohani, on January 27, 1996. The two sides would discuss means of expanding cooperation in various fields, including trade, investment and cooperation in water resources. We are confident that the visit would mark a major step in finalising concrete steps for cooperation in various fields, in particular in the harnessing of water resources for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

NEPAL INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Discussion on Political and Economic Developments in the region and elsewhere by the two leaders

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, 1996 on discussion by two leaders, Mr. Lee Chuan Yew, Senior Minister in the Government of Singapore and Prime Minister of India on political and economic developments in the region and elsewhere:

In welcoming Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister in the Government of Singapore, Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao expressed the hope that Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's interaction with Ministers and Officials, business and others in India would give him an idea of the great changes that were taking place in our country. These changes, particularly in the economic field, now had a virtual consensus in the country and were irreversible. In this context, the Prime Minister stressed the value of deepening and diversifying India-Singapore interaction in various field. Senior

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Minister Lee Kuan Yew said in response that he was happy to have this opportunity of visiting India and was impressed by the changes that had been brought about in the last three to four years. In his view, India needed to maintain this process in order to register good growth in the years ahead. The Senior Minister also referred to India's increased interaction with ASEAN which he said would be mutually beneficial.

In detailing our economic reforms to Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister stressed that an important element was the additional resources that the Government could now allocate for improving the conditions of the most vulnerable sections of the society. For a country like India, economic reforms with a human face were imperative.

The two leaders exchanged views on political and economic developments in the region and elsewhere. They felt that increased India-Singapore contacts in various fields could provide useful contributions in strengthening stability and development in the region and around the world.

USA INDIA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Jan 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Minister of Iran 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 08, 1996 on a visit of H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of Iran to India:

H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of Iran will be visiting India from 11-13 January, 1996. He will be in Bombay on 12 January, 1996 to take part in the CII Centenary celebrations and in Delhi on 13 January, 1996 for discussions with the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on matters of mutual interest.

INDIA IRAN UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 08, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Canada on India's Nuclear Tests

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 08, 1996 on a press report titled "India bows to Canadian pressure" which states that Canada sought and obtained an assurance from India that no second nuclear test in Pokhran was being planned:

The Government of India has seen a press report titled "India bows to Canadian pressure" which states that Canada sought and obtained an assurance from India that no second nuclear test in Pokhran was being planned, as a pre condition for Prime Minister Jean Chretien's visit to India. This is baseless and there is no truth in it.

Responding to a query regarding certain Provincial Prime Ministers dropping out of the delegation, the Spokesman remarked that it was not for the Government of India to comment on an internal matter of Canada.

When asked whether the part of the press report pertaining to correspondence between the two Prime Ministers was also baseless, the Spokesman replied in the negative.

In response to another question on whether any assurance was given by the Prime Minister or any other Government functionary on nuclear testing by India, the Spokesman drew attention to a remark by the External Affairs Minister at the Press Conference held at the conclusion of the 16th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers.

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CANADA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 08, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Report on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

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, 1996 on a report on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:

In response to a query on a report appearing in the "Business Standard" that India was giving in to pressure on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Spokesman stated that there is no change in the Government of India's position. The report in the "Business Standard" is unfounded and not based on facts.

On being requested to state India's position on CTBT, the Spokesman drew attention to the Prime Minister's address at the recent NAM Summit at Cartagena and to the statement made by the External Affairs Minister at the 50th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at New York.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COLOMBIA

Date : Jan 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Rocket attack on a Mosque in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jan 30, 1996 on the rocket attack on a mosque in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir:

Pakistan has embarked upon a campaign to attribute the rocket attack on a mosque in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to India. This is a false allegation which the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence has totally rejected. Pakistan's quest for maligning India is continuous and unabated. This is part of that familiar exercise.

2. We have experienced sustained firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control in the past few days in a deliberate attempt to build up tension. The Minister of External Affairs has called for de-escalation of tension. It is emphasised that there is no threat to peace and security in the region from India.

3. India has had to withstand a sustained campaign of terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. Despite all provocation, India has exercised restraint. We have been at the forefront of international efforts to combat terrorism and can never resort to an action as despicable as targeting innocent people offering Namaz in a mosque.

4. Pakistan has become a haven for terrorists who have spread terror in India and in many parts of the world. Pakistan's deep involvement in the sponsorship of global terrorism is by now well documented. Instead of holding India responsible for this tragedy, Pakistan should look within itself.

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PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : Jan 30, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Indian Hockey Team unable to participate in the World Youth Hockey Festival at Rawalpindi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 02, 1996 on the under-18 Indian Hockey Festival at Rawalpindi Pakistan on account of the non-issuance of visas by the Pakistani authorities:

The under-18 Indian Hockey team was unable to participate in the World Youth Hockey Festival currently underway at Rawalpindi, Pakistan on account of the non-issuance of visas by the Pakistani authorities. The Indian team had applied for visas well in time.

The decision of the Pakistani authorities is in sharp contrast to the helpful approach which has consistently been adopted by India in promoting people-to-people interaction between the two countries. In keeping with this policy, Pakistani teams and sportspersons are welcomed whenever they choose to participate in a sporting event in India. In the most recent case over 200 Pakistani sportspersons and officials were given visas in time and were permitted to come by special aircraft to Madras to participate in the SAF Games.

The decision to effectively prevent the visit of the under-18 Indian hockey team is a deliberate move to inhibit the normalisation of relations. We firmly believe that the interaction between people, especially the youth of the two countries, is needed if there is to be an enduring good neighbourly relationship between the two countries.

PAKISTAN INDIA MALI

Date : Jan 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

Message from the Prime Minister of India to President of the State of Palestine of his Election as the Ra'ees of the

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 23 1996 on message from the Prime Minister to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine of his election as the Ra'ees of the Executive Authority of the Palestinian Council:

"It gives me great pleasure to convey, on behalf of the Government and people of India, as well as on my own behalf, warmest greetings and felicitations on your election as the Ra'ees of the Executive Authority of the Palestinian Council. The successful holding of the elections to the Palestinian Council is a tribute to your wise and able leadership, as well as testimony to your personal commitment to furthering the democratic process.

India and Palestine are bound by historic ties of friendship and cooperation. India's unequivocal commitment and support for the Palestinian people remains firm. India strongly supports the ongoing Middle East Peace Process and is ready to provide moral, material and technical sup-

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port for furthering the economic development of the region.

I am confident that the successful conduct of the elections, and your enlightened leadership, will lay the foundations for the progress and prosperity of the Palestinian people who have endured many trials and tribulations. We look forward to continuing our association with this process.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and my personal regards".

INDIA

Date : Jan 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Visit of Former Prime Minister of Singapore and now Senior Minister in the Singapore Government

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 01, 1996 on a visit of H.E. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore and now Senior Minister in the Singapore government, accompanied by Mrs. Lee to India:

H.E. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew former Prime Minister of Singapore and now Senior Minister in the Singapore Government, accompanied by Mrs. Lee, will pay a visit

to India from January 3-5, 1996, at the invitation of our Prime Minister.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has been on official visits to India six times earlier, the last being in 1990. The present visit would, however, be his first after the end of the Cold War and the opening up of the Indian economy. He will be accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong; Acting Minister of Environment and Senior Minister of State for Defence H.E. RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean and a 26-member business delegation.

During the visit, Senior Minister Lee will have discussion with Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao, who will host a lunch in his honour. External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will also have interactions with the Senior Minister. Mr. Lee is scheduled to have an exchange of views with a cross-section of Opposition leaders including Shri L. K. Advani, Shri A. B. Vajpayee and others. The Senior Minister is scheduled to address a gathering of intellectuals and opinionmakers at the India International Centre on "Survival Through Efficiency" and also address Captains of the Indian Industry on "Tryst with Destiny -not to be delayed."

There has been a significant development of India-Singapore political and economic relations in recent years with three Prime-Ministerial visits within a span of 13 months (Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong visited India in January, 1994; Prime Minister Narasimha Rao visited Singapore in September, 1994; and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong again visited India in January, 1995 to attend the CII Centenary Celebrations).

In 1994-95, the trade figures stand at Rs. 50591 million, as compared to Rs. 43061 million the previous year. There are 54 Indian joint ventures in Singapore, compared to just 13 in 1991. Singapore has launched several investment ventures in India including its flagship venture in the field of information technology in Banga-

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lore. Singapore's direct investment in India approved during 1995 was Rs. 2529.6 million, as against Rs. 667.4 million in 1993, thus placing Singapore 10th in the list of foreign investors in India. The visit of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew is expected to give a boost to the ongoing economic relations.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 04, 1996 on discussion of bilateral economic relations between two countries of External Affairs Minister's meeting with Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister in government of Singapore:

At External Affairs Minister's meeting with Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister in the government of Singapore, matters of interest to the two countries concerning bilateral economic relations were discussed. External Affairs Minister briefed Senior Minister Lee on important aspects of our economic reform and liberalisation programme drawing attention to government's commitment to carrying out this programme in a meaningful manner, and the general national support it enjoyed. Senior Minister Lee recounted Singapore's experience since the sixties in attracting foreign direct investment, and the benefits gained from this in terms of inputs of capital and technology, as well as Singapore's policy of investments about and its foreign economic relations. He conveyed Singapore's continued interest in economic partnership with India as a foreign investor in the Indian economy, and of fruitful economic exchanges. The meeting was held at an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill. Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, and acting Minister for Environment/Senior Minister of State for Defence were also present.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of Thailand, Cambodia and Laos by External Affairs Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 12, 1996 on a visit to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos by External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee:

External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, accompanied by Smt. Mukherjee will pay official visits to Thailand (January 16-18), Cambodia (January 18-19) and Laos (January 19-21) at the invitation of his counterpart for these three countries. His delegation will include among others, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Raghunath.

India and the countries of South East Asia, in particular Thailand, Cambodia and Laos are bound by historical, cultural and religious links, as well as centuries old contacts between the peoples of the two countries. This has

provided the background, and the setting for a close interaction between India and each of these countries, Relations with them have traditionally been close and cordial. Our exchanges in the economic, commer-

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cial, cultural, educational and other fields have developed steadily over the years. Our relations are characterised by mutual goodwill. There is also a good understanding with each of three countries on our respective perceptions on important regional and international issues. We maintain good contact with them in international fora such as the Non-Aligned Movement, UN, South-South Cooperation fora, and elsewhere. High level visits exchanged with these countries have given further impetus to the development of our relations with them. India's interaction with Thailand, Cambodia and Laos in each case been mutually beneficial and has also been a factor for peace and stability in the region. In particular, it has contributed to the further development of relations between India and South-East-Asia/ASEAN.

These relationships have acquired a new importance, in view of the fact that India and each of these countries are, at an important stage in their overall development, particularly economic. Both regions are at the crossroads of history. The Indian economy has achieved a certain dynamism, after the adoption of radically new policies in trade and investment. South-East-Asia has also registered phenomenal success. This trend has opened up new possibilities for economic and commercial interaction, which would match India's strong and diversified industrial and agricultural base, technology and human resources with the dynamic growth profile of South-East-Asia. The interaction between the business communities of India and the countries in South-East-Asia/ASEAN has already begun to reflect this new trend and there is a new growth in our economic relationship with this area.

At the political level, the end of the cold war has produced a new atmosphere with its own opportunities and challenges and on the whole a positive climate for the further strengthening of relations with each of these three countries. The forthcoming visit of the External Affairs Minister should be seen against this background.

The first sector of the visit will be Bangkok. External Affairs Minister will co-chair the third meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission. The last two meetings were held in 1989 in Thailand and in 1993 in India, with the Foreign Ministers of the two sides as co-Chairman. Apart from discussions with the Thai Foreign Minister Mr. Kasem S. Kasemsri, Shri Mukherjee is also expected to meet Thai leaders including the Prime Minister H.E. Banharn Silpaarcha, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister H.E. Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Transport and Communications Minister Mr. Wan Mohammad Nor Matha. He is also scheduled to address the Indo-Thai Joint Venture Forum. This organisation set up a few years ago is composed of the Chief Executives of the Indo-Thai Joint Ventures located in Thailand, along with other leading NRI businessmen in Thailand. It will provide a very useful opportunity for External Affairs Minister to interact with leading business, financial, academic and media personalities in Thailand. Relations with Thailand have developed satisfactorily, particularly in recent years. Visits have been exchanged regularly over the last few years at the level of Prime Minister and the Foreign

Minister. There have also been other Ministerial level visits. The last major visit was that of Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in April, 1993. This was followed by the meeting of the Joint Commission in India of the same year. Trade and economic exchanges have developed steadily and the growth has been particularly notable in the last few years. In 1991, our bilateral trade reached a high point of \$ 1 billion. After a decline, it has again picked up and is moving upward. The turnover in 1994-95 was over \$575 million and the 1995-96 trend is again upward. Two way investment is another important area in our economic cooperation. Thailand became an important investor country soon after we adopted the liberalisation programme. Today it has emerged as the third largest investor. The approved collaborations as of now are in agriculture, various sectors of aqua culture and marine products, fisheries, hotels, tourism, polyester yarn, industry, consultancy etc. We have recently approved the opening of the branch of a major Thai bank in India. There are further possibilities of

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investment in areas such as food processing, where India and Thailand have their own respective strengths. India for its part has 21 joint venture companies in a wide range of areas e.g. rayon, fibre, steel paper pharmaceuticals, real estate. These joint ventures involve contribution of both capital and technology from India. There is further scope for Indian joint ventures in Thailand in railways, petroleum sector, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cement, automative sector, industrial components, infrastructure development etc. The Joint Commission meeting will review progress in trade, investment and other areas of economic cooperation and will also identify new areas. It will also feature continuation of discussions on steps by which both sides can be better informed about each other's capabilities and the possibilities in trade and investment e.g. through exchanges of delegations trade fairs etc.

Also noteworthy is the tradition of cultural cooperation between India and Thailand-A full-fledged Festival of India in Thailand was inaugurated on December 13, 1995 and is currently underway in Thailand. There are also student exchanges.

Apart from this, there is good mutual understanding between India and Thailand on leading regional and international developments and issues. Thailand has been supportive of the moves for better mutually beneficial interaction between India and ASEAN. The decision that India should be a full dialogue partner with ASEAN was taken at the last ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok in December, 1995. This will add a significant new dimension to our relations with ASEAN. There is also convergence of view with Thailand on matter relating to South-South cooperation. It is expected that talks which External Affairs Minister will hold with the leaders of Thailand will lead to further understanding and development of our relations in different areas.

In the second sector of his visit, External Affairs Minister will be in Cambodia where he is scheduled to meet his counterpart H.E. Mr. Ung Huot apart from calling on the two Co-Prime Ministers, Prince Norodom Ranaridh and Mr. Hun Sen and the President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, Chea Sim. He will also have an audience with His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia. Cambodia and India have interacted intensive and fruitfully over the centuries, in the fields of culture, art and religion. This is evident in the cultural

forms of present day. Relations with Cambodia in the period following its independence were very warm, close and friendly. In recent years, the people and government of Cambodia have been engaged in restoring peace and stability, following the tragic war and civil conflict which the country went through. India has contributed in the process of national reconstruction. We were among the largest participants in the UN peace keeping operations in Cambodia, as part of the activity of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Besides this, we have also offered assistance in areas such as health and technical education. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertook the major task of preservation and restoration of the world famous Angkor Wat monuments over a period of seven years (1986-93). It is expected that the visit will continue the traditions of high level contacts, and also provide occasion for discussing ways of strengthening cooperation in the economic, cultural and other areas.

The third and last sector of External Affairs Minister's visit will be to Laos (January 19-21). He will be meeting with the Laotian Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad and also call on the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Khamtay Siphandone and the President H.E. Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh. Laos also has traditionally very close historical, cultural and religious links with India. Buddhism was introduced there by Indian monks, and there is a strong linguistic connection. After independence, relations with Laos have been consistently warm and friendly, and there is a long tradition of cooperation in the Non-Aligned Movement and other fora. Like Cambodia, Laos has also suffered greatly because of war and civil

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conflict. India's endeavour has been to help as best as possible in their national reconstruction. Accordingly, special efforts are being made to activate economic cooperation. There are many possibilities in agriculture, mining, infrastructure, hydel projects, small and medium industries, technical education and other training areas. The Agriculture Minister of Laos visited recently and a number of areas for further cooperation have been identified. There is an ongoing programme for technical training, student exchange etc. Cultural cooperation is another important areas of interchange.

It should be noted that Laos and Cambodia have also been admitted as observers in ASEAN. This makes these two visits relevant in the ASEAN context as a whole. In overall terms, these visits are an important part of the new importance being attached by India to our relations with South-East-Asia.

THAILAND CAMBODIA LAOS INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PERU

Date : Jan 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit to Thailand for the Third Session of the Indo-Thai Joint Commission Meeting by the Minister for External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 16, 1996 on three day visit to Thailand for the Third Session of the Indo-Thai Joint Commission Meeting by Minister for External Affairs, Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee:

Minister for External Affairs, Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, arrived this morning on a three day visit to Thailand for the Third Session of the Indo-Thai Joint Commission Meeting. In the afternoon, the External Affairs Minister visited the Grand Palace to pay respects to the mortal remains of the Princess Mother, His Majesty the King's mother, who passed away in July 1995. Thereafter, External Affairs Minister called on the Thai Minister for Transport and Communications, H.E. Mr. Wan Muhamad Nor Matha. External Affairs Minister briefed the Thai Minister on India's economic reforms and outlined in some detail the possibilities of cooperation particularly in the railway sector in the light of Thailand's plans to upgrade and expand its railway network. This, inter-alia, includes possibilities of supply of passenger coaches and freight wagons as well as possible involvement in track upgradation and construction of new lines. Referring to Shri Suresh Kalamadi's invitation to the Thai Minister to visit India, External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that the visit will take place soon. The Thai Minister responded warmly to the invitation and said he is looking forward to an early visit. He expressed interest in collaboration and cooperation with India in the railway sector. He added that detailed technical discussions could take place between the railway authorities of the two countries and a Working Group could be set up for this purpose. Later in the evening, External Affairs Minister is scheduled to call on the Thai Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. M. R. Kasem S. Kasemsri, and review bilateral relations. The Thai Foreign Minister is hosting a dinner in honour of External Affairs Minister.

Earlier in the day, the senior officials wrapped up their discussions which began yesterday morning and included broadening and deepening mutual cooperation and interaction in diverse fields including bilateral, trade, investment, industrial cooperation, joint ventures, fisheries, agriculture, civil aviation, culture, academic exchanges, science and technology, technical cooperation etc. The discussions were held in a spirit of great cordiality and warmth and both sides agreed that bilateral relations are developing most satisfactorily. India responded to support in particular to the Thai proposal for Trilateral Economic Cooperation between India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Both sides agreed that the details would need to be discussed further in due course.

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THAILAND INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA SRI LANKA

Date : Jan 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Thailand

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 18, 1996 on a visit of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs to Thailand:

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs, met the Foreign Minister of Thailand on 16 January, 1996. During the meeting, the Thai Foreign Minister welcomed India's more active involvement with ASEAN, consequent on its upgraded status. The External Affairs Minister conveyed India's deep appreciation and indicated that India looked forward to closer interaction with ASEAN. External Affairs Minister also briefed him about the recent developments in SAARC, in particular the successful conclusion of arrangements for making SAPTA operational and initiation of the move towards SAPTA by the year 2000 or 2005.

The External Affairs Minister called on the Prime Minister of Thailand on 17 January, 1996. During the call, External Affairs Minister reiterated our Prime Minister's invitation to the Thai Prime Minister to visit India. Both sides reviewed the successful discussions in the context of the Joint Commission Meeting and expressed the hope that the deliberations will accelerate cooperation in diverse fields.

During his meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that his visit to India would materialise soon. Referring to the first Joint Naval Exercises held last year, External Affairs Minister hoped that this would become a regular feature. He also mentioned about the possibilities of further cooperation in ordnance and training sectors.

The Agreed Minutes following the discussions during the Joint Commission, were signed by the two Foreign Ministers, amidst expression of great warmth and cordiality. The two Ministers also signed the Process-Verbal of the Exchange of the Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Maritime Boundary between the two countries in the Andaman Sea from Point 7 to the Trijunction Point between Thailand, India and Myanmar.

THAILAND INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

TURKEY

Visit of Turkish Chief of General Staff to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jan 11, 1996 on a visit of Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Ismail Hakki Karadayi to India:

Turkish Chief of General Staff Ismail Hakki Karadayi called on Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao this morning. The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere reflecting the growing ties between the two countries in political and other fields. It was the first visit of its kind from Turkey and General Karadayi expressed interest in strengthening the bilateral relationship. He underscored Turkey's commitment to democracy and secularism and explained Turkey's efforts in seeking peaceful and diplomatic solutions to regional problems. Prime Minister noted the importance of political dialogue

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between the two sides and conveyed his best wishes to the Turkish leadership.

In the afternoon General Karadayi called on the External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. During this meeting, the General highlighted commonalities in the politics and societies of the two countries-making particular reference to shared secular and democratic principles. Karadayi referred to India as a global power with enormous potential and stated that relations with India were a priority for Turkey. Karadayi briefed External Affairs Minister on the region surrounding Turkey and was in turn briefed about India's neighbourhood. External Affairs Minister told Karadayi about the destabilising impact of terrorist activities that was being felt in India. Both sides spoke in favour of resolving outstanding problems through peaceful negotiations.

General Karadayi is scheduled to visit Bangalore and Bombay before leaving India. He is expected to get a first-hand glimpse of the technological advances made by India in diverse spheres.

TURKEY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Jan 11, 1996

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

32 Member UK Delegation to attend India Intechmart '96

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jan 31, 1996 on 32 member UK delegation to attend India Intechmart 1996:

A 32-member high level delegation is coming from United Kingdom to participate in the India Intechmart scheduled to begin on February 17 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Indications are that major delegation from Canada, Germany, Australia, Oman, Burundi etc. will also be attending the annual technology fair.

India Intechmart Investment and Technology Market is organised by the Ministry of Industry in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to give an equal stress on the technology aspects of industry along with foreign investment. This year the four sectors identified for focussed attention are chemicals, food processing, textiles and electricals.

It is expected that the Intechmart '96 will be attended by over 400 project sponsors, representatives of State Governments, research and development organisations, private sector industry associations.

A high level official-cum-business delegation from Mauritius will also be participating in Intechmart'96. The delegation would consist of senior representatives from Small and Medium Industries Development Organisation, Export Processing Development Authority, Mauritius as well as business delegates. The Government of Thailand is also sending a four member senior delegation to act as observers at Intechmart so that a similar event could be organised in Thailand in the near future.

Intechmart-95 which was held in March last year was represented by over 300 foreign and Indian companies from 37 countries and industrial organisations. 22 Letters of Intent envisaging an investment of approximately US \$50 million were obtained and 3000 business contacts established during the fair, last year.

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INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CANADA GERMANY USA BURUNDI OMAN MAURITIUS THAILAND

Date : Jan 31, 1996

Volume No

1995

Joint Indo-Brazilian Declaration

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso visited India as the Guest of Honour of the Government of India to the celebrations of the fortyseventh Republic Day of India in January, 1996. This first visit to India of a President of Brazil launches a new phase in the relationship between the two countries.

2. This visit is especially propitious as the present period is witnessing far-reaching historic changes which are destined to transform the world.
3. The end of the Cold War and the evolution of a world in which ideological conflicts no longer play any significant role, has opened prospects for attaining global security and stability. This offers both opportunities and challenges for meaningful cooperation among States, which is underlined by the several successful international conferences on global issues.
4. India and Brazil, which are countries fully and constructively engaged in their respective regions, also have a global vision, with diversified interests in other areas of the world, and actively participate in all international issues. They are convinced that given their common aims and goals on global issues, ideal conditions exist for immediate endeavours towards intensifying the mutually advantageous dialogue.
5. India and Brazil, countries of continental dimensions, face similar problems in their struggle for social and economic development. In their attempts to equitably integrate into the world economy, they share a common vision of the international economic environment.
6. They share common perceptions on an extensive list of topics of the international agenda and positions which are non-sectarian, non-confrontational and non-authoritarian. Thus, an improved understanding between countries of such importance as India and Brazil assumes still greater relevance.
7. They believe that democracy and the rule of law are now accepted by an increasing number of States. They also believe that Governments are increasingly aware that for progress and development, economic reforms and integration into the world economy are necessary.
8. However, the world is not yet free from tension and violence. New challenges to security and stability are emerging. There are growing threats from forces of aggressive nationalism, extremism and terrorism, which need to be countered.
9. India and Brazil, being responsible members of the world community, recognize the responsibility for opposing threats to democracy and peace. They reiterate the need for peaceful settlement of all disputes. They are convinced that the guiding principles of democratic polity, such as equality, rule of law, observance of human rights, freedom of choice and tolerance should be equally

applicable to international relations. Relations among nations must be based on respect for sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and peaceful co-existence.

10. Both countries are convinced that destabilisation through promotion of terrorism is a threat to civilized societies. They advocate unconditional observance of the principles of respect for territorial integrity of States.

11. India and Brazil reiterate their commitment to the objective of general and complete disarmament, essential for the

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maintenance of international peace and security. They emphasize the need for commencing multilateral negotiations on a priority basis, on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework. They affirmed that they would work together for the conclusion of a CTBT which would be an integral step in a time bound programme for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and which should not contain any loopholes that would permit nuclear weapon States to continue developing and refining their nuclear arsenals. They agree to continue consultations on these issues.

12. India and Brazil take note of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Organisation, and underline the need for it to adapt itself to the new global realities. They called for restructuring and reform of the United Nations system in order to ensure a more just and democratic international order.

13. India and Brazil agree that the UN's functioning should be made more democratic, and the Security Council should be expanded so that it is truly representative of the membership of the United Nations. Developing countries, who account for the overwhelming majority of the UNGA membership, should be fully represented in the permanent members' category of the restructured Security Council. They also agree that the reform and the expansion of the Security Council should be an integral part of a common package. They expressed the view that the permanent presence of developing countries marked both by the ability to act globally and an effective global presence, such as India and Brazil, in a restructured UN Security Council would be a positive factor towards efforts to usher in a peaceful, just and equitable world order, and make the Security Council more representative, effective and legitimate.

14. Among the challenges faced by today's world the following should be underlined:

- economic and social development
- eradication of poverty
- eradication of illiteracy
- conservation of the environment

- elimination of the scourge of terrorism

Facing these challenges demands the unbending will and efforts of governments and more intense cooperation among them.

15. India and Brazil reaffirm their commitment to foster global consensus on development with a view to creating a more equitable international economic order. They reaffirm their commitment to oppose protectionism and to promote international trade. They call upon the developed countries to make their markets more accessible to exports of products in which developing countries enjoy current and emerging comparative advantage. In this regard, they view with concern attempts to introduce new conditionalities and restrictions on grounds of environmental protection, technical standards and observance of international labour standards. They also feel that emphasis should be given to implementing the result of the already extensive Uruguay Round Agreements and not attempt to overload the Agenda of the WTO. India and Brazil would like the integrity of the WTO and its dispute settlement mechanism to be maintained and respected. They reaffirm the respect for decisions reached by consensus at the global conferences on environment and development, human rights, social development, population and protection of women's rights.

16. India and Brazil observe that the present international economic environment, was still unfavourable to the developing countries despite the serious efforts made by them to restructure their economies. They call upon the international community to find a solution to ease the debt burden on the developing countries. They recalled the just ended conference of the Group of Fifteen held in Argentina

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and commence the G-15 for calling for greater cooperation among the developing countries.

17. India and Brazil attach importance to strengthening the development functions of the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions (the IMF and the World Bank) and stress that these institutions should be enabled to carry out their mandated functions effectively.

18. The two countries agree that geographical distance should not constitute an obstacle to a mutually advantageous and fruitful cooperation.

19. They are convinced that complementarities between their economies exist and are growing. They pledge to take full advantage of their liberalisation processes and consolidation of their regional integration schemes to expand Indo-Brazilian trade, investment and technology ties.

20. The meeting of the two cultures, one ancient and the other new but both vibrant and vital, is the cornerstone of the renewed relationship. Hence, it is important for both countries to know each other better towards the enhancement of their relationship in other areas.

21. The two countries are to develop and implement an integrated programme of cultural exchange. The seminar organised by IPRI (Instituto de Presquias em

Relacoes Internacionais) in Rio de Janeiro held on the 11th and the 12th of January 1996 may be considered the starting point of this exchange. This is to be followed by a seminar in India.

22. The two countries announce the implementation of a far-reaching programme for cooperation in science and technology, as described in a Joint Declaration issued by their authorities in this field at the occasion of the visit of the President of Brazil.

23. Other areas of cooperation in agriculture, biotechnology, energy and environmental protection are currently being identified.

24. The Governments of India and Brazil, motivated by the need to bring together their respective business communities, as desired by these communities themselves, have formed a Commercial Cooperation Council and established the terms of reference for its operation.

25. Infrastructure in the field of transportation was identified as one strategically decisive area for the increase not only of trade, but of communication and mutual knowledge between the two countries in all areas, through tourism and exchange of experts. Technical studies and contacts are under way, and will be intensified with a view to the establishment of air and ocean links.

26. India and Brazil, reaffirming their will to promote and define cooperation activities in the field of Railway transportation, agree on the establishment of a Joint Working Group on this subject according to the Complementary Agreement in the field of Railways, signed by both countries on September 9, 1993. Brazil states its interest in the participation of Indian companies in the privatisation and modernisation of Brazilian Railways.

27. India and Brazil view the conclusion of these understandings as the basis for a renewed relationship, which will establish a dynamic partnership with great potential. These understandings shall inspire the guidelines to be followed by both Governments as well as by the sectors involved in scientific and technological, technical and business cooperation, and by the academic communities in both countries.

28. Conscious of the challenges to be overcome and of the opportunities to be explored, India and Brazil will strive to adequately develop the great potential of cooperation between them in favour of the enlargement and consolidation of the reciprocal bilateral relationship aimed towards the progress and well-being of their peoples.

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29. India and Brazil are convinced that their shared goals will permit the construction of a privileged dialogue, to be strengthened by regular political and technical consultations and high level visits. This dialogue, based on shared values and aspirations, will aim to:

- foster cooperation towards safeguarding peace and establishing a just and stable international order and obtaining an international economic and

social environment which would promote development; and

- reinforce the parties' common interest in closer cooperation to promote prosperity, economic stability, social progress of their people and the development of cultural ties.

(For the Government of The Republic of India)

(For the Government of The Federative Republic of Brazil)

BRAZIL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA URUGUAY ARGENTINA

Date : Jan 31, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

MOU Regarding Cooperation in the Field of Highway Transportation

A Memorandum of Understanding regarding cooperation in the field of Highway Transportation has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Province of Ontario, Canada on 11-1-1996. Shri M. Rajasekara Murthy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Surface Transport and Hon'ble M. Harris, Premier of Ontario have signed this MOU at a function held at Hyderabad House, New Delhi on 11-1-96.

The Ministry of Transportation, Province of Ontario, Canada has 40 years experience in the field of highway engineering and expressway construction and is prepared to provide knowledge and technology to the Ministry of Surface Transport. The Ministry of Transportation is also engaged in the construction of Highway 407 with private sector participation and their experience will be quite valuable to India. With the liberalisation of the Indian economy from the 90's, the Government is keen to encourage private sector participation in the Highway sector. The National Highways Act, 1956 has recently been amended to enable private sector participation in the development and maintenance of National Highways. Proposals have also been called from the prospective entrepreneurs for undertaking construction of certain identified bridges and bypasses and also for conducting feasibility studies for the proposed Super National Highways. The MOU would serve the mutual and common interests of both the Governments and contribute to the overall Road Development in India and also enhance further understanding of the development and implementation of private sector founding of projects.

The areas of cooperation between the two Governments will include:

(a) Packaging of privatisation projects including necessity, if any, of publicprivate joint venture and financial restructuring;

- (b) Evolving bid documents for privately financial projects;
- (c) Management of privately financed projects including supervision and implementation;
- (d) Development of technical and operational standards;

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- (e) Assessment of hardware and software requirements for operation and development of a highway management system;
- (f) Exploring the possibility of bilateral aid for funding feasibility studies for expressway projects;
- (g) Providing training facilities for personnel in relevent areas.

This MOU comes into force from the date of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of three years. With the signing of this MOU, the existing MOU dated 8 June 1993 stands terminated.

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Date : Jan 31, 1996

February

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PAKISTAN BHUTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA SEYCHELLES SRI LANKA SWEDEN
TANZANIA VIETNAM

Date : Feb 01, 1996

1995

ASEAN

Statement by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs on the Implications of India becoming a full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 01, 1996 regarding statement by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs on the implication of India becoming a full dialogue partner of ASEAN:

I have been informed by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, His Excellency Ali Al Athas and the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee that the ASEAN have decided to offer India Full Dialogue Partner Status. This decision was taken at the 5th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok on 17-18 December, 1995 and represents an upgradation of the partnership from the Sectoral Dialogue level which we have had with ASEAN since 1992. We welcome this decision and have readily clasped this hand of friendship and understanding that the ASEAN have extended to us.

What does this mean for India? First and foremost it represents a redefinition of our neighbourhood, as we draw closer to our dynamic South East Asian neighbours, with each of whom we have good, substantial and rapidly expanding and intensifying economic and political relationship. These bilateral relationships will now get a further impetus because we will now be interacting with them more substantively also on the ASEAN plank. We must remember that this is only logical and in the best interest of our relations with South East Asean countries because ASEAN is assuming a cohesive and overarching role both as a political and economic entity in South East Asia. The last Summit gave a further impulse to ASEAN's march towards an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), set the framework for liberalisation of trade in services and presaged an ASEAN Free Investment Area. In political and strategic terms too the ASEAN is emerging with a clearly defined common agenda and personality in the region, as well as internationally.

Secondly, Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN will mean that we will engage with the ASEAN in a wide-ranging, high-level and regular dialogue on all matters of common interest and concern. We expect both governments and concerned business and technical sectors to be fully involved. This will, we hope, clarify issues and lead to policies and decisions that are conducive to taking Indo-ASEAN economic relations to the crest. Imagine the synergies that we can generate together with this fastest growing, technologically dynamic and globally competitive group of countries. The trade, investment and technological cooperation opportunities for us in ASEAN and for ASEAN in India are unlimited as our large, diversified and increasingly competitive and outward-looking economy charts a high growth path.

Thirdly, the dialogue will provide mechanisms for making more contemporary the age-old, cultural, religious and people-to-people affinities. There is much, for example that can be done in the area of tourism where the ASEAN success

story can be an inspiration and a new basis for partnership. This along with the ongoing cooperation in science & technology will, no doubt, reinvent the closeness of ideas and peoples that we have had for centuries with South East Asia.

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Finally, as ASEAN is the core and prime mover in many regional and international initiatives, our partnership is bound to give us a vantage point in relation to those initiatives whether they be the APEC or the ASEM. By electing us for this special relationship, the ASEAN have recognised the role and contribution that India, as a major Asian country and economy, can play and make in the larger Asian and global stage.

In immediate and practical terms, our Full Dialogue Partnership will involve our participating in meetings of the Dialogue Committee that would be set up for this purpose and that would replace the Sectoral Dialogue Committee. The agenda would not be limited to discussions on 4 sectors of trade, investment, tourism and science & technology but cover the entire gamut of cooperation. We will also participate in the Post-Ministerial Consultations that are held after the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (this year in July at Jakarta).

The Full Dialogue Partnership between India and ASEAN is the culmination of intense diplomatic efforts that have been undertaken at the highest political levels as well as at official and business levels since 1991. It is a response to the way our economic relations with ASEAN have surged in the last 3-4 years. It is an acknowledgement of the potential that India and ASEAN represent for each other.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA INDONESIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

BEHRAIN

A Report "India was not keen to take back Anees, says Behrain"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 07, 1996 on a report titled "India was not keen to take back Anees, says Behrain":

The Government of India has seen a report in the "Indian Express" dated 7 February, 1996, titled "India was not keen to take back Anees, says Bahrain".

The report is baseless, speculative and factually incorrect.

INDIA BAHRAIN

Date : Feb 07, 1996

Volume No

1995

BURKINA FASO

The Second Meeting of the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1996 on the second meeting of the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission which held in New Delhi:

The second meeting of the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission took place in New Delhi on February 22 and 23, 1996, the Burkinabe delegation was

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led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ablasse Ouedraogo and the Indian delegation by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid. During his visit the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso also called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and met the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Ayub Khan. Issues of bilateral, regional and international interest were discussed during these meetings.

The holding of the second meeting of the India-Burkina Faso Joint Commission exactly a year after its first meeting in February 1995 and the visit of the Burkinabe Foreign Minister to India only three months after that of the Prime Minister of India Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to Burkina Faso in November 1995 are reflective of the close ties of fraternity and cooperation existing between the governments and peoples of the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to develop their relations so as to serve as an exemplary model of South-South Cooperation and to thereby foster greater cooperative interaction between the developing countries of Asia and Africa. Burkina Faso supported a resolution of the J & K question through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan under the Simla Agreement. It also reiterated its commitment to support India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 1997-98, and eventually for a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress in the Integrated Agricultural and Rural Development Project being undertaken with Indian assistance in Burkina Faso and discussed ways and means of further enhancing the effectiveness of this project especially through the development of a comprehensive seeds breeding and multiplication programme.

In pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the development of Sahel Railway project signed during the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Burkina Faso in November 1995, the Burkinabe side agreed to advance a sum of US \$ 7 million towards the construction of a sleeper plant and ballast crushing plant in Burkina Faso by the Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON). A team from IRCON is expected to visit the project site in Burkina Faso shortly to finalise the modalities of implementation of this project.

Both sides also agreed on a plan of implementation of various decisions taken during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to assist Burkina Faso in the fields of health and vocational training. The Indian side also agreed to give favourable consideration to new proposals for cooperation in the fields of small scale industries, technical cooperation and manpower training.

BURKINA FASO INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso asks India to assist in several Fields

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1996 on the second meeting of Indo-Burkina Faso Joint Commission or Economic, Culture, Political & Technical Cooperation:

The second meeting of Indo-Burkina Faso Joint Commission or Economic, Cultural, Political & Technical Cooperation began in New Delhi today. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid and the Burkina Faso delegation by his excellency Mr. Ablasse Ouedraogo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso.

The two sides discussed various issues relating to promotion and expansion of economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Burkina Faso has sought India's help in providing seeds and developing production programme for seeds of sorghum, maize, rice,

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pearl millet, cotton and vegetables. The Indian assistance for the seeds production programme would be in terms of supply of modern equipment, training of scientists & technicians and providing consultancy services for seed production and seed quality control.

The two countries will be working out the modalities for the implementation of the Cooperation agreement in the two-day talks. Mr. Ouedraogo said that to give a filip to cooperation in the private sector, a commercial fair on Burkina Faso is to be held in India in the near future. Regarding an Indian Railways Project in Burkina Faso, Shri Salman Khurshid said that modalities of the implementation will have to be worked out soon. Cooperation in the field of culture, health, education and research was also discussed at the meeting.

An agreement between India and Burkina Faso was signed on the 29th October, 1994 for establishing a Joint Commission to further economic, cultural, political and technical cooperation between the two countries in order to strengthen the existing friendly relations. The objectives of the Joint Commission include the identification of bilateral programmes of cooperation and also the conducting of studies and investigations to determine the most appropriate form and type of cooperation to be established.

Mr. Ouedraogo said that the Embassy of Burkina Faso would be opened in New Delhi shortly.

BURKINA FASO INDIA USA

Date : Feb 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Visit of H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 13, 1996 on an official visit of H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary to India:

H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary will pay an official visit to India on 16-17 February, 1996 at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Mr. Kovacs will have discussions, focussing on bilateral as well as regional and international issues of common interest with Shri Mukherjee as well as with Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of State for External Affairs.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister is also likely to call on the President and the Prime Minister, and meet with the Minister of Finance.

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HUNGARY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 13, 1996

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HUNGARY

Visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1996 on visit of Hungarian Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs to India:

The Hungarian Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee this morning and underscored the importance that Hungary attached to India as a priority country in the Asian region. This was the Hungarian Foreign Minister's fourth visit to India. H.E. Mr. Laszlo Kovacs supported India's stand on Kashmir and expressed himself against all manifestations of terrorism. The two sides are to cooperate in combating terrorism, organised crime and drug smuggling.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister emphasized the necessity of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation in view of the low quantum of bilateral trade between the two countries. In this context, it was agreed that the Joint Commission would be raised to Ministerial level. Agreements on investment protection, double taxation and civil aviation are on the anvil and are likely to be worked out shortly. The Joint Commission and the Joint Business Council are also expected to meet later in the year.

H.E. Mr. Kovacs met the Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh and was also received by the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. He is expected to call on the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and meet the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj Patil. He is expected to visit Jaipur on Feb 17, 1996 and leave India the next day.

HUNGARY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date : Feb 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

International Ikebana Exhibition Inaugurated by Smt. Narayanan

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1996 regarding International Ikebana Exhibition inauguration by Smt. Narayanan, wife of Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India:

An Exhibition of Floral arrangements put up by Indian and foreign delegates at the Fifth Asian Regional Conference was inaugurated by Smt. Usha Narayanan, wife of Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India here today. The event, exhibiting flower arrangements by Ikebana experts from across Asia, is being attended by over 200 participants from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and other countries.

The Fifth Asian Regional Conference, being held for the first time in India, is being jointly organised by the New Delhi Chapter of the Ikebana International and Welcome Group. Maurya Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Previous Conferences have been held in Manila, Singapore, Hongkong and Bangkok. Delegation from Australia, U.K., Hongkong, Japan, Jordon, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Cyprus and Taiwan are attending the conference.

The New Delhi Chapter of Ikebana International was formed in 1965 and is a Charter of Ikebana International whose headquarters are in Tokyo.

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INDIA USA JAPAN MALAYSIA THAILAND PHILIPPINES REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE PAKISTAN
SOUTH AFRICA UNITED KINGDOM TAIWAN

Date : Feb 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Foreign Tourist arrivals and Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism, Show Upswing during the Financial Year 1995-96

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 06, 1996 on the Foreign tourist arrivals and Foreign exchange earnings from Tourism, show upswing during the Financial year 1995-96:

The Foreign tourist arrivals during the first 10 months of current financial year have shown a 15.5 per cent increase when compared to the arrivals during the same period last year. More than 17 lakhs 68 thousand foreign tourists arrived in India during April, 1995 to January, 1996.

On foreign exchange front, earning from tourism were Rs. 7,367 crores during the first 10 months of 1995-96, a 24 per cent increase when compared to the earnings of same period in 1994-95.

It is estimated that the foreign exchange earnings for 1995-96 would be about Rs. 9,000 crores, registering an increase of around 21 per cent, against the figure of Rs. 7,366 crores in 1994-95.

INDIA USA

Date : Feb 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

International Conference on Public Health Challenges

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1996 regarding International Conference on Public Health challenges organised by Indian Public Health Association:

Indian Public Health Association is organising its 40th Annual Conference from 9th to 11th February, 1996 at Hamdard Conention Centre, New Delhi in collaboration with Indian Society for Malaria and other Communicable Diseases. The theme of the conference is "Health Challenges in the 21st Century".

The conference will deliberate on key issues like new emerging and re-emerging diseases including cholera, tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, plague, AIDS etc., noncommunicable diseases like Iodine Deficiency disorders, nutritional disorders, drug abuse, cardio vascular diseases, diabetes etc., operational problems in the delivery of health care, reproductive and adolescent health, environmental health, vaterinary public health, role of NGOs, community participation etc. The Conference has been sponsored by several agencies including the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

More than 400 delegates from all over the country will be participating. Experts, public health practitioners and researchers from international agencies, Government, voluntary and joint sectors will be participating in the deliberations. Experts from USA, Australia and the regional countries will be participating the Conference.

INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA AUSTRALIA

Date : Feb 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

UNESCO Photo Contest Awards announced

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1996 on an announcement of UNESCO Photo Contest Awards:

The results of the Photo Contest, 1995 organised by the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), Japan have been announced. The Special Prize

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of the Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO has been awarded to Dev Nayak of West Bengal. Dharmesh S. Bhavsar of Baroda and Amit Datta of West Bengal have bagged the Saison Group Prize and Seiko Corporation Prize respectively. The Japan Airlines Prize has gone to Pratap Rao Shinde of Indore while the Photo Prize is awarded to Mr. Uttam Datta of Calcutta. The ACCU Prize goes to Debasis Roy of West Bengal; Subandhu Dube of Indore; R. M. Modi of Bombay and J. Kumar of Calcutta.

JAPAN INDIA KOREA

Date : Feb 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

KOREA

Indo-Korean Cultural Pact signed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1996 on Indo-Korean Cultural Pact for 1996-98:

India and the Republic of Korea today signed a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 1996-98. It was signed here by the Culture Secretary, Shri B. P. Singh and the South Korean Ambassador, Mr. Byung Yong Soh. The CEP provides for exchange of academics, scholars, experts, artists, performing troupes and exhibitions. Besides, it envisages exchange of radio and TV programmes and

sports teams. The possibility of establishing a chair of Indian studies in South Korean universities and vice-versa will also be explored.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary and the Ambassador recalled the close ties between the two countries with ancient civilisations and hoped that the signing of the CEP on the eve of the visit of the South Korean President to India from tomorrow would be precursor to further deepening of bilateral relations.

KOREA INDIA

Date : Feb 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

KOREA

Visit of H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1996 on visit of H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea to India:

The President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Kim Young Sam arrived in New Delhi on al, anan and was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rastrapati Bhavan. This was the first ever visit by an ROK President to India. The Vice President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan and Shrimati Narayanan called on H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam later in the evening. The distinguished guests called on the President and Smt. Vimla Sharma and subsequently attended a banquet in their honour hosted by the Indian President and the First Lady.

The Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao welcomed the Korean President and in recalling his own visit to the ROK in September 1993 said that bilateral co-operation in various fields had developed very well since then. The ROK President congratulated Prime Minister on India's new economic liberalisation policies

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put into operation by Prime Minister. The ROK President agreed with Prime Minister that all round India-ROK co-operation was doing well.

Prime Minister referred to the possibilities of expanding and deepening such co-operation by both sides identifying and utilising concrete possibilities in areas like infrastructure development in India, Science and Technology Co-operation and co-operation in the field of culture. The ROK President responded by expressing his country's readiness to consolidate bilateral ties so that an

ROK-India partnership in various fields could be developed through the joint efforts of both sides.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest. They were of the opinion that the similarity in viewpoints between the two countries provided a very good basis for the growing India-ROK relationship. The ROK President explained his country's position on the reunification of the two Koreas and Prime Minister reiterated India's desire to see Korean reunification through peaceful means. Prime Minister remarked that ROK was favourably poised to enter the OECD and said that this would open a window of opportunity for them. The ROK President reciprocated this sentiment. The following Agreements were signed at the end of the talks:

- a) Agreement on setting up a Joint Commission at the level of Foreign Minister.
- b) Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee also called on the Korean President. H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam had a luncheon meeting with the Indian business community jointly hosted by FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII. The Prime Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the ROK President later in the evening. H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam is scheduled to leave Delhi for Singapore on Tuesday, 27 February 1996.

KOREA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Feb 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Visit of His Excellency, Mr. Paul Berenger Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12 1996 on visit of His Excellency, Mr. Paul Berenger Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius to India at the invitation of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs for India:

His Excellency, Mr. Paul Berenger Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius will be visiting India at the invitation of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs for India from 14-19 February, 1996.

Mr. Berenger is the leader of the Movement Militant Mauritian (MMM) Party

and his party in alliance with the Labour Party of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam emerged as the winners in the last general elections in Mauritius in December 1995. In fact, they made a clean sweep 60-0 in the election. This is

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Mr. Berenger's first visit to India after his taking over as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, International and Regional Cooperation.

Mr. Berenger is no stranger to India. He last visited India in 1991, that time also as Minister for External Affairs in the former Prime Minister Mr. Anerood Jugnauth's Government. His present visit would be first high level interaction between the Indian leadership and the new Government in Mauritius. Both sides would be keen to exchange views on issues of mutual bilateral and multilateral interests. Mauritius has taken a lead in hosting the inter-governmental initiative on the Indian Ocean Rim concept and the subject would naturally figure in the discussion.

Mr. Berenger would be calling on the President and the Vice President besides having meetings with several Ministers, including his host who would also be hosting a banquet dinner in his honour. A call on the Prime Minister is also anticipated.

Also, Mr. Berenger, would be making the valedictory address at the closing ceremony of the three-day Conference on "Understanding Contemporary Africa; India and South South Cooperation" being organised by the India International Centre in cooperation with the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi, at the IIC premises from 15-17 February, 1996.

Mr. Berenger would be spending a day in Mumbai before returning to Mauritius on 19 February, 1996.

Mr. Berenger is expected to address a press conference on 16 February, 1996.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 12, 1996 on visit of Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba. Prime Minister of Nepal to

India:

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rastrapati Bhavan by his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao this morning. Prime Minister Deuba and his spouse, Mrs. Arzu Deuba called on President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimla Sharma and were hosted to a luncheon by the Indian First Couple. Later in the afternoon, the distinguished guests called on Vice President, Shri K. R. Narayanan and Smt. Usha Narayanan. In the evening, the two Prime Ministers had a tete-a-tete which was followed by delegation level talks and the signing of two agreements. These were:

a) Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India concerning the integrated development of the Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheswar Project-signed by the Prime Minister of Nepal and the Prime Minister of India.

b) Agreement between the Republic of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for cons-

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truction of 22 bridges on the Kohlapur Mahakali Section of the Mahendra Raj Marg-signed by the Foreign Minister of Nepal and the External Affairs Minister of India.

Bilateral discussions centered around mutually beneficial cooperation in the commercial and economic fields with special emphasis on multipurpose schemes in the sphere of water resources. Indian assisted projects in Nepal were also taken up. The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Joint Task Force to make specific, strategic recommendations to the two Prime Ministers on the enhancement of trade, investment and economic relationships recommended five immediate issues for Government action which included hydro-power, duty structure, tourism, transit and investments in Nepal. The FNCCI and CII agreed to set up a Joint Economic Council (JEC) to follow-up and implement these recommendations. The announcement was made after the Signing Ceremony in the presence of two Prime Ministers.

After the signing of agreements the two Prime Ministers jointly addressed Nepalese TV and Doordarshan. They expressed the view that a new era had dawned in Indo-Nepal ties. Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao later hosted a banquet in honour of the Nepalese Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Deuba is expected to receive the Ministers of External Affairs, Home Affairs and Commerce tomorrow before addressing the business community at Federation House. He will hold a Press Conference in the afternoon and proceed to Bangalore for the next leg of his visit. He is scheduled to visit Madurai and Bombay before returning to Kathmandu.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Feb 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

India and Nepal call for Closer Cooperation in Civil Aviation Matters

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 14 1996 call by the tourism and Civil Aviation Minister of Nepal, Shri Chakra Prasad Bastola on our Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad:

The Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister of Nepal, Shri Chakra Prasad Bastola here yesterday called on the Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. Both the Leaders discussed bilateral, civil aviation matters including enhancement of capacity, more points of call and air space coordination.

During the discussions, it was agreed that there is a need to increase the tourist traffic between India and Nepal and more frequencies have to be operated between the two countries. It was also decided to hold bilateral talks on outstanding issues in the month of April, 1996.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Feb 14, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

An Agreement concerning Electric Power Trade between India and Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1996 on an agreement concerning electric power trade between India and Nepal:

An agreement concerning electric power trade between India and Nepal was initialled at Bombay on 17th February, 1996. The agreement was initiated by Shri P. Abraham, Secretary, Ministry of Power, on behalf of India and Shri Dwarikanath Dhungel, Secretary, Water Resources on behalf of Nepal.

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This agreement would facilitate conclusion of power trade agreements between Nepali and Indian parties, irrespective of whether such parties belong to Governmental semi-Governmental or private enterprises. The quantum and parameters of supply, the points of delivery as well as the price at which electricity is to be supplied and traded are to be determined by the parties entering into the agreement. These parties shall be afforded all necessary assistance by the respective Governments and shall be granted all incentives and concessions by the two Governments.

An existing agreement provides for power exchange upto a maximum of 50 MW between the two countries on a strictly Inter-Governmental basis. This agreement shall, therefore, help reinforce the existing agreement substantially and help meet the power demands of the two countries in a more efficacious manner.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Feb 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 17, 1996 on visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India:

The Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official goodwill visit to India from February 11-17, 1996 at the invitation of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by Hon. Pashupati S. J. B. Rana, Minister for Water Resources; Hon. Chakra Prasad Bastola, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Hon. Dr. R. Mahat, Minister for Finance, Hon. Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. F. S. Tharu, Minister for Commerce, and a number of Members of Parliament and senior officials of His Majesty's Government and a delegation of business leaders.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal visited Rajghat, where he paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. He was received by the President of India, Dr. S. D. Sharma and had meetings with the Prime Minister, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Indian and Nepalese delegations led by the two Prime Ministers also met for detailed discussions on issues of common interest. The Ministers in the delegation had separate meetings with their Indian counterparts. The discussions were marked by the sincerity, friendship and understanding which characterise the close relations between India and Nepal.

During the wide-ranging discussions, bilateral issues, the further development of India-Nepal relations, the situation in the Indian sub-continent and other questions of mutual interest were discussed.

3. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the further strengthening of close and friendly relations between India and Nepal. Both governments reiterated their adherence to the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force, non-interference in each other's internal Affairs and peaceful settlement of all issues.

4. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the promotion of close and friendly relations between India and Nepal and looked forward to a future where these relations are further strengthened in new areas of cooperative endeavour. Their discussions also covered different aspects of bilateral relations, including the review of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950. They agreed to continue discussions on all relevant issues of bilateral interest at the appropriate level of the two countries.

5. Both India and Nepal expressed their determination to fight terrorism. To this end, both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow any activities on the territory of either country prejudicial to the security of the other.

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COOPERATION IN WATER RESOURCES

6. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the Treaty on the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River, the implementation of which would bring significant benefits to both countries. They directed that every effort should be made to ensure progress towards implementation of the Treaty clauses and accompanying exchange of letters. The Treaty has also paved the way for possible investment and financing by private investors and technical lending agencies in Pancheswar Multipurpose Project. Nepal and India should jointly make efforts to attract private investors and lending agencies for jointly agreed projects.

7. They discussed other projects under consideration between Nepal and India and directed that meetings at the technical, expert and other levels as necessary, should be convened in regard to the Saptakosi High Dam including Sunkosi Diversion and Karnali Multipurpose projects, and the Burhi Gandaki Hydro-electric Project to expedite progress in this regard.

8. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the understanding reached between the two countries in Power Trade which would facilitate increased investment in the power sector in Nepal.

TRADE

9. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the present status of bilateral trade and economic links between the two countries. They were heartened by the recent increases in bilateral trade as a result of preferential arrangements made since 1992 by the two governments. They agreed that all possible steps should be taken in order to expand and diversify bilateral trade, facilitate Nepal's exports to

India, improve facilities available to Nepal's trade in transit and encourage Indian investments in Nepal especially with a view to strengthening Nepal's export capabilities to India and to third countries.

10. In this context, within the framework discussed in Kathmandu during the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and in view of the recommendations made by the Joint Task Force of the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce and Industries to the two Prime Ministers on 12/2/1996 calling for the removal of the 50% labour and material content requirement based on a negative list, the two sides directed that officials from the two Ministries of Commerce should meet within the next few weeks to make specific recommendations.

11. The Nepalese side pointed out to a number of anomalies in the imposition of countervailing duty for Nepalese products in India. It was agreed that there would be an early meeting of the concerned officials to look into and remove such anomalies. India would also be prepared to consider specific measures aimed at enhancing Nepal's exports, such as assistance in setting up export oriented units export processing zones through joint ventures.

TRANSIT

12. The two Prime Ministers stressed the need to improve and upgrade the existing port and transit facilities for Nepal's trade in transit from to Kandla, Bombay and Calcutta and the facilities for quick transportation of containerized transit cargo through Raxaul.

13. His Majesty's Government of Nepal drew the attention of the Government of India to some practical difficulties which had prevented the operationalisation of the existing transit route agreed through Radhikapur and requested Government of India for an alternative overland route to and through Bangladesh. It was agreed that officials of the two sides should meet shortly to examine mutually acceptable alternatives.

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ECONOMIC COOPERATION

14. The two delegations reviewed progress of the projects which are implemented by Indian cooperation in Nepal. Both sides appreciated the performance of the projects and agreed that it would be reviewed periodically with a view to address problems, if any, so that they are completed within the stipulated time.

15. The Nepalese delegation expressed deep appreciation to the Government of India for providing grant-in-aid for the construction of the twenty-two bridges in the Kohalpur-Mahakali section of Mahendra Raj Marga (East-West Highway). In view of the priority accorded to the project, both sides agreed to take all necessary measures to ensure timely completion of the road.

16. The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the progress in regard to the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, which is being set up with India's assistance of I. Rs. 88 crores. They hoped that the

Institute would be a model of co-operation in the health sector in the region.

17. Both the Governments agreed to take up the projects as agreed on previous occasions under the Nepal-India cooperation within the agreed time frame. The following projects would be discussed at the next meeting of the High Level Task Force which would be held shortly:

1. Raxual-Sirsia Broad gauge Railway
2. Bir Hospital expansion project
3. Rehabilitation of Koshi-Bharada Road
4. Construction of embankments along Bagmati, Kamala, Khado and Lalbakaiya rivers,
5. Greater Janakpur Development Project
6. Biratnagar-Rangeli-Bhadrapur Road
7. Birpur-Chatra Road and
8. Feasibility Study of Electric Railway

TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION

18. In view of the importance of tourism to Nepal's economy, the two Prime Ministers agreed to accord high priority to the expansion of cooperation at the level of the two Governments as well as the travel and tourism industry between the two countries.

19. The two sides agree that a substantial growth of bilateral air traffic should be encouraged. To this end, the two Governments agreed that an increase in frequencies, destinations and designated airlines should be promoted. Nepal expressed interest in allowing private airlines to operate flights. It was agreed that officials of the two sides would meet very soon to consider promotion of civil aviation ties between the two countries, keeping in view the growth of traffic and the changed scenario.

INDIAN INVESTMENTS IN NEPAL

20. The Nepalese side requested that appropriate measures be taken by Government of India in order to facilitate investments by Indian investors in Nepal. These suggestions are under the active consideration of the Government of India.

21. The Prime Minister of Nepal conveyed an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Nepal. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

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Date : Feb 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1996 on visit of H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea to India:

On the invitation of the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, H.E. Mr. Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea, will visit India from 24-27 February, 1996. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Kim Young Sam. During the visit, President Kim will have an exchange of views with Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao on various aspects of bilateral relations between India and the Republic of Korea and on international issues of mutual concern.

It would be recalled that Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao had paid a visit to ROK in September, 1993.

Visit of President Kim would be the first ever visit by a President of ROK. It is expected that the visit will contribute to the expansion of bilateral economic and commercial relations and in enhancing investment.

INDIA KOREA USA

Date : Feb 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba to India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 08, 1996 on visit of Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba to India:

Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba will pay a visit to

India from 11-17th February, 1996.

Prime Minister Deuba will be accompanied by a high level delegation which includes the Minister for Water Resources, Minister for Tourism & Civil Aviation, Minister for Finance, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Commerce, several members of Parliament and senior officials. Prime Minister Deuba will have discussions with Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and is expected to call on the President, Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma and Vice President, Shri K. R. Narayanan. The Minister of State for Commerce, Minister of Power, Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs will call on Prime Minister Deuba. During the course of the visit, Prime Minister Deuba will be meeting the business community in Delhi. He will also be visiting Madurai, Bangalore and Bombay.

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INDIA NEPAL USA

Date : Feb 08, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Protest by Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh to Indian High Commissioner Satish Chandra against the circulation of Tourist Brochure

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 16, 1996 on protest by Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh to Indian High Commissioner Satish Chandra against the circulation of a tourist brochure at the Indian Republic Day function in Islamabad:

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh protested yesterday morning to Indian High Commissioner Satish Chandra against the circulation of a tourist brochure at the Indian Republic Day function in Islamabad which contained a map of India showing Jammu & Kashmir as an integral part of India. He also protested at the display of a similar map of India at the inaugural function of the Wills World Cricket Tournament at Calcutta.

High Commissioner Satish Chandra rejected the protest stating that since Jammu and Kashmir was in fact an integral part of India, display of any Indian map whether in a tourist brochure or at the inaugural function of the World Cup Cricket Tournament at Calcutta would invariably show it as a part of the country.

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the King of Bhutan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 29, 1996 on an official visit of His Majesty, the King of Bhutan to India:

His Majesty, the King of Bhutan will be paying an official visit to India from 4-7th March, 1996. During the course of the visit, he will meet the President, the Prime Minister and other leaders, to strengthen the close relations between Bhutan and India and discuss matters of mutual interest.

BHUTAN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Rejection by Pakistan against growing Incidents of Cross-border Terrorism/narco-Terrorism

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Feb 29, 1996 on rejection by Pakistan against on growing incidents of cross-border terrorism/narco-terrorism:

It is no surprise that Pakistan has chosen to reject our closely documented protest against growing incidents of cross-border terrorism/narco-terrorism. Furthermore, Pakistan has made completely baseless, false and malicious accusations about India's support to certain groups in Pakistan. Such a response is in keeping with Pakistan's policy of denying its support for efforts to spread terror and disorder in India while, at the same time,

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vigorously aiding and abetting groups engaged in such activities.

2. We have through our aide memoire drawn Pakistan's attention to the infiltration of terrorists and the despatch of arms, ammunition, explosives and narcotics into India. The Indian authorities have discerned a marked increase in the tempo of such Pakistani activities over the past six months. Some specific cases were brought to Pakistan's notice. These are:

(a) The arrest of a Pakistani national Akbar Ali, on 4 October 1995. A consignment of 50 pistols, 2 hand grenades, 1 AK-47 rifle, 5 pencil bombs, 7 Mausers, 2 mines and 50 Kgs. of heroin were recovered at his instance. Akbar Ali also informed the Indian authorities that he had, over the period of one year, smuggled 60 AK-47 rifles, 307 pistols and ammunition into India.

(b) Mohd. Taufique, Amjad Shahid, Arif Butt and Rizwan, all Pakistani nationals, were arrested on February 4th, 1996. 39 pistols, ammunition and 6 kgs. of narcotics were apprehended from these Pakistanis. These arms were sent by Pakistani agencies into India.

(c) Shakar Jalil, a Pakistani national, was apprehended by the Indian authorities on 8th February when he was hiding in the Samjhauta Express. His interrogation revealed that he had been sent to organise terrorist activities in India.

(d) The smuggling of 361 pistols and ammunition by Christoph Martin Zellweger, a Swiss national, and Sayed Majid Rafiei Pouralavi, an Iranian national living in Pakistan, at the instance of the ISI.

(e) The Purulia arms drop in which the aircraft involved was stationed in Pakistan prior to flying into India. Pakistani agencies had provided active assistance in preparing for parachute dropping of the arms consignment.

3. Pakistan cannot move the spotlight away from the path of confrontation and hostility it has pursued against India. Having failed in its designs in Punjab and with the tide having turned against its endeavours in Kashmir, Pakistan has stepped up its efforts to promote narcoterrorism, subversion and violence by pushing arms and ammunition to disaffected and extremist elements in India. Such activities must cease immediately.

4. India will take all necessary steps to defend its interests and its security.

PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA IRAN

Date : Feb 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

The New Year Greeting Cards sent by the President of Pakistan to President and Prime Minister of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1996 on the new year greeting cards sent by the President of Pakistan to President and Prime Minister of India:

The new year greetings cards received by President and Prime Minister from the President of Pakistan carried a photograph of a scene of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Foreign Secretary called in the High Commissioner of Pakistan to convey India's strong resentment at the discourtesy shown to President and Prime Minister by including such a photograph in the cards.

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PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date : Feb 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

India's most serious concern at recent incidents of Cross-border terrorism

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 26, 1996 on India's most serious concern at recent incidents of cross-border terrorism:

India's most serious concern at recent incidents of cross-border terrorism promoted by Pakistan was conveyed officially to the Pakistan High Commission today. The Pakistan High Commission was informed that India cannot remain unconcerned at these developments.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Feb 26, 1996

Volume No

1995

Head of Ryazan Regional Administration calls on Chidambaram

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1996 on the meeting of Head of the Ryazan Regional Administration of the Russian Federation with Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State of Commerce:

H.E. Mr. G. K. Merkulov, Head of the Ryazan Regional Administration of the Russian Federation, called on Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Commerce, here today.

Welcoming the delegation, Shri Chidambaram said that India has a special relationship with the Russian Federation and would like it to grow further. The Commerce Minister explained the visiting delegation that after liberalisation of economy, the foreign trade in India was completely delicensed. It would be in the interest of both our business community to find partners and markets for each other in their countries. The Minister said that the trade between India and Russia has picked up recently. The major commodities for exports to Russian Federation during the current year included tea, drugs, pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals, cashew, coffee, sugar and other processed minerals. The important commodities imported from Russian Federation are fertilisers, newsprint, non-ferrous metals and organic chemicals. He complimented the two sides for doing very well and hoped that the two-way trade would touch around US \$ 2 billion mark by the end of 1995-96. There was large amount of raw material and components which the Minister said India could buy from the region. Mr. Merkulov stated that India occupied an important place in the world economy and its market development was particularly important for the Russian Federation. He offered proposals in high-tech areas and hoped that on the basis of mutual cooperation, it would be possible to establish more extensive trade relationship.

Some of the items of the Ryazan region which could be of interest to Indian trade and industry are, tea, foodstuff, chemicals & detergents, leather & garments and metal cutting tools etc. Ryazan region is rich in limestone, refractory clay, coal, bog iron-ore etc.

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RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Feb 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC Initiative for Unorganised Women Needed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Feb 23, 1996 on an initiative by the SAARC countries for women in the unorganised sector:

The Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Km. Vimla Verma has called for an initiative by the SAARC countries for women in the unorganised sector. Inaugurating the tenth meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee for Women in Development here today she said this is an area of concern as women in the unorganised sector constitute the vast majority in the countries of the region. The Minister observed the strength of women in SAARC countries which have by tradition a place of high reverence for women and which have seen women in top leadership. She said the uppermost task would be to remove poverty, illiteracy and ill-health among women in these countries.

The Minister pointed out that the SAARC meeting is taking place after the 4th World Conference on Women where the countries of the region put forward their common position underlining the need for affirmative action for socio-economic empowerment of women. She described the year 1995 as significant for women in India where a number of major initiatives were launched for the uplift of women. These included the universalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the launching of the Indira Mahila Yojna. We are also finalising the National Policy on Women, she said.

Addressing the meeting the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Dr. Sarla Gopalan expressed the hope that the SAARC region would act as the agent of change for women's empowerment. Pointing out that the problems of women cut across countries she said this meeting would help in sharing of experiences among the SAARC countries where several initiatives for women's development had been launched.

INDIA

Date : Feb 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

SEYCHELLES

The Third Session of the India-Seychelles Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 22, 1996 on the Third Session of the India-Seychelles Joint Commission which was held in New Delhi:

The Third Session of the India-Seychelles Joint Commission was held in New Delhi during 19-20 February, 1996. The Indian delegation was led by Shri C. M. Bhandari, Joint Secretary (Africa) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Seychelles delegation by Mr. Emmanuel Faure, Principle Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Planning. The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere which characterise the close relations existing between the two countries.

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The two sides noted with satisfaction the growing trade and tourism between their two countries following the introduction of the weekly flight between Bombay and Seychelles since May, 1995. Several Indian producers have started using Seychelles as a popular filming destination. Need for developing further shipping links was emphasised to promote bilateral trade. It was noted that the Indian Ocean Rim cooperation proposal would go a long way in developing transport and communication links between member countries in the region.

The Seychelles side expressed satisfaction at the level of technical and economic cooperation between the two Governments. Both sides identified further areas of cooperation under the ITEC programmes. The Seychelles side also expressed interest in utilising higher education facilities in India.

The Seychelles side expressed full understanding with India's position on the Kashmir issue, and that any dispute over it between India and Pakistan should be resolved through peaceful bilateral negotiations under Simla Agreement and not by seeking to internationalise it. The Seychelles side also took note of India's candidacy for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the years 1997-98 and for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

The two sides also discussed issues related with cultural exchange programme, cooperation in small and middle enterprise development, training programmes in areas such as environment management, wild life management, forestry management, airports construction/management/security, etc.

The two sides also agreed to the need for finalising avoidance of double taxation agreement and an agreement on promotion and protection of investments. The Seychelles side also requested for a line of credit to import transport vehicles and other equipment from India.

The two sides signed agreed minutes at the end of their Joint Commission meeting. The Indo-Seychelles Joint Commission was set up in 1990 and their first two sessions have been held in India and Seychelles in 1990 and 1993 respectively.

SEYCHELLES INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Feb 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

The Message from the Prime Minister to H.E. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, on Terrorist attack in Colombo

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 02, 1996 on text of the message dated 1-2-96 from the Prime Minister to H. E. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka on terrorist attack in Colombo:

"I am deeply shocked by the vicious act of terrorism yesterday which has caused such grievous loss of life, and extensive damage in Colombo. This criminal act of violence which has taken the lives of so many innocent victims deserves the strongest condemnation.

On behalf of the Government and people of India, I would like to convey through you, our sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families".

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SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Feb 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Secretary West Shri Vinod Grover receives Swedish Counterpart for Bilateral Consultations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 05, 1996 on meeting between Secretary West Shri Vinod Grover and Swedish counterpart for bilateral consultations:

Ambassador Ulf Hjertsonsson, Under-Secretary for political affairs in the Foreign Ministry of Sweden is in New Delhi for bilateral consultations with Secretary (West), Shri Vinod Grover. He has called on External Affairs Minister and is scheduled to visit Madras and Bombay before returning to Stockholm. India and Sweden have placed emphasis on economic cooperation and it has been agreed that the two sides will hold negotiations during the course of the year to conclude a bilateral investment promotion agreement. Major Swedish companies like Volvo, L.M. Ericsson and Electrolax have expressed keen interest in the economic opportunities prevalent in India.

The two sides agreed to strengthen political ties through regular consultations and exchanges of high-level visits. Sweden maintained that developing countries must be included in an expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council, and in this context, was positive about India's candidature. On the subject of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, both sides noted that the aim of nuclear disarmament was one which they shared, and decided to stay in close touch at the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva.

SWEDEN INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

Date : Feb 05, 1996

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Visit of His Excellency Dr. Julius K. Nyerere former President of the United Republic of Tanzania to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on visit of His Excellency, Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairman of South Centre, Geneva to India at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India:

His Excellency, Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairman of the South Centre, Geneva, is visiting India from 14-23 February 1996 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India to get a first hand impression of the scientific and technological strides made by India in recent years.

Dr. Nyerere as Chairman of the South Centre has been responsible for promoting South South Cooperation and has been impressed with the economic development and industrialisation process in India. He is a strong advocate for developing economic partnership between India and the African countries. While in India, Dr. Nyerere will be making the inaugural key note address at the three-day Conference on "Understanding Contemporary Africa:

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India and South South Cooperation" being organised by the India International Centre in cooperation with the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi at the IIC premises from 15-17 February, 1996.

Besides Delhi, Dr. Nyerere is visiting Madras, Bangalore, Trivandrum and Mumbai, where he would be visiting various small, medium and large industry complexes and interacting with the Indian side, on ways and means for developing cooperation projects between India and the African countries in the framework of

South South Cooperation.

TANZANIA USA INDIA SWITZERLAND

Date : Feb 05, 1996

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Visit of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Feb 20, 1996 on visit of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to India:

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is visiting India from 23-26 February, 1996 to co-Chair the 7th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission to be held in New Delhi on 23-24 February, 1996. From the Indian side Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister will co-Chair the Joint Commission meeting. The Vietnames Minister's forthcoming visit is continuation of high-level visits since early 1990s. Visit of Secretary General of Communist Party of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Do Muoi to India in September, 1992 and visit to Vietnam by Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao in September, 1994 resulted in further consolidation of our already excellent bilateral relations. The Foreign Minister's visit is a fitting continuation of regular high-level interaction with Vietnam. Vietnam's struggle for independence led by the legendary President Ho Chi Minh has always found a ground swell of support in the peoples of India. Apart from the Joint Commission meeting, the Vietnamese delegation will also visit software units in Bangalore.

2. During the Joint Commission meeting discussions would be held for increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields. International issues of mutual interest will also form part of the discussions. It is proposed to sign a Trade Protocol as well as an Agricultural Work Plan. There is also a likelihood that a new agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Traditional Medicines will be signed during the Joint Commission Meeting. An MOU on Environment and Forestry will also be signed in the near future. Discussions on the conclusion of a new Trade Agreement replacing the existing one as well as on a bilateral Sea Transportation Agreement will take place.

3. Economic and Commercial relations between India and Vietnam are increasing. During the year 1994-95 the bilateral trade turnover has crossed Dollar 100 million. During 1995 an Indian company Nagarjuna Fertilizers have set up a sugar project in Vietnam. Another company Western India Industries has signed an MOU with Tay Nieh province to set up another sugar project. M/s.

Mediplantex of Vietnam and M/s. SOL Pharmaceuticals of India have also signed a joint venture project for manufacture of medicines in Vietnam. Some other Indian companies like Ranbaxy are very active in Vietnam.

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4. In the year 1995 India has also supplied 15 railway coaches including 10 air-conditioned ones which are now in operation in Vietnam. A multi-purpose industrial training centre has also been set up at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crore. There is also a possibility of gifting textile machinery for Hanoi Textile Polytechnic at a cost of Rs. 1.6 crore for training purposes. There are also proposals for joint venture projects in the field of rubber plantation, manufacture of tyres etc.

5. Vietnam has recently become a member of ASEAN and as such will play a vastly increased role in regional affairs commensurate with her size, strength and influence. It has joined the fast growing region of Asia with competitive assets which shall give positive results to the forthcoming Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi.

6. The Deputy Finance Minister of Vietnam Mr. PHAM VAN TRONG who is accompanying the Foreign Minister will also visit Bombay and Goa. In Bombay he will address the Indo-Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and in Goa the delegation would visit the Goa Shipyard to see facilities for possible joint ventures in ship building and repairs. The delegation is also likely to address the Chamber of Commerce in Goa.

VIETNAM INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA

Date : Feb 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement between the Republic of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for Construction of 22 (Twenty two) Bridges on the Kohalpur-Mahakali Section of the Mahendra Raj Marg

The Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as the 'GOI') and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (hereinafter referred to as 'HMGN')

Bearing in mind the friendly relations existing between the two countries and their peoples;

Recalling the assistance of the GOI to HMGN in the Transport and Communications Sector, particularly in the construction of Roads and Bridges;

Nothing the need for providing transport and communication services in Nepal;

Desirous of cooperating, promoting and strengthening the development of transport and communication in Nepal;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE-I

1. The GOI and HMGN shall cooperate in the construction of 22 (Twenty two) bridges on the Kohalpur-Mahakali Section of the Mahendra Raj Marg (referred to as the 'Project') with associated approach roads on turnkey basis as per the technical specifications and list of the bridges given in Annexure-I.
2. The Project Report, prepared by the Consultants, M/s RITES and M/s NATPAC and agreed to by the Indian experts shall be the basis for the technical details of facilities to be established.
3. The GOI shall provide grants in aid for Rs. 57.77 crores (Fifty seven crores and seventy seven lakhs) for construction of 22 (Twenty two) bridges on the Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the Mahendra Raj Marg (MRM).

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ARTICLE-II

1. The GOI agrees to execute the Project through its agencies designated for the purpose. The executing agencies shall regularly make available to GOI and HMGN the monthly/quarterly progress of the Project and annual programme.
2. The GOI shall endeavour to complete the Project within 36 (Thirty six) months from the date of active commencement of the Project.
3. Within 15 days of signing of this Agreement, HMGN shall make available the sites to the Consultants appointed by GOI.
4. For the implementation of this Project, HMGN shall appoint a Liaison Officer who will remain in constant touch with the Consultant appointed by the GOI for this Project and the Embassy of India, Kathmandu.
5. The Economic Cooperation Wing, Embassy of India, Kathmandu shall administer the Project, both financially and physically and shall also provide all liaison with HMGN about the progress of the work and expenditure incurred every quarter. The First Secretary (EC&A) of the Embassy of India, Kathmandu shall oversee all financial, accounting and audit matters of the Project including preparation of financial reports, expenditure statements, etc.
6. The GOI will constitute a "Joint Project Monitoring Committee" consisting of experts from the Ministry of Surface Transport, the Ministry of External Affairs and Embassy of India, Kathmandu for monitoring and reviewing the progress of the construction of the work of the Project and ensuring its efficient implementation. A representative of the Department of Roads, HMGN,

will be associated with this Committee. The two Consultants, namely, M/s RITES and M/s NATPAC would be permanent invitees to the meetings of the Committee.

ARTICLE-III

The Project constructions shall be undertaken by Indian contractors. The details of the bridges are given at Annexure - I

ARTICLE-IV

The Project will be undertaken on turnkey basis as per the broad specifications given in Annexure - II

ARTICLE-V

Keeping in mind the necessity of expeditious and economical execution of the Project, HMGN agreed to the following:

1. HMGN shall make available to the Consultants appointed by the GOI for this Project and the contractors appointed by the Consultants, in good time, the necessary land and ancillary facilities like roads, etc., free of cost and free from all encumbrances and provide right of way where required. Timber and wood shall be made available within each reach of the Project by Timber Corporation of Nepal, free of royalty and of all dues, taxes and other levies. Other materials required for the Project such as sandstone, lime stone, etc., shall be allowed to be quarried from suitable quarries within easy reach of the Project and shall be free of royalty, duties, taxes and other levies. However, these obligations shall remain subject to ecological and environmental considerations and needs.
2. HMGN will provide foreign exchange needed for the purchase of machinery, material, equipment and vehicles for the Project not readily available in India, against allotment made in Indian currency by the GOI.
3. The payment of compensation, if any and settlement of claims and disputes arising from Clause I above shall be the responsibility of HMGN. The financial assistance to be provided by the GOI shall not include any payments made in respect of such claims and disputes.

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4. HMGN shall provide undermentioned facilities in respect of goods, materials, equipment, machinery, transport vehicles, etc., which are required for the execution of the Project:

- (a) Expeditious entry into Nepal or exist from Nepal.
- (b) Exemption from payment of all customs duties, taxes, cesses and levies on construction material from India of any kind, whether at the border or movement within Nepal. This exemption shall also apply in respect of vehicles hired by the Indian authorities or their consultants or contractors for movement of goods, equipment, machinery for the Project.

(c) Exemption from payment of all dues, taxes of any kind, including sales tax, cesses and levies of any kind, in respect of goods, materials, equipment, machinery, transport vehicles, etc., purchased and procured in Nepal, by the Indian contractors or their agents. However, such duties and taxes already paid by the supplier will not be refunded.

(d) Further when these items are no longer needed for the Project, unless they have been otherwise paid for as mentioned in Article VII they shall be allowed to be taken back to India without let or hindrance and shall be exempt from payment of all duties, taxes, cesses and levies, of any kind.

5. (a) Indian personnel employed by the GOI or by its agents or by its contractors shall be immune from legal process in respect of all acts performed by them in their official capacity in the execution of the Project and enjoy inviolability for all papers and documents relating to the Project.

(b) HMGN shall not levy any taxes on any Indian national or Indian firm employed by the GOI and its consultants and contractors.

(c) HMGN shall exempt from licensing fees and from payment of customs duties, taxes, cesses and levies of any kind, goods for household and personal use including means of transport for all Indian personnel employed by the GOI.

6. HMGN shall exempt from payment of Contract Tax on all the GOI contracts connected with the Project.

7. Contractors of the Project from India shall be free to import any amount of Indian currency that may be deemed necessary but shall convert it into Nepalese currency at legally recognised exchange counters for transactions inside Nepal for execution of their work. They shall be allowed to repatriate their currency holdings which shall be converted to Indian currency at prevailing exchange rate.

8. HMGN shall ensure expeditious grant of licenses, permits and similar other authorisations necessary to enable the Indian authorities, and their consultants and contractors to execute the work relating to the Project.

9. HMGN shall make necessary security arrangements for the protection of the Indian Project personnel, including Indian contractors, their families and their personal belongings as well as the materials, equipment, etc., at various sites in Nepal, including the transit.

ARTICLE-VI

1. The Indian authorities or their contractors, shall be allowed to hire skilled or semi-skilled labour from Nepal and India, as and where necessary.

2. HMGN shall extend all possible help and cooperation to the Indian authorities in the maintenance of peaceful labour relations and the safeguarding of the Indian personnel and property of the Project in the event of any labour dispute.

ARTICLE-VII

When any goods, materials, or items of equipment, machinery, transport, vehi-

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cles, etc., purchased by the GOI authorities are not required for the Project (except timber and wood), the GOI shall be allowed to bring the back to India without any let or hindrance and HMGN shall exempt all such goods, materials, equipment, machinery, transport vehicles, etc., from payment of customs duties and all other duties, taxes, cesses and levies of any kind. However, if they are disposed of in Nepal, taxes and duties in accordance with Nepal laws shall be levied on such articles. The sale proceeds or the depreciated value of such articles which have been either brought back to India or disposed of in Nepal shall be credited to the Project accounts.

ARTICLE-VIII

In the event of any legal action arising from activities undertaken by GOI authorities and personnel in pursuance of this Project, HMGN shall ensure full responsibility for the defence of any action in Nepal, and ensure immunity from punishment or any other legal process or title to all contributions made for or property and benefits derived from the execution of the Project.

ARTICLE-IX

HMGN shall take full responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the Project after its completion.

ARTICLE-X

Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of any provision of this Agreement shall be resolved by mutual consultations between the two Governments.

ARTICLE-XI

The Agreement shall take effect from the date of signing of the Agreement and remain valid for four years.

Any expenditure incurred by the GOI before the signing of this Agreement, in pursuance of the implementation of the Project, shall be debited to the overall grant under this Agreement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective Governments have signed the Agreement.

Done at New Delhi on this Twelfth day of February One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six, in duplicate in Hindi and English languages, both the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt the English text will prevail.

For the Government of India
Sd/-

(Pranab Mukherjee)
External Affairs Minister
For His Majesty's
Government of Nepal
Sd/-
(Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani)
Minister of Foreign Affairs

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF PROPOSED 22 BRIDGES IN KM 51 TO 128 OF KOHALPUR-MAHAKALI ROAD IN NEPAL

S. No.	Name of Crossing	Location (Kms)
1.	Manhara	51.495
2.	Kutia	58.881
3.	Shivganga	64.004
4.	Chumala	67.316
5.	Gauriganga	71.187
6.	Karha	99.879
7.	Charaila	106.376
8.	Chorahi	108.205
9.	Dhobania	116.993
10.		121.715
11.		121.995
12.		122.670
13.		122.875
14.		123.050
15.		123.520
16.		123.870
17.		124.336
18.		124.735
19.		125.160
20.		125.520
21.		125.875
22.		126.000

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

All the bridges shall be high level bridges and shall have a carriageway width of 7.50 m and shall be designed for two lane traffic. A loading or 70-R wheeled loading whichever produces the worst effect. The components of bridges have been designed based on relevant IRC codes.

ANNEXURE - II

BROAD SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT ON CONSTRUCTION OF 22 BRIDGES ON KOHALPUR-MAHAKALI HIGHWAY

1. The GOI have appointed two Consultants, namely M/s RITES and M/s NATPAC to the Project from concept to commissioning including construction management and

preparation of design drawings or sharing of alternate designs drawings of the selected contractor and tender documents for the civil works.

2. The drawings and design shall be reviewed and appraisal of cost estimate done in order to establish realistic time schedule as well as budget taking into consideration all the documents, drawings and information necessary for appraisal.

3. The Consultants will provide adequate supervisory staff for carrying out for day to day supervision of various trades by various agencies and assume responsibility for the execution of the best intents of the drawings, specifications, contract documents, etc.

4. The Consultants will provide coordination services in respect of work of various agencies of the Project in order to ensure harmonious execution of the Project. The Consultants assume responsibility for checking and certification of the running accounts, bills and final account, bills of all contractors. The Consultants will report quarterly of various aspects relating to Project implementation and undertake exercise to strictly watch on all aspects relating to cost.

INDIA NEPAL USA UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE - II

Treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India Concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project

His Majesty's Government of NEPAL and the Government of INDIA (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"),

REAFFIRMING the determination to promote and strengthen their relations of friendship and close neighbourliness for the co-operation in the development of water resources;

RECOGNIZING that the Mahakali River is a boundary river on major stretches between the two countries;

REALIZING the desirability to enter into a treaty on the basis of equal partnership to define their obligations and corresponding rights and duties thereto in regard to the waters of the Mahakali River and its utilization;

NOTING the Exchange of Letters of 1920 through which both the Parties had

entered into an arrangement for the construction of the Sarada Barrage in the Mahakali River, whereby Nepal is to receive some waters from the said Barrage;

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RECALLING the decision taken in the Joint Commission dated 4-5 December, 1991 and the Joint Communique issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal on 21st October, 1992 regarding the Tanakpur Barrage which India has constructed in a course of the Mahakali River with a part of the eastern afflux bund at Jimuwa and the adjoining pondage area of the said Barrage lying in the Nepalese territory;

NOTING that both the Parties are jointly preparing a Detailed Project Report of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project to be implemented in the Mahakali River;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereby have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

1. Nepal shall have the right to a supply of 28.35 m³/s (1000 cusecs) of water from the Sarada Barrage in the wet season (i.e. from 15th May to 15th October) and 4.25 m³/s (150 cusecs) in the dry season (i.e. from 16th October to 14th May).
2. India shall maintain a flow of not less than 10 m³/s (350 cusecs) downstream of the Sarada Barrage in the Mahakali River to maintain and preserve the river eco-system.
3. In case the Sarada Barrage becomes non-functional due to any cause:
 - (a) Nepal shall have the right to a supply of water as mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article, by using the head regulator(s) mentioned in Paragraph 2 of Article 2 herein. Such a supply of water shall be in addition to the water to be supplied to Nepal pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Article 2.
 - (b) India shall maintain the river flow pursuant to Paragraph 2 of this Article from the tailrace of the Tanakpur Power Station downstream of the Sarada Barrage.

ARTICLE 2

In continuation of the decisions taken in the Joint Commission dated 4-5 December, 1991 and the Joint Communique issued during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal on 21st October, 1992, both the Parties agree as follows:

1. For the construction of the eastern afflux bund of the Tanakpur Barrage, at Jimuwa and tying it up to the high ground in the Nepalese territory at EL 250 M, Nepal gives its consent to use a piece of land of about 577 metres in length (an area of about 2.9 hectares) of the Nepalese territory at the Jimuwa Village in Mahendranagar Municipal area and a certain portion of the No-Man's Land on either side of the border. The Nepalese land consented to be so used and the land lying on the west of the said land (about 9 hectares) upto the Nepal-India

border which forms a part of the pondage area, continued sovereignty and control of Nepal and Nepal is free to exercise all attendant rights thereto.

2. In lieu of the eastern afflux bund of the Tanakpur Barrage, at Jimuwa thus constructed, Nepal shall have the right to:

(a) a supply of 28.35 m³/s (1000 cusecs) of water in the wet season (i.e. from 15th May to 15th October) and 8.50 m³/s (300 cusecs) in the dry season (i.e. from 16th October to 14th May) from the date of the entry into force of this Treaty. For this purpose and for the purposes of Article 1 herein, India shall construct the head regulator(s) near the left undersluice of the Tanakpur Barrage and also the waterways of the required capacity upto the Nepal-India border. Such head regulator(s) and waterways shall be operated jointly.

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(b) a supply of 70 millions kilowatt-hour (unit) of energy on a continuous basis annually, free of cost, from the date of the entry into force of this Treaty. For this purpose, India shall construct a 132 kV transmission line upto the Nepal-India border from the Tanakpur Power Station (which has, at present, an installed capacity of 120,000 kilowatt generating 448.4 millions kilowatt-hour of energy annually on 90 percent dependable year flow).

3. Following arrangements shall be made at the Tanakpur Barrage at the time of development of any storage project(s) including Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project upstream of the Tanakpur Barrage:

(a) Additional head regulator and the necessary waterways, as required, up to the Nepal-India border shall be constructed to supply additional water to Nepal. Such head regulator and waterways shall be operated jointly.

(b) Nepal shall have additional energy equal to half of the incremental energy generated from the Tanakpur Power Station, on a continuous basis from the date of augmentation of the flow of the Mahakali River and shall bear half of the additional operation cost and, if required, half of the additional capital cost at the Tanakpur Power Station for the generation of such incremental energy.

ARTICLE 3

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") is to be constructed on a stretch of the Mahakali River where it forms the boundary between the two countries and hence both the Parties agree that they have equal entitlement in the utilization of the waters of the Mahakali River without prejudice to their respective existing consumptive uses of the waters of the Mahakali River. Therefore, both the Parties agree to implement the Project in the Mahakali River in accordance with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) being jointly prepared by them. The Project shall be designed and implemented on the basis of the following principles:

1. The Project shall, as would be agreed between the Parties, be designed to produce the maximum total net benefit. All benefits accruing to both the Parties with the development of the Project in the forms of power, irrigation, flood

control etc., shall be assessed.

2. The Project shall be implemented or caused to be implemented as an integrated project including power stations of equal capacity on each side of the Mahakali River. The two power stations shall be operated in an integrated manner and the total energy generated shall be shared equally between the Parties.

3. The cost of the Project shall be borne by the Parties in proportion to the benefits accruing to them. Both the Parties shall jointly endeavour to mobilize the finance required for the implementation of the Project.

4. A portion of Nepal's share of energy shall be sold to India. The quantum of such energy and its price shall be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

ARTICLE 4

India shall supply 10 m³/s (350 cusecs) of water for the irrigation of Dodhara-Chandani area of Nepalese Territory. The technical and other details will be mutually worked out.

ARTICLE 5

1. Water requirements of Nepal shall be given prime consideration in the utilization of the waters of the Mahakali River.

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2. Both the Parties shall be entitled to draw their share of waters of the Mahakali River from the Tanakpur Barrage and/or other mutually agreed points as provided for in this Treaty and any subsequent agreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE 6

Any project, other than those mentioned herein, to be developed in the Mahakali River, where it is a boundary river, shall be designed and implemented by an agreement between the Parties on the principles established by this Treaty.

ARTICLE 7

In order to maintain the flow and level of the waters of the Mahakali River, each Party undertakes not to use or obstruct or divert the waters of the Mahakali River adversely affecting its natural flow and level except by an agreement between the Parties. Provided, however, this shall not preclude the use of the waters of the Mahakali River by the local communities living along both sides of the Mahakali River, not exceeding five (5) percent of the average annual flow at Pancheshwar.

ARTICLE 8

This Treaty shall not preclude planning, survey, development and operation of any work on the tributaries of the Mahakali River, to be carried out independently by each Party in its own territory without adversely affecting the

provision of Article 7 of this Treaty.

ARTICLE 9

1. There shall be a Mahakali River Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"). The Commission shall be guided by the principles of equality, mutual benefit and no harm to either Party.
2. The Commission shall be composed of equal number of representatives from both the Parties.

The function of the Commission shall, inter alia, include the following:

- (a) To seek information on and, if necessary, inspect all structures included in the Treaty and make recommendations to both the Parties to take steps which shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this Treaty.
 - (b) To make recommendations to both the Parties for the conservation and utilization of the Mahakali River as envisaged and provided for in this Treaty.
 - (c) To provide expert evaluation of projects and recommendations thereto.
 - (d) To co-ordinate and monitor plans of actions arising out of the implementation of this Treaty, and
 - (e) To examine any differences arising between the Parties concerning the interpretation and application of this Treaty.
4. The expenses of the Commission shall be borne equally by both the Parties.
 5. As soon as the Commission has been constituted pursuant to Paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article, it shall draft its rules of procedure which shall be submitted to both the Parties for their concurrence.

6. Both the Parties shall reserve their rights to deal directly with each other on matters which may be in the competence of the Commission.

ARTICLE 10

Both the Parties may form project specific joint entity/ies for the development, execution and operation of new projects including Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project in the Mahakali River for their mutual benefit.

ARTICLE 11

1. If the Commission fails under Article 9 of this Treaty to recommend its opi-

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nion after examining the differences of the Parties within three (3) months of such reference to the Commission or either Party disagrees with the recommendation of the Commission then a dispute shall be deemed to have been arisen which shall then be submitted to arbitration for decision. In so doing

either Party shall give three (3) months prior notice to the other Party.

2. Arbitration shall be conducted by a tribunal composed of three arbitrators. One arbitrator shall be nominated by Nepal, one by India, with neither country to nominate its own national and the third arbitrator shall be appointed jointly, who, as a member of the tribunal, shall preside over such tribunal. In the event that the Parties are unable to agree upon the third arbitrator within ninety (90) days after receipt of a proposal, either Party may request the Secretary-general of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague to appoint such arbitrator who shall not be a national of either country.

3. The procedures of the arbitration shall be determined by the arbitration tribunal and the decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be the decision of the tribunal. The proceedings of the tribunal shall be conducted in English and the decision of such a tribunal shall be in writing. Both the Parties shall accept the decision as final, definitive and binding.

4. Provision for the venue of arbitration, the administrative support of the arbitration tribunal and the remuneration and expenses of its arbitrators shall be as agreed in an exchange of notes between the Parties. Both the Parties may also agree by such exchange of notes on alternative procedures for setting differences arising under this Treaty.

ARTICLE 12

1. Following the conclusion of this Treaty, the earlier understandings reached between the Parties concerning the utilization of the waters of the Mahakali River from the Sarada Barrage and the Tanakpur Barrage, which have been incorporated herein, shall be deemed to have been replaced by this Treaty.

2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. It shall remain valid for a period of seventy-five (75) years from the date of its entry into force.

3. This Treaty shall be reviewed by both the Parties at ten (10) years interval or earlier as required by either Party and make amendments thereto, if necessary.

4. Agreements, as required, shall be entered into by the Parties to give effect to the provisions of this Treaty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the authorized representatives of the respective Parties have signed this Treaty in two originals in the English language and have hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Kathmandu, Nepal on the twenty-ninth day of January of the year one thousand nine hundred ninety six.

Sd/-

(Mr. Pranab Mukherjee)
Minister of External Affairs
Government of India.

Sd/-
(Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani)
Minister for Foreign Affairs.
His Majesty's Government of
Nepal.

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INDIA NEPAL USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Feb 20, 1996

March

Volume No

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IRAQ CUBA OMAN PERU RUSSIA UZBEKISTAN

Date : Mar 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

National Day of Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1996 on National Day of Bangladesh:

Today, March 26 is being celebrated as the National Day of Bangladesh. This marks the beginning of the 25th Anniversary of the year of Bangladesh's liberation. Twenty five years ago on this day, the military Government of

Pakistan unleashed horrendous and genocidal repression but were unable to crush the indomitable spirit of freedom of the people of Bangladesh. Despite unparalleled suffering and human tragedy, the nation of Bangladesh won its freedom and identity. On this occasion, it is appropriate to recall the sacrifices of the people of Bangladesh and the help rendered by India to make the dream of liberation a reality.

We earnestly hope that the current turmoil in Bangladesh can soon be ended through dialogue and peaceful reconciliation. India has nothing but goodwill for the people of Bangladesh and it is our sincere desire that with the return of normalcy, Bangladesh would continue on the path of progress and prosperity.

BANGLADESH INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Mar 26, 1996

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

Indo-Bhutan Plan talks open in Thimphu

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 22, 1996 on Indo-Bhutan Plan Talks Open in Thimphu:

The first round of the two day Indo-Bhutan Plan Talks for 1996 commenced in Thimphu today.

The Indian delegation is led by Shri A. Ramesh, Joint Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs and includes the Surveyor General of India, Joint Secretary (Hydel), Ministry of Power and other officials from the Ministry of External Affairs.

H.E. Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji, Minister for Planning of the Royal Government of Bhutan referred to the recent successful visit of His Majesty the King of Bhutan to India during which two major agreements for setting up the Tala Hydro Electric Project and Dungsam Cement Plant were signed. The Indian side stressed the importance of implementing the projects speedily.

The Finance Secretary of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Ambassador of India exchanged letters for the extension of a Rs. 25 crore stand-by credit arrangement for a period of three years commencing 1 April, 1996.

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An agreement on survey collaboration was also signed by the Ambassador of India and the Secretary, Survey of Bhutan. This is a Rs. 10 crore project on

building up infrastructural facilities and transfer of technology through technical assistance.

The Plan Talks are expected to conclude tomorrow.

BHUTAN INDIA

Date : Mar 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

BHUTAN

Official Visit of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 06, 1996 on Official visit of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan to India:

His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan is paying an official visit to India from 4th to 7th March. The visit is aimed at strengthening the traditionally close and cordial relations between the two countries and discussing matters of mutual interest. The last time the King visited India was from 4-7th January, 1993, when His Majesty paid a State visit to this country.

On 4th March, His Majesty called on the President; he also had extensive discussions with the Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and other Indian leaders on expanding bilateral relations. The discussions, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, were marked by warmth and mutual understanding. On 5th March, His Majesty has also met the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Power.

On 5th March, two Agreements were signed between Indian and Bhutan; both the Agreements pertain to settling up of projects by India in Bhutan. One is the Agreement regarding the Tala Hydroelectric Project and the other is on the setting up of the Dungsum Cement Plant in Bhutan. On behalf of India, the Agreements were signed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs; Lyonpo Dawa Tshering, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed on behalf of Bhutan.

The Agreement on the Tala Hydroelectric Project envisages the setting up of a run-of-the-river project on the river Wangchu, downstream of Chukha. The project is expected to cost around Rs. 1,900 crores (December 1995 estimates) and to generate 1020 MWs of power. The financing arrangements for the Tala project follow the Chukha pattern; GOI would be providing the necessary finance, in terms of an outright grant of 60% of the project cost and 40% of the cost as a soft loan. All the surplus power from the project is to be purchased by India at rates to be mutually agreed upon at the time of commissioning of the Project.

The surplus power to be made available from the Project is expected to contribute substantially in terms of augmenting electricity supplies in the North-Eastern region.

The agreement on the Dungsum Cement Plant envisages the setting up of a Dry Process Cement Plant (0.5 million tonnes per year) as a joint venture between RGoB and an Indian company with the equity participation to be mutually decided upon by the two parties. GOI would be providing the necessary funds for the project, estimated at Rs. 300 crores and Rs. 100 towards infrastructural facilities at the Indian side; details are to be worked out, by exchange of letters on the basis of an updated Detailed Project Report (DPR) to be prepared within six months of the signing of the agreement.

The two governments agreed to the extension of the Standby Credit Facility of Rs. 25 crores to Bhutan (which has been in force since March, 1993) for a fur-

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ther period of three years, with effect from 1st April, 1996.

Cooperation in the field of security came up for discussion.

The two governments agreed to work together to combat and eliminate terrorist and criminal activities on each other's territories.

BHUTAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Indo-Finnish Cultural Pact Signed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1996 on Indo-Finnish Cultural Pact signed:

India and Finland have signed a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 1996-98 envisaging cooperation in science, education, art and culture, mass media and sports. The CEP was signed here today by Shri Ashok Vajpeyi, Joint Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. Markku Reimaa, Director General for Press and Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Finland.

The CEP has been drawn up in pursuance of the Cultural Agreement between India and Finland. It provides a timebound programme of educational, cultural

and scientific exchanges.

FINLAND INDIA

Date : Mar 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

GENEVA

Statement by Shri Salman Haidar, Foreign Secretary, in the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament Geneva

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 21, 1996 regarding Statement by Shri Salman Haidar, Foreign Secretary, in the Plenary Meeting of the Conference on Disarmament Geneva:

Mr. President,

I am delighted to have the opportunity of addressing the Conference on Disarmament under your Presidency. I have had the pleasure of being closely associated with you at the U.N. in times past and I am well aware of your high diplomatic skills and ability. I would like to assure you of the fullest cooperation of the Indian delegation in your endeavours. May I also take the opportunity to extend to H.E. Mr. Vladimir, Petrovsky, Secretary General of the CD and Mr. Bensmail, Deputy Secretary General of the CD our high appreciation of their untiring efforts to ensure that this Conference achieves its intended goals.

2. Mr. President, in a few days, the first session of the Conference on Disarmament will draw to a close. At this stage we need to take stock and consider our

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future course of action. We have seen intense negotiations during the first nine weeks and we salute the tireless efforts of the Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee Ambassador Ramaker and his colleagues Ambassador Berdennikov and Ambassador Zahran, as well as other Friends of the Chair. We are glad to see that progress has been registered in many areas, including some of the organisational aspects, the architecture of the International Monitoring System and some elements on the On Site Inspection. Many delegations have spoken about the need to complete the Treaty speedily. We share this intent.

3. Nevertheless, we note with concern that large gaps remain in areas which we believe are central to the purpose of this Treaty. Regrettably, the opportunity

has not been taken during this part of the session of the Conference to address these key issues with the seriousness they merit.

4. The negotiations on CTBT in this forum may have begun in 1994 but, as we are all aware, there have been many negotiations on the subject over several decades. The absence of a shared approach at crucial times prevented a successful outcome. Since 1994, we have a sharp and explicit mandate to negotiate a Treaty which would address the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and nuclear disarmament in a balanced way. As we adjourn in a few days, it is necessary that delegations and capitals reflect on the means of obtaining a balanced result of our efforts. We need a shared approach if we are to avoid an incomplete result.

5. Mr. President, from the start India has followed a consistent policy on the CTBT. We believed then and are even more convinced today that a CTBT should bring about a halt to the qualitative development, upgradation and improvement of nuclear weapons and should also mark the first irreversible step on the road towards genuine nuclear disarmament within a time-bound framework.

6. When India proposed the Standstill Agreement on nuclear testing in 1954 about 60 tests had been carried out; the number of designs was limited and extensive testing was necessary to develop new designs. The scientific and technological environment has altered vastly in the intervening period. More than 2000 tests have been carried out. Many designs, it is reported, have been tested and are lying in reserve with the weapons designers. Till less than a year ago, nuclear weapon states held that they needed hydronuclear tests for safety and reliability purposes. We had disagreed. These tests are now not thought to be necessary. We are still told that other planned experiments and tests will not lead to qualitative development of nuclear weapons. It would surely be unacceptable if, after almost four decades of efforts. We achieved a Treaty which left open a route to improve or upgrade nuclear weapons or to develop and refine designs for new weapons. We believe that the CTBT should be truly comprehensive and that technical limitations of the present verification technologies should not be allowed to constrain our efforts towards this objective.

7. Mr. President, even while the current negotiations were in progress we witnessed disturbing developments that appeared to indicate that nuclear weapons were here to stay. New justifications for the retention of these weapons were put forward and new roles are envisaged for them. We voiced our concerns on these developments and after careful consideration, put forward certain proposals which are designed to ensure that the CTBT is indeed an integral step in a time-bound process of global nuclear disarmament. These are concrete and substantive proposals. They will have to be addressed as they are essential in defining the nature of the Treaty and its effectiveness as an instrument of disarmament. I trust the Conference will engage on these issues in a serious and purposive manner, so that we can take advantage of the window of opportunity which exists today.

7. Mr. President, last week, India, along with other members of the Group of 21 put forward a formal proposal calling for the establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament to commence

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negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time. This proposal was tabled after two months of Presidential consultations had unfortunately failed to achieve consensus on the subject. Mr. President, nuclear disarmament is not the concern of one group of countries alone but is of universal relevance. We realise that nuclear weapons cannot be eliminated overnight. But surely, in today's world, conditions exist for negotiations on this primary disarmament objective to begin. Unwillingness to move in this direction, coupled with a reluctance to focus on the disarmament aspects of the CTBT text raises doubts about the level of commitment to the disarmament agenda. Countries that possess nuclear weapons appear bent on retaining them and perhaps do not need test explosions or would not need them after the CTBT enters into force. A CTBT, shorn of its disarmament context, will be only an arms control treaty designed to perpetuate the reliance on nuclear weapons by those countries who have concluded extensive testing programmes.

8. Mr. President, India's objectives are different. We do not believe that the acquisition of nuclear weapons is essential for national security and we have followed a conscious decision in this regard. We are also convinced that the existence of nuclear weapons diminishes international security. These are fundamental precepts that have been an integral basis of India's foreign and national security policy. It shall, therefore, remain our endeavour in the coming months to try to ensure that the disarmament agenda is not lost in a purely non-proliferation agenda.

9. Mr. President, as this part of the session draws to an end, it affords us time to reflect. We have to be fully conscious of the task which faces us. This is not the mere mechanical task of a completing a text but the need to place the CTBT a Treaty of far-reaching significance in its proper context of nuclear disarmament, as an integral step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework. India will continue to contribute all its efforts to achieve this goal so that the international community attains a Treaty which truly serves the needs of international peace and security.

Thank you Mr. President".

SWITZERLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 21, 1996

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Death of Ms. Emilie Schenkl Bose, widow of Late Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

The following is the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1996 on the passing away of Schenkl Bose, widow of Late Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Augsburg, Germany:

Ms. Emilie Schenkl Bose, widow of late Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, passed away on the evening of 12th March, 1996, at Augsburg, Germany. She was 85 years old. The funeral is expected to be on 18th March, 1996. The Government of India is sending an official delegation to represent the country in the funeral. This delegation is being led by Shri Debi Prasad Pal, Minister of State for Finance.

In a letter to Prof. Anita Pfaff, daughter of Ms. Emilie Schenkl Bose, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs, said.

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"I am deeply shocked by the passing away of your mother, Mrs. Emilie Schenkl Bose. My meeting with her and other members of your family in October last year, left on me a lasting impression and evoked memories of your father - one of the greatest sons of India. Mrs. Emilie Schenkl Bose was an invaluable link with that generation, which is now passing out of our lives. Millions across the length and breadth of India have the highest regard and respect for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's widow and I would like you to know that we all share the burden of your grief.

I convey to you and other members of your family, my deepest condolences".

GERMANY INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 14, 1996

Volume No

1995

GERMANY

Message Read Out by Dr. Debiprosad Pal, Minister of State for Finance (Banking & Insurance) at the Funeral Ceremony of Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose at Leitershofen

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 18, 1996 on message read out by Dr. Debiprosad Pal, Minister of State for Finance (Banking & Insurance) at the Funeral Ceremony of Mrs. Emile Schenkl-Bose at Leitershofen:

"Professor Pfaff, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been asked by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, to represent the Government of India today at this sad occasion, as we gather

here to bid our final farewell to Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose.

To us in India, the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose evokes deep respect, admiration and highest regard. All of us have been deeply saddened by the news of passing away of Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose, who was an irreplaceable link with that generation. Mr. Emilie Schenkl-Bose had inspired her husband Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in his great mission for the liberation of India and had assisted her husband in writing his great book "Indian Struggle" and his unfinished autobiography. Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose never stood in her husband's way in the great task to which the life of Netaji was dedicated. During the long years of her life, she lived in loneliness when Netaji with the Azad Hind Fauz (Army) marched ahead to achieve his objective. She, as a devoted wife, patiently bore that solitude with the strength and inspiration that she had from her husband. Her only ambition was to bring up their daughter Anita Bose and she lived to see to her satisfaction that their daughter was well placed in life. We share your sorrow on the death of Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose.

May I read out the message of our Prime Minister which he wrote to Professor Pfaff. I quote "I have learn with great sorrow the news of the passing away of Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose. She was one of the persons who was closest to Netaji, and with her we have lost a link with history. She espoused Netaji's noble cause as her own and firmly stood by him through all the vicissitudes of the sacred struggle for the liberation of his motherland. Please accept my deepest condolences on this tragic loss."

This year we are observing the 50th anniversary of the famous march of the Indian National Army from Singapore to India. Also this year, nationwide functions are being held in India to mark the 100th birth-anniversary of Netaji. The Netaji Centenary Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of our Prime Minister. Professor Pfaff is one of the members of this Committee.

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Last October our Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee had visited Mrs. Schenkl-Bose and other family members here in Germany and had left with lasting impressions and memories. He had, at that time, also discussed issues relating to the deliberations at the Centenary Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the government and the people of India, I would once again like to express our sadness at the demise of Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose and convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Thank you."

GERMANY INDIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Reports for Indian Pilgrims going for HAJ

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 26, 1996 regarding good arrangements made for Indian Pilgrims going for HAJ:

Reports have recently appeared in the press alleging inadequacy in the arrangements made for Indian pilgrims going for Haj this year.

It is clarified that accommodation has been reserved and is available in both Makkah and Madina for all our pilgrims going for Haj under the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee (CHC). The rates being charged for the accommodation are SR 1235 per pilgrim at Makkah and SR 200 at Madina. These are not only lower as compared to the rates (SR 1240 and SR 220 respectively) which were payable last year, but are also among the most economical, when compared to the rates paid by other countries.

All our pilgrims will be accommodated within a radius of 1000 meters from the Haram Sharif. Further, as in past years, refund of a part of the rental will be made to pilgrims who are accommodated beyond 800 meters from the Haram Sharif.

Arrangements have also been completed for upliftment of all pilgrims to Jeddah and back by air. Despite the increase in fuel and other costs, Indian pilgrims will pay only Rs. 12,000 as Haj pilgrims fare as had been the case during the last two years. The number of embarkation points has been increased to five this year and there will be direct flights from Bangalore as well as from Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Flights from Delhi and Bombay have been started as scheduled, from 20 March, 1996. Flights from Madras were started on 25 March, 1996. The Saudi Government had opened the Haj terminal for intending pilgrims on 20 March, 1996 and the first Haj flight to land there was from India.

Flights from Calcutta will begin on 1 April, 1996, and from Bangalore on 5 April, 1996.

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INDIA USA

Date : Mar 26, 1996

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

Indo-Israeli Bilateral Consultations in Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 14, 1996 on Indo-Israeli Bilateral Consultations in Delhi:

Pursuant to the agreed minutes between the Foreign Ministries of India and Israel signed in New Delhi on May 17, 1993, Indo-Israeli bilateral consultations were held in New Delhi from March 13-14, 1996 between officials of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. The delegations were led by Secretary (East), Shri K. Raghunath and Deputy Director General for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Itzhak Shelef respectively. On Mar 13, 1996, the Israeli delegation paid a courtesy call on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri R. L. Bhatia.

The discussions were held in a spirit of friendship and understanding and covered bilateral Regional and Inter-national issues of mutual interest. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel in January 1992, interaction between the two countries has diversified and developed. It covers areas such as Trade, Agriculture, Economic Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges and people-to-people contacts. A regular exchange of visits at different levels has led to a better understanding of each other's perception of leading regional and international issues.

Over the last four years, the Governments of India and Israel have concluded several agreements which have established a strong institutional framework for the development of bilateral relations. In January 1996 during the visit of the Finance Minister of Israel agreements were signed in the sphere of customs cooperation, avoidance of double taxation and investment protection. A first meeting of the Indo-Israeli Joint Commission was also held in Tel Aviv in January 1996.

ISRAEL INDIA USA

Date : Mar 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

MALI

India to assist Mali to Develop Small Scale and Village Industries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1996 on India to Assist Mali to Develop Small Scale and Village Industries:

India and Mali have identified agriculture and agro-based industries as areas for increased bilateral cooperation. India has also offered its support and technical knowhow in setting up of small scale and village industries in Mali, based on local resources.

This was observed when a high level delegation consisting of H. E. Madame Fatou Haidara, Minister of Industry, Handicrafts & Tourism, and H. E. Mr. Modebo Traore, Minister for Rural Development, Government of the Republic of Mali called on the Minister of State for Small Scale and Agro & Rural Industries, Shri M. Arunachalam, here today.

Mali, with agriculture as its main occupation, has evinced keen interest in
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irrigation and the manufacture of pump sets and related equipment. Other specific areas which have been identified include cotton processing unit, rice milling plant, oil extraction plant for groundnut and cotton seeds, cattle and poultry feed plant and, food processing units.

Shri Arunachalam said that India can assist Mali in conducting surveys for industries and preparation of feasibility studies for setting up small enterprises in the above areas. Based on such surveys and feasibility report, India could also provide training to selected entrepreneurs from Mali both in skill upgradation and development of entrepreneurial skill. In this connection, the Minister observed that Indian entrepreneurs and institutions like National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) are in a position to set up small scale industrial enterprises in Mali on a turn-key basis. NSIC has considerable experience in export of such projects to African countries.

MALI INDIA USA RUSSIA LATVIA

Date : Mar 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Bomb Blast in Jerusalem & Tel Aviv

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 06, 1996 on Bomb Blast in Jerusalem & Tel Aviv:

India strongly condemns recent incidents of terrorist bomb blasts in Jerusalem & Tel Aviv which have resulted in numerous casualties and have left many seriously injured. India conveys its sincere condolences to members of the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery of those injured in the incidents. India is confident that such incidents of terrorist violence carried out by a few individuals will not de-rail the Middle East Peace Process which has made steady progress and has now entered an irreversible phase. India, which has itself suffered from cross-border terrorist violence, would like to reiterate its support for the sincere efforts being made by Chairman Arafat and the people of Palestine to combat terrorism in the area. India also calls upon the international community for concerted action against this scourge in all its forms.

ISRAEL USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Security for the visiting Pakistani Cricket Team

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 08, 1996 regarding security for the visiting Pakistani cricket team:

Responding to queries regarding security for the visiting Pakistani cricket team, the Spokesman said that identical assurances for visiting teams were exchanged between India and Pakistan through diplomatic channels. All security arrangements have been made.

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PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Mar 08, 1996

Volume No

1995

Supplies of Critical Nuclear Technologies to Pakistan by US Government

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 15, 1996 on supplies of critical nuclear technologies to Pakistan by US Government:

Government of India have been closely following reports on Pakistan's acquisition of 5,000 specialized ring magnets from China for use in gas centrifuges to enrich uranium for Nuclear Weapons. Government of India remains greatly concerned about the clandestine Nuclear Weapons Programme Pakistan has been pursuing for over two decades. Pakistan's role in smuggling nuclear weapons material, equipment and components is well documented, and widely known to the world community. It is also well known that Pakistan remains engaged in clandestine procurement of ballistic missiles from other countries.

2. These facts have been brought to the attention of the US Government on a number of occasions. Our concerns regarding supplies of critical nuclear technologies to Pakistan have also been conveyed to the concerned countries, including China.

3. Continuing nuclear acquisitions by Pakistan, and acquiescence or grant of waivers from the operation of non-proliferation sanctions on the part of those who claim to have a special responsibility in this regard, despite the accumulated evidence of such clandestine activities, only serves to underscore the irrelevance of the current Non-Proliferation Regime. The NPT apart from being discriminatory, is fundamentally flawed as is evident from its ineffectiveness in preventing nuclear acquisitions by Pakistan from NPT member states.

4. It is abundantly clear the world community needs complete elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound framework, and not merely non-proliferation control of a particular kind symbolized by instruments like the NPT or the working of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA CHINA

Date : Mar 15, 1996

Volume No

1995

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1996 on human suffering in Iraq:

Responding to a query whether India has taken any steps within the UN on the human suffering in Iraq, the Spokesman said that India reaffirms its deep concern at the continued suffering of the people of Iraq due to economic hardships and its inevitable social consequences. India has taken steps within its means, and within the scope of UN sanctions, to ameliorate the human suffering in Iraq by sending food and medicines. Consignments of tea and life-saving drugs have been despatched, while sugar, wheat and baby food are under shipment. India is aware of the enormity of the suffering in Iraq and hopes that events will develop in a manner as to relieve the hardships of the Iraqi people.

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IRAQ INDIA

Date : Mar 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Transfer of US arms to 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, 1996 regarding transfer of US arms to Pakistan:

Responding to queries regarding articles in the Washington Post and the Washington Times of 20th March, 1996, according to which the US had decided to transfer the Brown Amendment package of sophisticated military equipment to Pakistan, the Spokesman said that he could only reiterate that infusion of such large quantities of sophisticated arms into the region notionally valued at \$ 368 million but worth, in terms of current acquisition cost, considerably more, will seriously impact on the security of countries of South Asia, which could instigate the first arms race since the end of the Cold War forcing US to divert scarce resources from much needed developmental activities. The assertion that supply of the arms package would enable greater influence over Pakistan, including over the latter's nuclear weapons programme, and thus enhance stability in the region, is clearly belied. Nor have such supplies in any way helped to contain Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

2. We expect that the full facts and consequences of the nuclear weapons related acquisitions by Pakistan will be determined, including of the recently acquired ring magnets, and the implications taken into account before transfer

of the arms package is considered.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 21, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Enactment by the United States of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act

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, 1996 on Enactment by the United States of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act:

Government of India's attention has been drawn to the recent enactment by the United States of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Helms-Burton Bill).

India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by one country which impinges on the sovereignty of another country. This includes any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extra-territorially to other sovereign nations.

India recalls the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement on this subject issued on 19th of March, 1996 and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

CUBA INDIA

Date : Mar 21, 1996

Volume No

1995

OMAN

India-Oman Political Consultations

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 13, 1996 on India Oman Political Consultations:

The Annual India-Oman Political Consultations between the two foreign offices took place in New Delhi from 12 to 13 March 1996. The Omani side was led

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by H.S. Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq Al Said, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman while Shri R. L. Bhatia, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian side.

Both sides re-affirmed the historical ties of friendship and trust existing between the two countries and reiterated their common desire to further strengthen these relations. The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and noted with satisfaction the consolidation and expansion of the relations in several fields since the last Annual Political Consultations. Both sides noted that significant steps have been taken to further stimulate and diversify the bilateral relations. The consultations brought out a close identity of views on a number of bilateral, regional and global issues. Both sides emphasised the utility of the framework of Annual Political Consultations and the importance of such meetings on a regular basis.

H. H. Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq Al Said called on the External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and met the Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Captain Satish Sharma and Minister of State for Commerce, Shri P. Chidambaram.

OMAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

PERU

India, Peru sign Cultural Pact

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 20, 1996 on India, Peru Sign Cultural Pact:

India and Peru have signed a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 1996-98 envisaging exchange of experts in the fields of dance, music, literature and academics. The CEP was signed here today by Shri B. P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Culture and Dr. Alejandro San Martin, Ambassador, Republic of Peru.

The CEP will also facilitate exchange of recorded music, photographs, slides and publications. Special attention will be given to the celebrations related to

the 50th anniversary of Indian independence in both countries.

PERU INDIA USA

Date : Mar 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Official visit of H.E. Mr. Yengeny M. Primakov, foreign Minister of Russian Federation

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 28, 1996 on official visit of H.E. Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov, foreign Minister of Russian Federation:

H.E. Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, is paying an official visit to India at the invitation of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs, from 30-31 March, 1996. He will have discussions with the Minister for External Affairs and also call on the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister.

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RUSSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Mar 28, 1996

Volume No

1995

SLOVAK

Indo-Slovak Cultural Agreement signed

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Mar 11, 1996 on Indo-Slovak Cultural Agreement signed:

India and the Slovak Republic signed a cultural agreement here today envisaging cooperation in art and culture, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media. The agreement was signed by Shri B. P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Culture and Mr. Jozef Sestak, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The agreement provides for promotion of cultural relations and mutual cooperation in scientific, educational and cultural fields between the two countries.

INDIA

Date : Mar 11, 1996

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Uzbekistan

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Mar 18, 1996 on visit of External Affairs Minister to Uzbekistan:

External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, is visiting Uzbekistan from 19 to 21 March. This is the first visit by the External Affairs Minister of India to independent Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is a country of 23 million people, approximately the size of France. It is well endowed with natural resources, including hydro-carbons and precious metals. It is also a rich agricultural country with a rapidly developing industrial base. It has embarked upon economic and political reforms with the aim of establishing a secular democracy and an open economy geared towards intensive cooperation with its neighbours.

India and Uzbekistan have historical ties based on geographical proximity and close cultural and economic interaction through the ages. These ties continued during Soviet times as well, and were reflected in the popularity of Indian culture in Uzbekistan. Since the independence of Uzbekistan in 1991, bilateral relations have become more active. President Karimov has visited India twice and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao visited the country in May 1993. Two Sessions of Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission have also take place.

During his visit to Uzbekistan, External Affairs Minister would have official bilateral talks with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Kamilov and call on President Karimov. These talks are expected to focus on bilateral and regional issues, where the growing influence of Uzbekistan makes it important interlocutor for the Indian leaders. The two countries share common views based on the necessity of preserving stability and secularism in the region. Bilateral relations will also be discussed and new areas of cooperation in science & technology, training, culture etc. will be identified.

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The External Affairs Minister will also Co-Chair the Third Session of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission. The Uzbek Co-Chairman is Prime Minister Sultanov. There are growing complementarities between the two countries and the process of liberalisation in both countries offers new areas for intensifying our economic co-operation. Indian companies are already present in Uzbekistan and there are close to 20 joint ventures already functioning. India has extended credits worth US \$ 20 million to Uzbekistan and some additional projects will be identified and approved in the course of the Joint Commission. The two sides will discuss ways of increasing trade exchanges through organising individual trade fairs and exchange of business delegations.

The visit is timely and marks an important stage in the development of friendly relations between India and independent Uzbekistan.

UZBEKISTAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Mar 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Programme for Cultural Exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Finland for the period 1996-1998

Motivated by a mutual desire to further develop cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science and technology and in pursuance of the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Finland signed on June 10, 1983, the contracting parties have agreed to sign the following Cultural Exchange Programme for the period of 1996-1998.

A list of the members of both delegations is annexed to this report of proceedings (Annex I).

I. SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

1. Both sides agree to encourage collaboration between specified departments of universities and institutions of higher education in the two countries. The form and manner of cooperation including visits of faculty members and the field of cooperation will be mutually decided by the institutions concerned. The institutions have been identified at Annex II. Both sides may modify or add to the list through mutual consultation.

2. (a) Both sides will encourage the studies of each other's languages and for the purpose, Finnish side will send, upon request by Indian side, a Finnish

language teacher for teaching in one of the Indian universities.

(b) The Indian side will send, upon request by the Finnish side, an Indian language teacher to teach in one of the Finnish universities. The terms and conditions will be decided between the designated Finnish university and Indian Council of Cultural Relations, New Delhi, through mutual consultations.

3. Both sides will provide facilities to three (3) scholars for participation in national international conferences seminars etc., and also for post con

<P-72>

ference visits, not exceeding two (2) weeks to centres of their interest.

4. Both sides will exchange groups of teacher educators and educational administrators to study teacher training system. They will also exchange information and experience in content and process of pre-service and in-service training of school teachers.

5. Both sides will exchange the information about the educational system of each other's country, as well as text books and publications relating to science education in schools, preferably in English.

6. Both sides will endeavour to exchange documentation on the structure of the educational system in their country with a view to facilitate recognition of degrees/diplomas and certificates.

II. SCHOLARSHIPS

7. Both sides continue to carry out a programme for scholarships and study visits on a mutual basis. On the Finnish side the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) is responsible for funding and carrying out the exchange, based on bilateral cultural programmes. On the Indian side, this function is managed by the University Grants Commission.

8. The University of Tampere, Finland, and the Finnish Cancer Society will offer the Indian Council of Medical Research, two (2) fellowships for training in Cancer Epidemiology and Registration. Details including the financial terms will be settled through mutual consultations between the institutions concerned on both sides.

III. ARTS & CULTURE

9. Both sides will exchange an expert for a period of two (2) weeks to study the cultural education in schools and documentation of the art and production of cultural resources.

10. Both sides will exchange dolls, children's books and facilitate the participation in competitions of children's paintings/drawings/written entries.

11. Both sides will encourage and support the translation and publication of each other's literature and folklore. The details of this cooperation will be settled by mutual agreement.

12. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Finnish Institutions including the Finnish Oriental Society will exchange microfilms, microfiche, copies of manuscripts on art, humanities and cultural heritage, reprographic copies of ancient/mediaeval manuscripts, photographs/slides and other primary or secondary material on art and cultural heritage for the National Information System and data bank.

13. IGNCA will receive specialists and scholars for consultation and advice in mutually selected areas of cultural heritage or organizing the IG Kala Nidhi and taking part in the activities of IG Kala Kosa.

14. IGNCA will sponsor the assignment of specialists/scholars for training in methods and applications of automated documentation storage and retrieval of data on arts, humanities and cultural heritage.

15. Both sides will exchange one (1) expert in the field of conservation of works of art and other museum objects for a period of one (1) month.

16. Both sides will take note of the bilateral programmes in archaeology and studies in the Indus script and inscriptions. They will support the preparation of the third volume of the Corpus of Indus Seals and Inscriptions.

17. The Finnish Science Centre (HEUREKA), the City of Vantaa and the

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National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta, will continue their cooperation in science popularization. They will exchange one (1) director/senior level exhibit designer for a period of (3) three weeks each.

18. Both sides support collaboration between the University of Helsinki and various Indian research institutions in the study and teaching of various aspects of Keralite culture and the Malayalam language.

19. Both sides agree to support cooperation in the field of folklore research. As a result of this cooperation the work "Siri Epic as performed by Gopala Naika" will be published in the series Folklore Fellows' Communications in 1996.

IV. EXHIBITIONS

20. Both sides will exchange one major art exhibition during the programme period. The details of the exhibitions shall be settled separately through diplomatic channels.

(a) Finland will send an exhibition of the architecture of Juha Leiviska in 1997.

(b) The Museum of Finnish Architecture will receive an exhibition of Charles Correa's work in 1997 or 1998.

(c) The Museum of Applied Arts in Finland will receive an exhibition of arts

and crafts in 1998.

V. MASS MEDIA

21. Both sides expressed their wish to enhance cooperation between the radio and TV organizations in the two countries. The form and substance of this cooperation shall be agreed upon directly between the organisations concerned.

22. Both sides shall extend invitations to participate in international film festivals which are held in both countries.

23. Both sides shall encourage the holding of Film Weeks in each other's country. Details shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

24. Both sides shall encourage direct cooperation between their film institutions.

VI. SPORTS

25. Both sides will promote direct cooperation between organizations as well as research and training institutes in the field of sports.

26. In Finland, sports cooperation is coordinated by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Education and in India by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Finnish side may offer expertise in sports education in India (maximum two (2) weeks) and invite Indian specialists for short study visits (maximum two (2) weeks) to Finland.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Any additional proposal not included in this Programme will be considered through diplomatic channels. The present programme does not preclude the carrying out of any other programme for cooperation in the field of art, culture and education arranged through diplomatic channels.

VIII. FINANCIAL AND GENERAL TERMS

The general and financial provisions set out in the Annex III shall form an integral part of this Programme.

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The Programme shall be valid till 31st December, 1998 and shall remain in force provisionally thereafter until the next Programme is concluded.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Programme.

Done in New Delhi on 15th of March, one thousand nine hundred ninety six, corresponding to twentyfive, Phalguna 1917 (SAKA), in two originals each in Hindi and English, both texts being equally authentic. However, in case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDIA
Sd/-
(ASHOK VAJPEYI)
JOINT SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND
Sd/-
(MARKKU REIMAA)
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PRESS
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FINLAND INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Mar 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Programme of Cultural and Educational Exchanges between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru for the Years 1996-1998

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru:

DESIROUS of strengthening and developing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and their people inspired by their common desire to broaden their relations in the cultural and educational fields.

On the basis of the Cultural Agreement concluded at New Delhi on 25th January, 1987, between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Peru,

Have agreed on the following programme of cultural and education exchanges for the years 1996-1998:

1. EDUCATION

1. Both sides will exchange 2-3 academics to deliver lectures on the subjects of mutual interest and establish contacts for a period not exceeding 4 weeks.

2. Both sides will provide facilities to 2-3 scholars for participation in the seminars/symposia, conferences etc. to be held in each other's country and

also for post-conference visits not exceeding two weeks to centres of their interest. Registration fee, if any, will be borne by the host country.

II. ART AND CULTURE

3. The National Museum will receive and the Peruvian side will send a composite exhibition of "precolonial art."
4. The National Museum will send an exhibition of "Indian Decorative Arts" from the National Museum collection for a period of one month accompanied by an expert.
5. The Peruvian side will depute one museum officer to visit India for a
<P-75>
period of one month to study the museums and museum methods in India.
6. Both sides will exchange of 20/25 colour slides of Museum exhibits.
7. Both sides will exchange publications, photographs and other material through Salar Jung Museum of India and Museums of Peru.
8. Peruvian side will participate in VIII Triennale India.
9. Indian side will send an exhibition of Contemporary Art on a theme as may be decided mutually later on accompanied by a Commissioner and technical expert.
10. Both sides will send dance/music troupes to give performances. Total number of artists and duration of stay will be decided mutually.
11. During the validity of the programme both sides will explore the possibility of exchange of experts in the fields of dance, music and literature for an appropriate period of stay. The details will be settled through mutual discussion.
12. Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi will like to interact with Peruvian Institute of Hispanic Culture, Lima and to exchange materials and documentation with the Archaeological and Anthropological Museum, Lima and the Museum of Arts, Lima.
13. Both sides will facilitate exchange of recorded music, photographs, slides and publications on performing arts.

III. RADIO, T.V. & PRESS

14. Both sides will exchange Radio and TV programmes and documentaries showing the life and culture of their respective countries, including informational and educational programmes, science programmes, teleplays, music and dance etc.
15. Both sides shall observe each other's national day through their radio and TV organisation by putting out special radio/IV programmes on such occasions. The programme will be supplied by one side to the other well in

advance of the dates of these days.

16. Both sides will extend invitation to each other's International Film Festivals.

IV. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

17. Both sides will pay special attention to preparation and implementation in both countries of functions, related to the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of India.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

18. Both sides shall undertake six-monthly review of the progress of implementation of provisions of the above Cultural Exchange Programme. The review shall be undertaken by local working groups consisting of a representative of the Embassy and representatives of the Ministries involved.

19. The present Executive Programme does not exclude the possibility of organising other activities which may be in accordance with the objectives of the Cultural Agreement in effect between both countries.

20. The General and Financial Provisions set out in the Annexure shall form an integral part of this programme.

21. The present Programme will come into force with effect from the date of its signing and will remain valid till the next programme is concluded.

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Done and signed in New Delhi on this Thirtieth day of Phalguna, Nineteen hundred and Seventeen (SAKA) corresponding to the Twentieth day of March, Nineteen hundred and Ninety Six (AD) in six originals two each In Hindi, Spanish and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. Any doubt will be resolved through mutual consultations between the two sides.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Sd/-

(BALMIKI PRASAD SINGH)

SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

MINISTRY OF HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE REPUBLIC OF PERU

Sd/-

(H.E. DR. ALEJANDRO SAN MARTIN)

AMBASSADOR

INDIA PERU USA

Date : Mar 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in the spheres of culture, art, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media

The Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties)

Moved by the traditional feelings of friendship,

Declaring their intention to develop and strengthen friendship and cooperation between both Contracting Parties in the spheres of culture, art, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media,

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1

The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to maintain and strengthen cooperation in the fields of culture, art, education, science, tourism, sports and mass media.

ARTICLE 2

The Contracting Parties shall promote mutual cultural exchanges, to stimulate cooperation and support the development of relations between the educational, scientific, cultural, sports and research institutions of the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 3

The Contracting Parties shall receive, as far as their own resources and requirements shall permit, nationals recommended by the other party for study, training, carrying out research work and specialisation in its educational, cultural scientific and technical institutions.

ARTICLE 4

For the purpose of carrying out the terms of this agreement, the Contracting Parties agree to set up a group consisting of an equal number of representatives of each Contracting Party. The objectives of the group will be:

- a) To formulate a detailed programme of exchanges, and
- b) To keep under periodical review the implementation of the agreement.

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The group shall meet as and when necessary, otherwise the communication shall be carried out in written form through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 5

This agreement shall enter into force on the completion of constitutional and legal procedures and notification thereof by the Contracting Parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years. The agreement shall remain in force for another period of five years unless either of the Contracting Parties gives to the other a written notice of six months in advance of its intention to terminate it before the date of its expiry.

On the date when the present agreement will come into force, the Contracting Parties shall consider as null and void the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Czechoslovak Republic on cultural cooperation, signed on July 7, 1959.

Signed in New Delhi on the eleventh day of March nineteen hundred ninety six (A.D.) corresponding to 21st Phalgunā nineteen hundred seventeen (SAKA).

In two originals each in Hindi, Slovak and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Sd/-
FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NORWAY

Date : Mar 18, 1996

April

Volume No

1995

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Foreign Affairs Record

VOL XLII NO 4 April, 1996

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BANGLADESH USA SWEDEN

Date : Apr 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Rs. 2394 crore worth of Rice Exported

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 11, 1996 on Rs. 2394 crore Worth of Rice Exported:

India exported altogether 36 lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice valued at Rs. 2394 crore during 1995-96 upto January last. The total quantity of rice exported in the previous year stood at 1.56 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 145.68 crore.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) had been authorised to sell wheat in the open market since October 1993. There was a target to sell 55 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1995-96. FCI sold a total quantity of 55.83 lakh tonnes of wheat upto February, 1996.

INDIA USA

Date : Apr 11, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Peace across the International Israel-Lebanon border

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 15, 1996 on Violence and threat to peace across the international Israel-Lebanon border:

The Government of India expresses deep concern at the violence and threat to peace in recent weeks across the international Israel-Lebanon border which has rapidly escalated into serious armed attacks across each other's territories. India also deplores the loss of human life and hardships caused to the civilian population on both sides.

These hostilities would also adversely affect the ongoing peace process in the region. Reiterating its support for Security Council Resolution 425 as well as for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Lebanon, India calls on all parties concerned to ensure immediate cessation of all hostilities and violence across the international border.

INDIA ISRAEL LEBANON USA

Date : Apr 15, 1996

Volume No

1995

LEBANON

Humanitarian Assistance to Lebanon

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1996 on Humanitarian Assistance to Lebanon:

The Government and the people of India are deeply distressed to know that more than half a million people have had to flee their homes in Southern Lebanon and other parts of Lebanon, as a result of the current outbreak of violence and hostilities across the Israel-Lebanon border. We are aware that this has caused innocent civilians much hardship and suffering, and has also put tremendous strain on the civic facilities in those parts of

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Lebanon, where the displaced persons are seeking refuge. This human tragedy has again draws attention to the need for an immediate cessation of all hostilities and violence in the region.

As a gesture of sympathy and support to friendly Lebanon in this hour of need, and in response to an appeal from the Government of Lebanon, India has decided to extend humanitarian assistance to Lebanon, in the form of items such as medicines, non-perishable food items, blankets, and other relief goods.

Measures for urgent despatch of these relief supplies have already been initiated.

LEBANON INDIA ISRAEL USA

Date : Apr 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

LIBERIA

Violence in Monrovia

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1996 on fresh outbreak of violence and street fighting among rival factions in Monrovia:

The fresh outbreak of violence and street fighting among rival factions last fortnight in Monrovia has been a major setback to the Liberian peace process under way since the August 1995 Abuja accord. Government of India have been in constant touch right from day one with all the Indian Missions in Western Africa, notably in Accra, Abidjan and Dakar, as also with Honorary Consuls in Monrovia and Freetown for ensuring welfare of people of Indian origin in Liberia and their safe evacuation. As of 15 April, a total of 144 Indians out of an estimated 346, had arrived in Dakar and are being assisted by our Embassy in arranging their stay in Dakar and transfer to final destinations.

Many of them have relations in Freetown or other countries and are proceeding accordingly. No report of any casualty has so far come to Government's notice.

Of the 9 Indian military observers deputed to Liberia under the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), 6 have already been evacuated to Dakar and 1 to Freetown, while the remaining 2 are staying in UN compound. They are all safe.

Government of India is continuously monitoring the situation in Liberia and is also in touch with neighbouring West African governments for ensuring welfare and safe passage for the Indian evacuees. Contact is also being maintained with the US Government through their Embassy in New Delhi for evacuation of the Indians from Monrovia.

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LIBERIA INDIA NIGERIA USA GHANA SENEGAL SIERRA LEONE

Date : Apr 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

NETHERLAND

Exhibition of Indian Carpets & Handicrafts at the Hague

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 12, 1996 on Exhibition of Indian Carpets & Handicrafts at the Hague:

An Exhibition of Indian Carpets and Handicrafts was recently organised at the Hague, Netherlands, by the Indian Embassy in cooperation with the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC), under the Ministry of Textiles. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Anneke Van Dok Van Weele, Netherland's Minister of Foreign Trade. Speaking on the occasion, the Dutch Minister endorsed India's Kaleen initiative and for making the Netherlands the first European country to endorse the initiative in this regard. She reiterated on the occasion that the Netherlands did not pursue policies that politicised issues like the child labour and the attempt to enforce protectionist measures. The Dutch Minister quoted the ILO figures which stated the labour cost savings realised through use of child labour were only 5-10 per cent of final price of a carpet, thus use of child labour cannot be for competitive reasons. The answer to the problem, she stated, lay in the overall poverty level in developing countries and could be solved by increasing living standards at the lowest income level. She also stated that developing countries should be supportive in this by opening up markets and not closing them for protectionist reasons. A carpet bearing the first Kaleen label was also presented to the Dutch Minister by the Chairman, Carpet Export Promotion Council.

A seminar entitled "Social Responsibility and Protectionism" was also organised on the occasion by the Indian High Commission wherein Shri B. L. Sharma, Development Commissioner for Handlooms represented India. The Seminar covered wide range of issues especially use of child labour in Indian carpet industry.

The Exhibition, being first by the Indian government, to expose products to the Netherlands market. The Exhibition generated interest amongst importers and helped creating new environment for increasing India's exports to the Netherlands.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA THE NETHERLANDS USA

Date : Apr 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Norwegian Minister Calls on Shri N. K. P. Salve

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Apr 10, 1996 on Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Calls on Shri N. K. P. Salve, Union Power Minister:

The Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (Development Cooperation) Mr. Asbjorn Mathisen, who is on an official visit to India called on the Union Power Minister, Shri N. K. P. Salve, here today. The two Ministers explored the possibilities of collaboration in the Hydel Power Sector as Norway has advanced technology in hydel power development. Norway's entire requirement of power is met through hydro electricity.

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Shri Salve informed the visiting Minister that the potential for developing hydel power in Northern India was vast since the rivers were snow fed and were perennial.

Shri Salve also said that Norway could explore possibilities of imparting training to the technical personnel in the hydel sector.

NORWAY INDIA

Date : Apr 10, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Building of Nuclear Bomb by Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 02, 1996 on acquisition of blue prints from foreign sources for the building of a nuclear bomb by Pakistan:

In response to a question the official spokesman said that we have seen reports in the US press about the acquisition of blue prints from foreign

sources for the building of a nuclear bomb by Pakistan. These reports provide yet another confirmation of the relentlessness and duplicity with which Pakistan has pursued its clandestine nuclear weapons programme. There is by now too much evidence to permit any objective observer to take an equivocal stand on the Pakistani nuclear programme. It was, an India has consistently maintained, in conception a programme designed to equip Pakistan with nuclear weapons; it continues to be so today.

It is dangerous for regional peace and stability to equip such a country with substantial quantities of conventional weapons. We hope that the countries which propose to do so will take heed of the warnings which are emanating from recent reports regarding Pakistan's acquisition of materials for its nuclear weapons programme.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Formation of a Caretaker Government in Bangladesh

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1996 on the formation of a Caretaker Government in Bangladesh:

Government have taken note of the developments in Bangladesh with the formation of a caretaker government having retired Chief Justice Habibur Rahman as the Chief Adviser to the Bangladesh President. We hope that this will lead to restoration of normalcy in the country and enable the democratic process of elections to go forward. We convey our best wishes to the caretaker government in carrying out the great responsibilities with which it is entrusted.

India's policy towards Bangladesh is motivated by friendship and a desire to develop cooperative ties between the two countries. It will be our endeavour to further the dialogue between our countries and work for giving impetus to Indo-Bangladesh relations.

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BANGLADESH CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date : Apr 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Falls allegations about Incidents In Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1996 on OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir making false allegations about incidents in Kashmir:

We have seen a statement issued in New York on st, f Pa by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir making false allegations about recent incidents in Kashmir. The statement which is clearly the handiwork of Pakistan shows that OIC continues to be used by that country to purvey anti-India propaganda.

2. Contrary to what is stated in the OIC Contact Group statement, in the recent incidents at the Hazratbal Shrine the terrorists sought to desecrate the holy place which they had forcibly occupied and later threatened from an adjacent building to do the same. The action of the state police was in response to the threat to the holy shrine from the terrorists and to protect themselves from the attacks launched by the terrorists against them. The terrorist groups and their mentors in Pakistan who are responsible for the violence in Kashmir bear the responsibility for the suffering and sorrow which are inevitable companions of violence.
3. It has already been clarified and it is reiterated that the kidnapping and tragic murder of Jalil Andrabi was not a custodial death. The security forces had no hand whatsoever in this tragedy. Senior police officials are investigating the case and no effort will be spared to apprehend those who have been guilty of this heinous crime.
4. Along with the rest of the country, Jammu and Kashmir will soon elect Members to the Lok Sabha. This electoral exercise will witness the resumption of the political process. Pakistan is doing its utmost to thwart that process in Jammu and Kashmir for it wishes to continue the relentless and ruthless proxy war which it is waging against India. It would not help the process of restoring normalcy and peace in Jammu and Kashmir if the OIC Contact Group permits itself to be used by Pakistan to issue inaccurate and provocative statements against India.

INDIA USA PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Human Rights situation in Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 17, 1996 on human rights situation in Kashmir:

We have seen the paragraphs on Kashmir in the general statement made by the EU at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva earlier today.

We presume that, in expressing serious concern over the human rights situation in Kashmir, the EU is addressing the terrorists who have caused the problem, and we would have welcomed a clearer statement to this effect.

We also note that the EU has clearly identified the root of the problem, and called on the Government of Pakistan to prevent armed infiltration into J&K. We hope the Government of Pakistan will listen.

We hope that all right-thinking people in Jammu & Kashmir will support Government of India's efforts to restore democratic governance there, through the elections next month. The EU statement has noted our efforts.

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INDIA SWITZERLAND USA PAKISTAN

Date : Apr 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Declaration by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 18, 1996 on declaration by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir:

A declaration by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir, issued in Geneva on 15th April 1996, has come to our notice. As with OIC statements on Jammu & Kashmir in the past, this declaration too bears the stamp of Pakistan's hostile and malicious propaganda against India. It is regrettable that OIC has once

again allowed itself to be used by Pakistan to promote its anti-India tirade.

Government of India is committed to the resumption of the political process in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Elections to the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Indian Parliament) are to be held shortly. India's tradition of holding free and fair election is universally acknowledged. The election process in Jammu & Kashmir will naturally be in keeping with this tradition. It is a complete travesty of the truth to allege otherwise.

The version given of the recent incidents in Hazratbal is a distortion of the facts. The security forces acted to prevent a desecration of the holy shrine. It is totally false to term Jalil Andrabi's tragic death as custodial. Investigations in the matter are in progress under the directions of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir.

The OIC should focus its attention on the proxy war being waged by Pakistan against India by fomenting violence and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere. That would be the way to usher in peace and tranquility in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Statements criticising India's policy only serve to encourage the terrorists.

INDIA SWITZERLAND PAKISTAN MALI USA

Date : Apr 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Death of Civilians in Lebanon

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 20, 1996 on the Death of Civilians in Lebanon:

India is deeply distressed at the continuation of hostilities and violence across the Israel-Lebanon border, and the increasing number of casualties among innocent civilians which this has caused, particularly in Lebanon. We strongly deplore the latest occurrence, on April 18, in which Israeli air attacks on Southern Lebanon led to the death of at least 94 Lebanese refugees, including women and children, besides injuring a number of others.

This ghastly tragedy again underlines the need for an immediate end to all hostilities and violence in the region. Meanwhile, Government of India reiterates its call on all parties concerned to exercise the utmost restraint, and in particular, to avoid attacks on civilian targets under all circumstances.

Date : Apr 20, 1996

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 26, 1996 on a new initiative launched on Africa called "UN System-wide Special initiative on Africa".

The UN Secretary General Mr. Boutros Ghali launched in New York

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on 15 March, 1996 a new initiative on Africa called "UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa". It is estimated that the 14 components of this initiative would cost upto \$ 25 billion with 85% of it to be mobilised by the World Bank. The initiative also seeks to devise new measures to improve donor coordination and increase aid effectiveness.

Relations between the Indian subcontinent and the continent of Africa have endured down the centuries and trade across the Indian Ocean flourished even before the advent of Christian era. In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi whose more than two decades of prime youth was spent in South Africa, has truly symbolised the aspirations for freedom and human dignity for all. Jawaharlal Nehru at the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in March 1947, even before India attained political freedom, had declared that India's freedom would remain incomplete until the whole of Africa was free. India's commitment to Africa has been principled, unequivocal and total - be it decolonisation, fight against racism, apartheid or neo-colonialism. Today, India is totally committed to helping the African countries realise economic freedom.

India, besides having close bilateral relations with all African countries, maintains, close links with African regional organisations like the OAU, AFDB, UNECA, COMESA, SADC, ECOWAS, etc. The India International Centre, New Delhi organised a three-day Conference on "Understanding Contemporary Africa. India and South South Cooperation" in February 1996 which attracted participation from majority of African regional organisations and countries. India also participated in the just concluded Partners meet of the UNECA in Addis Ababa.

India would be happy to lend support for various components of the UN Secretary General's initiative. Indian expertise and experience in several

areas, notably in development of agriculture and related fields, small and medium industries and enterprise development in the informal sector, provision of basic education, health, extension services, cooperative management, supply of appropriate technology which is of high quality, easy to maintain and absorb and cost effective, would be of special interest. India also has extensive potential in helping in human resource development of African countries.

The India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme which had made a modest beginning way back in 1964, is now substantial in its scope and content and is the main vehicle for promoting economic cooperation with developing countries. Two-thirds of the ITEC programme is devoted to Africa. The number of African students who have enjoyed a highly subsidised quality university education in India runs into tens of thousands.

The Government of India welcomes, in the light of its deep commitment to the development of Africa, initiatives from all quarters towards Africa's development but particularly from the UN Secretary General and is fully supportive of the initiative. This initiative reflects the interest of the world community as a whole towards this noble goal.

INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA ETHIOPIA

Date : Apr 26, 1996

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Pakistan High Commissioner summoned by Foreign Secretary

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 29, 1996 on Pakistan High Commissioner was summoned by the Foreign Secretary:

The Pakistan High Commissioner was summoned by the Foreign Secretary today in connection with the recent press interview given by the High Commissioner.

Government of India's indignation at the reported remarks of the High Com-

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missioner was conveyed to him. He was informed that Indian public opinion is outraged. His observations are unacceptable, provocative and amount to an interference in India's internal affairs. We take the strongest exception to the substance and the tone of these remarks which are not in keeping with the status of foreign representatives in India.

The problem in J&K, it was reiterated to the High Commissioner, is that of interference and armed intervention from Pakistan. Despite the constant and increasing intimidation, a large number of candidates have come forward to contest the elections, and there is total popular support for the democratic process. We are in no need of advice from outside, least of all from Pakistan, on how to conduct elections. Pakistan charges that the elections will be rigged were dismissed. International opinion will not be deceived by such propaganda. Pakistan's own strategy of fomenting violence and strife in the Valley is fully exposed, and India's policy of complete transparency, which is well known, needs no reiteration.

The High Commissioner was reminded that India had made repeated efforts to resume dialogue with Pakistan without any preconditions. There is no progress because Pakistan has refused to respond, despite its professed adherence to the Shimla Agreement. Pakistan's refusal has led to lack of meaningful diplomatic exchanges in recent years.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA ANGUILLA

Date : Apr 29, 1996

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1995

PAKISTAN

Sophisticated arms to Pakistan by U.S.

The following is the text of a statement by External Affairs Minister in New Delhi on Apr 16, 1996 on U.S. decision to transfer the US \$ 368 million package of sophisticated arms to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment:

The U.S. decision to transfer the US \$ 368 million package of sophisticated arms to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment has not come as a surprise to the Government of India. It had been evident from recent statements by high US officials that the US was bent on pursuing this unfortunate and unwise course of action, despite being fully aware of Pakistan's long record of clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons technology, ballistic missiles and related materials from third countries for uranium enrichment at Pakistan's nuclear facility at Kahuta. The requests of numerous well-known and influential US Congressmen to the Administration to withhold the shipment in the light of the above reports were ignored.

The expectation expressed by the spokesmen of the US State Department that the supply of the arms package would provide the US greater influence over Pakistan's policies, including its nuclear weapons and missile programmes, and thus enhance stability in the region, is quite baseless. It is contrary to Pakistan's past record of repeatedly using US-supplied weapons against India,

and proceeding uninterruptedly with its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile acquisition programmes while continuing to receive massive US economic and military aid conditioned on halting such programmes.

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The inevitable and unfortunate effect of the proposed US action will, therefore, be to instigate the first arms race since the end of the Cold War, and thus seriously and adversely affect not only peace and stability, but also divert scarce resources for developmental programmes which should take priority.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Swedish Government's non-change of stand on Kashmir

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 03, 1996 on Swedish Government's non-change of stand on Kashmir:

The Government of India's attention has been drawn to a media report which suggests that Sweden appears to recognise "Azad Kashmir".

The Swedish Government has categorically stated that there is no change in their stand on Kashmir and has expressed regret for the inadvertent use of the word "Azad Kashmir" in a press release, by one of its officials. The Swedish Government has termed the incident as unfortunate and has sought Government of India's understanding in the matter, given the friendly relationship between the two countries.

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

Fifth World Hindi Conference

The following is the text of a press release issued by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Apr 02, 1996 on Fifth World Hindi Conference:

The Fifth World Hindi Conference is being held at Port of Spain from 4-8th April, 1996, at the joint initiative of 'Hindi Nidhi', a premier organisation engaged in promotion of Hindi at Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies University with the cooperation of the Government of India and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The occasion coincides with the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in this island and assumes special significance because it is for the first time that the World Hindi Conference is being held in the western hemisphere of the World.

The objectives of this Conference are - 1) To highlight the importance of Hindi as a language used at regional, national and international levels; 2) to appreciate the role of Hindi as a medium of cultural expression and to recount the valuable contribution of the veteran Hindi writers of the world; 3) to make an appraisal of the role of Hindi in the modern context as a language of learning, communication and administration and to find effective ways for its propaganda and expansion; 4) to

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create awareness about the rich cultural heritage perpetuated through the medium of Hindi; 5) To stress the importance of Hindi as a medium of cultural exchange in the Caribbean region; 6) To explore the possibilities of use of Hindi as a medium of education and learning, alongwith other languages of the world; and 7) To disseminate information regarding growth and development of printing technology and the use of computer technology for Hindi language.

Over 500 representatives from 30 countries including India are expected to participate in the Conference. An official delegation from India, led by Sh. Mata Prasad, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, will participate in the Conference. In addition to many Hindi writers, poets and critics, the representatives of various Hindi organisations will also be taking part in the Conference. The distinguished members and guests of the Conference will deliberate in detail on the growth and progress of Hindi language and literature, development of mechanical and electronic aids and its role in the international field. An exhibition of photos and Hindi books is being organised to highlight various aspects of development of the Hindi language and literature. A series of cultural programmes are scheduled to be organised during the Conference.

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Date : Apr 02, 1996

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Date : May 01, 1996

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BANGLADESH

Message from Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee to Justice Habibur Rehman, Chief Adviser Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 05, 1996 on message from Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee addressed to Justice Habibur Rehman, Chief Adviser government of People's Republic of Bangladesh:

"I would like to convey deep sympathy on behalf of the Government and people of India for the victims of the tornado which struck Tangail District and neighbouring areas on May 14, 1996.

The Government of India stands ready to assist the Bangladesh Government in its relief and rehabilitation efforts that are underway.

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

Date : May 14, 1996

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1995

INDIA

The Arab Ambassadors calls on the Minister of External Affairs

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 02, 1996 regarding the Arab Ambassadors calling on the Minister of External Affairs to consider the recent developments affecting Lebanon:

The Arab Ambassadors Group in New Delhi held a meeting last week to consider the recent developments affecting Lebanon, following which all 19 Ambassadors of the Group called on the Minister of External Affairs on May 1 afternoon. The Minister had interrupted his election campaign tour to make a short visit to Delhi for this meeting.

The Ambassador of Somalia, Chairman of the Arab Ambassadors Group, made a presentation expressing their deepest concern regarding the "Operation Grapes of Wrath" against Lebanon, and stressed that the rightful and only solution to the conflict lies in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 calling on Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

The Arab Ambassadors commended the decision of the Government of India to extend humanitarian assistance to alleviate the sufferings of the Lebanese population.

They requested the friendly Government of India to continue its support of Lebanon and for full implementation of the Security Council Resolution.

The Ambassador of Lebanon, also made a supplementary presentation ex-

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pressing the views of his Government on the recent developments and on efforts needed for implementation of the SC Resolution.

In response, the Minister of External Affairs recalled the 3 Official Statements already issued by the Government of India, inter alia, expressing India's deep concern at the escalation of hostilities across Israel-Lebanon international border, distress and anguish at the loss of human life and particularly in the Qana tragedy which India strongly deplored and announcing measures for urgently airlifting humanitarian relief supplies for displaced persons in Lebanon. The Minister also recalled the Indian statement made in the emergency special session of the UN General Assembly, and India's vote in

support of the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

India has always been steadfast in its support of the Arab cause, particularly in the context of the situation in the Middle East. India's consistent support for the cause of Palestine, and other occupied Arab territories in Lebanon and Syria was reiterated. India remains committed to Lebanese sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity, and to Security Council Resolution 425.

India has welcomed and applauded the Middle East Peace Process. The Minister expressed the hope that it would make further progress toward its logical conclusion, without being unduly affected by the recent developments.

INDIA LEBANON MALI SOMALIA ISRAEL USA SYRIA

Date : May 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

LEBANON

Indian Humanitarian Assistance to Lebanon

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 23, 1996 on Indian humanitarian assistance handed over to Lebanon:

Last month Government of India had announced despatch of humanitarian relief supplies to Lebanon for persons displaced in the wake of the hostilities across Israel-Lebanon border.

2. The Indian Ambassador in Beirut handed over, in the last few days, to the Lebanese authorities one consignment of over 7 tonnes of medicines and another consignment of over 6 tonne of milk powder. Receiving these, Minister for Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Estefan Dweihi, who is the coordinator on behalf of the High Relief Committee set up by the Government of Lebanon, thanked the Government of India for the political support as well as for the humanitarian assistance.

3. Appreciation for the Indian relief supplies has also been conveyed by other high officials of the Government of Lebanon and in the Lebanese media.

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LEBANON INDIA ISRAEL

Date : May 23, 1996

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

A Statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office on the forthcoming Lok Sabha Elections in the State of Jammu & Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 02, 1996 on a statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office regarding the forth-coming Lok Sabha elections in the State of Jammu & Kashmir:

We have seen a statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office regarding the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The statement is a part of Pakistan's crude and malicious propaganda against India.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. The only issue concerning Pakistan, with regard to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, relates to the vacation of Pakistan from those areas of the State which are under its illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to the resolution of this issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been a victim of violence and terrorism perpetrated any groups which have been raised, trained, armed, guided and led by Pakistan. Pakistan's role as a promoter of international terrorism is well-recognised and well-documented. As public opinion within Kashmir is turning against the agents of Pakistan and as Pakistan's role in international terrorism is getting more exposed, it is embarking upon a desperate attempt to prevent the return of peace and normalcy, through democratic processes, in Jammu & Kashmir. India will not be deterred from its commitment to hold elections in Jammu & Kashmir which will be free and fair. Pakistani observers themselves recognise, and are indeed envious of India's democratic traditions of holding elections, which are in sharp contrast to the farcical electoral exercises which have only sporadically taken place in Pakistan's history.

Pakistan's claim that the ICRC has been asked to leave the State of J&K is false and untrue. India is strictly implementing the MOU signed with the ICRC.

India has time and again reiterated its willingness to hold unconditional discussions with Pakistan to resolve all Indo-Pak issues. It is Pakistan which must bear the responsibility of interrupting the bilateral dialogue by seeking of impose conditionalities.

PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : May 02, 1996

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Baseless allegation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto against India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 07, 1996 regarding Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's baseless allegation that India is responsible for the recent bomb blasts in the Punjab province of Pakistan:

We have seen reports regarding Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's baseless allegation that India is responsible for the recent bomb blasts in the Punjab province of Pakistan. The Pakistan Government's blatant sponsorship of global terrorism, directed in particular against India, is well documented and widely recognised. The people of Pakistan are suffering the consequences of the culture of violence and terrorism actively developed and propagated over the years by Pakistan Govern-

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ment agencies. It behoves the Government of Pakistan, that instead of persisting in false and absurd accusations against India, it should make an honest reassessment of its own misguided policies and actions.

The Pakistan Government's active role in sponsoring global terrorism is widely recognised and well documented. India has been the major target of this unprincipled activity. Normal life and the political process in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been disrupted by the violence and terrorism perpetrated by groups which have been raised, trained, armed, guided and led by Pakistan. However, public opinion in Kashmir has seen through Pakistan's designs, and has turned against its hirelings. Pakistan's active sponsorship of international terrorism has become increasingly well established. The Government of Pakistan is now, therefore, resorting to a desperate effort to thwart the return of peace and normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir through the democratic and electoral process. India is committed to holding free and fair elections in Jammu & Kashmir which will pave the way for the restoration of normalcy in the State.

We also reiterate India's longstanding offer to hold unconditional discussions with Pakistan to resolve all issues between our two countries.

INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : May 07, 1996

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

A Resolution Adopted by the Pakistan Assembly on their Perception of the Situation in Jammu & Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 07, 1996 on a report adopted by the Pakistan Assembly on their perceptions of the situation in the State of Jammu & Kashmir:

We have seen a report on a resolution adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly yesterday on their perceptions of the situation in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. This resolution is a complete travesty of the facts regarding Jammu & Kashmir. Its total distortions of the truth, and its immoderate and virulent language makes it clear that, this is a continuation of Pakistan's persistent and malidious propaganda exercise against India. The Pakistan National Assembly has no locus standi to pronounce on matters within the sovereign jurisdiction of India. The Government of India categorically rejects this blatant attempt at interference in the internal affairs of India.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. The only issue concerning Pakistan, with regard to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, relates to the vacation of Pakistan, from those areas of the State which are under the illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to the resolution of this issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA

Date : May 07, 1996

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

A Resolution Adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly against the Lok Sabha Elections in Jammu & Kashmir

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 24, 1996 on a report of a resolution adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly against the Lok Sabha elections in our State of Jammu & Kashmir:

We have seen a report of a resolution adopted by the Pakistan National Assembly against the Lok Sabha elections in

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our State of Jammu & Kashmir. The resolution is a familiar piece of Pakistan's hate-filled and vitriolic propaganda against India. It is reflective of Pakistan's desperation in the face of the courage and patriotism which is being displayed by the people of Jammu & Kashmir who, despite the threats of the terrorists and their Pakistani mentors, have come out in large numbers to cast their votes.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have been the victims of terrorism promoted, sponsored and led by Pakistan over the past seven years. Pakistan has inflicted violence and tragedy in the lives of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Their response to Pakistan's venomous designs has been shown through their positive turn out in all the four constituencies of the State which have gone to the polls so far. We have every confidence that the voters in the remaining two constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir will also come out in large numbers to cast their votes on the 30th of this month to elect their representatives.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. Nothing can ever change this historical fact. Pakistan's endeavours through open war against India were defeated in the past and its attempts through a proxy war will meet the same fate.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : May 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

The Traditional Message given in a Joint Address by the Leaders of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Haj

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 05, 1996 on the traditional message given in a joint address by the leaders of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Haj:

Government have seen the traditional message given in a joint address by the leaders of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Haj. The address makes a totally unnecessary reference to Kashmir.

The Government of India has repeatedly stated its resolve to seek a peaceful resolution and towards this end is holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir to give representation to the people through democratic means. However, attempts from across the border, actively assisting and abetting terrorist activities, not only violate the accepted principle of non-interference in the internal

affairs of a neighbouring country but are a deliberate attempt to interfere in the democratic process denying the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir their basic rights.

Government of India, would like friendly countries like Saudi Arabia to support this process and censure Pakistan for its attempts to interfere in India's internal affairs.

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SAUDI ARABIA INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : May 05, 1996

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SAUDI ARABIA

Visit of a Four-Member Investment Delegation led by Dr. Asem Y. Bokhari, Assistant Deputy Minister for Industry and Electricity to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 17, 1996 on visit of a four-member Saudi Investment Delegation to India:

A four-member Saudi Investment Delegation led by Dr. Asem Y. Bokhari, Assistant Deputy Minister for Industry and Electricity has arrived in India on a fourday visit to study Indian regulations regarding foreign investment, licensing procedures and export incentives etc. and the overall investment climate. The delegation which includes senior Saudi officials will meet and discuss with the Secretaries of the key economic ministries, various investment policies and procedures. The delegation is also scheduled to have detailed discussions with FICCI and CII. The delegation will later visit Mumbai.

India has a Joint Commission with Saudi Arabia and in the last meeting held in Riyadh in November, 1994, the areas that emerged for investment cooperation were: oil refineries, petro-chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, computers including software, food processing and abattoirs etc. The current Saudi delegation is part of the follow-up of the Joint Commission Apart from strengthening bilateral economic cooperation, the visit would also provide important inputs to the next meeting of the Joint Commission, scheduled to be held later this year.

India and Saudi Arabia are also considering a draft Double Taxation Avoidance and Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement. The major Saudi companies owned by the Saudi Arabian Government namely, ARAMCO and SABIC, have already established their presence in India and are looking into the possibilities of investments in oil refineries and petro-chemical sector.

SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA PERU

Date : May 17, 1996

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SWITZERLAND

Address by Shri P. P. Chauhan, Secretary, Ministry of Health at the Meeting of the 49th Session of World Health Assembly at Geneva

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 21, 1996 regarding address by Shri P. P. Chauhan, Secretary, Ministry of Health at the meeting of the 49th session of World Health Assembly at Geneva:

India has launched a district health system project in four states to strengthen the organisational structure of the health machinery. The system seeks to integrate the Primary Health Centres with first referral hospitals. It covers a population of 199.56 million and is being implemented with World Bank assistance. This was stated by Shri P. P. Chauhan, Secretary, Minister of Health while addressing the 49th session of the World Health Assembly at Geneva yesterday.

Expressing happiness over the positive gains of Pulse Polio Immunisation of 87 million children undertaken on a single day on December 9, 1995 followed by another 93 million on Jan 20, 1996, the Secretary disclosed that the full coverage of all the children in the 0-3 years was achieved with a bid to eradicate

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polio-myelitis from the country by the end of the century.

The Secretary informed the gathering that a new department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy had been created to promote specialisation in traditional systems of medicine which are now world famous. He said that about 50 institutions have been financed to develop forms of medicinal herbs and to improve the agro techniques of cultivation. Government is now planning to establish regional drug testing laboratories in different parts of the country to augment the work being done today by one Pharmacopoeial laboratory of Indian Medicines, he added.

Shri Chauhan said that some states in India have been able to render an impressive performance in the efforts to stabilize the population. Kerala State has achieved a birth rate of 17.3, a death rate of 6 and an Infant Mortality Rate of 16 which compares extremely well with countries whose economic indices

are much more favourable than India. Special inputs are being provided to bring up the performance of the States where the indices need improvement, he added.

Highlighting the achievements of different health programmes undertaken in the country Shri Chauhan disclosed that about 2.8 million persons have been screened for HIV, AIDS. The Leprosy control project has succeeded in reducing the case load of leprosy patients from 4 million in 1981 to 0.5 million in March, 1996. He further informed that the Tuberculosis Control Project which seeks to introduce short course chemotherapy for the control of T.B. is at an advanced stage of appraisal of the World Bank covering 102 districts with an estimated number of 370,000 T.B. patients in the first phase.

An ambitious project for conducting 21 million sight restoring cataract surgeries in 7 years has also been taken up with the World Bank assistance; about 2.2 million surgeries have been conducted last year, the Secretary disclosed. For the first time bio-environmental methods are being considered for Malaria control through the use of medicated bednets, biocides and larvivorous fish along with community involvement.

The Director General of Health Services, Dr. Narendra Bihari and Smt. Renu Sahni Dhar, Joint Secretary (International Health) are also attending the Assembly with Shri P. P. Chauhan.

SWITZERLAND INDIA USA

Date : Jan 20, 1996

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The US Decision on Nuclear Weapon Programme and Transfer of Sophisticated US Arms to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 14, 1996 on the US decision to take no action on the clandestine acquisition by Pakistan of 5000 ring magnets for its nuclear weapons programme and transfer of sophisticated US arms to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment:

The US decision to take no action on the clandestine acquisition by Pakistan of 5000 ring magnets for its nuclear weapons

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programme, and indeed to continue uninterruptedly with its transfer of sophisticated US arms to Pakistan under the Brown Amendment, once again raises questions about US policy on non-proliferation. This is in line with a long

series of earlier US decisions to overlook similar clandestine acquisition by Pakistan of critical material, components and technology for its nuclear weapons and missile programmes, as well as of complete ballistic missiles. As in the past, this will be interpreted by Pakistan as a signal of US acquiescence in the unabated pursuit of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

2. The Government of India deeply regrets the US announcement, whose serious implications will not be lost on all those concerned with disarmament and non-proliferation in India, in the US and elsewhere.

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USA PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : May 14, 1996

June

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Date : Jun 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

GREECE

Visit of Shri T. G. Venkatraman, Minister for Surface Transport to Greece

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 26, 1996 on visit of Shri T. G. Venkatraman Minister for Surface Transport to Greece to attend at the funeral of the former Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Andreas Papandreou:

Shri T. G. Venkatraman, Minister for Surface Transport, is representing the Government of India at the funeral of the former Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Andreas Papandreou. The funeral is in Athens today, the 26th June.

Mr. Papandreou was a statesman of international stature, and as Prime

Minister, made very significant contributions to the strengthening of the traditionally cordial relations between Greece and India.

The presence of Shri Venkatraman at the funeral is an indication of the continuing regard and esteem in which Papandreou was held in India.

GREECE INDIA

Date : Jun 26, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The text of the letter sent by Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda to the Prime Minister of Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 09, 1996 on the text of the letter sent by Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda to the Prime Minister of Pakistan:

Excellency,

I thank you for your message of felicitations on my assuming the office of Prime Minister of India.

I share the sentiments you have expressed about the need for peaceful and constructive relations between our two countries. As we approach a new millennium, I believe there is a historic opportunity for us who are at the helm of affairs in our respective countries to give a lead in this direction. There is a vast reserve of goodwill among our peoples, and enduring links of history and culture, on which we can draw. We need to establish a firm relationship of trust, setting aside the difficulties that have impeded amity and cooperation. We are committed to this goal and I am confident you are too.

My Government stands ready to work together with your Government, to ad-

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dress all issues of mutual concern. The bilateral approaches and agreements which have been devised earlier can guide us in our future exchanges on all matters, including those on which we might have differing perceptions. I believe that our efforts should be directed towards pulling down the barriers which make people to people interaction difficult. We need to encourage the promotion of trade, economic and cultural contacts. These are the sure foundations on which the relationship between our countries can flourish.

We would like to see the two countries join in a wide-ranging and

comprehensive dialogue. I suggest that as a step in this direction we could revive the Foreign Secretary-level dialogue so that these thoughts and ideas could be developed further.

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

INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Jun 09, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The Letter sent by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I K. Gujral to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 09, 1996 on the text of the letter sent by Minister of External Affairs Shri I K. Gujral to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan:

Excellency,

I am thankful to you for your warm message of felicitations on my assuming office as Minister of External Affairs of India. I would also like to thank you for the very kind sentiments you have expressed about me. I continue to value my personal friendship with you.

It would be our constant endeavour to implement the desire of the people and Government of India to establish a relationship based on friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I believe these objectives are shared by you, and I am gratified that you are as committed as I am to transform the relationship between our countries in a positive direction.

I fully agree with your view that our two Ministries should take the lead in this endeavour. I feel that our officials should meet soon and engage themselves in the task of addressing our bilateral issues, including those in which we may not see eye to eye. The resolution of these issues will contribute substantially to improving our ties.

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

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Jun 09, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 13, 1996 on Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir-bin-Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia:

As a tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and to his lifelong dedication to the cause of world peace and international understanding, the Government of India instituted the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to be given annually for outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding, goodwill and friendship among the peoples of the world. The

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Award is administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

The Award carries a Citation, Trophy and Rs. 15 lakhs in cash (convertible into foreign currency).

The Award is made by a Jury appointed by the Government of India for this purpose. The Jury consists of seven eminent Indians including the Vice-President of India and the Chief Justice of India who are ex-officio members. The Vice-President of India is the Chairman of the Jury.

After careful consideration of the numerous nominations received from all over the world, the Jury for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding has decided that the Award for the year 1994 be given to the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir-bin-Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

INDIA MALAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

The following is the text of Foreign Secretary's remarks of Jun 20, 1996 on Current Status of CTBT Negotiations and India's Position:

1. Today, We are making a statement in the Conference on Disarmament stating that India cannot subscribe to the CTBT in its present form. We have reservations about what is emerging from Geneva:

- It is not a measure for nuclear disarmament. We do not see it as an effective steps towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

- It is not truly comprehensive - there are many loopholes. In these respects, it has not lived up to its own mandate.

- It does little to enhance global security, for which decisive nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework is needed.

- There is no benefit to the security environment of our region.

2. I should emphasise that there is a strong national consensus for this course of action.

3. For over 50 years, India has taken the lead in calling for a CTBT. We visualise the CTBT as part of a step by step process of global nuclear disarmament, leading to the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons.

4. We support a genuinely comprehensive CTBT. We cannot accept a CTBT with loopholes that could permit the continued development and refining of nuclear arsenals.

5. For two and a half years, India has participated actively and constructively in the negotiations. We have put forward a number of proposals.

6. Now that a majority of delegations are talking about the end-June deadline for concluding the negotiations, it was important for us to take a view on where the negotiations are headed.

7. We have carefully considered all aspects. National security considerations have been a key factor in arriving at this decision. Our nuclear option is part of our national security. We will not accept any constraints on our option as long as other countries remain unwilling to accept the obligation to eliminate their option within a time bound framework.

8. India remains committed to the pursuit of global nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner. We are convinced that only such an approach will enable us to move forward towards the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world and enhance global security.

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Date : Jun 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Statement in C.D. Plenary on CTBT

The following is the text of statement by Foreign Secretary on Jun 20, 1996 in C.D. Plenary on CTBT:

Mr. President,

Allow me, first and foremost, to extend to you India's congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference. We are pleased to see a representative of a country belonging to the G-21 preside over the Conference at a time when the Conference is faced with issues of great importance. We are convinced that the Conference will benefit greatly at this time from your wisdom, experience and well-known diplomatic skills. May I also convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Abuah of Nigeria for the dedication and skill with which he guided our work through his Presidency. I would also like to welcome Ambassador Yimer of Ethiopia whose presence in our midst has already enriched our discussions. This is also an opportunity to warmly welcome the twenty three new members of the Conference on Disarmament who have joined us, albeit in a rather unorthodox manner, this week.

2. Mr. President, we have reached a critical point in negotiations in the CTBT. Since January 1994, when the Conference on Disarmament adopted a mandate to negotiate a CTBT, "which would contribute effectively to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security", India has participated actively and constructively in the negotiations. We have put forward a number of proposals, consistent with the mandate adopted by the CD. These proposals are aimed at ensuring that the CTBT must be a truly comprehensive treaty, that is, a treaty which bans all nuclear testing without leaving any loopholes that would permit nuclear weapon states to continue refining and developing their nuclear arsenals at their test sites and in their laboratories. Through these proposals we have underscored the importance of placing the CTBT in a disarmament framework, as part of a step-by-step process aimed at achieving complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

3. Despite all our efforts we have no choice today but to express our disappointment with the way the negotiations have developed. At this late stage we are obliged to conclude that the basic prohibitions, as drafted so far, which define the Scope remain very narrow and do not fulfil the mandated requirement of a comprehensive ban. This approach would give us only a nuclear weapon test

explosion ban treaty' and not a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We are equally if not more concerned that any attempt to introduce substantive disarmament provisions in the treaty have been blocked by some delegations. Weak and woefully inadequate preambular references to nuclear disarmament such as those contained in Working Paper 330 cannot meet our concerns. We are only too aware that non-binding references in other treaties have been treated with complete disregard. How can we escape the conclusion that the nuclear weapon states are determined to continue to rely on nuclear weapons for their security and visualise the CTBT not as a serious disarmament measure but merely as an instrument against horizontal proliferation?

4. Our assessment about the agenda of nuclear weapon states is borne out by other related developments. With the end of the Cold War, there is talk of new doctrines and targeting strategies being developed for nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are attracting consideration for use against chemical or biological attack, or in a sub-strategic role. A doctrine has been developed that nuclear weapons are required as a precaution against future

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errant behaviour and threat from unspecified states. The space window of the nuclear arms race has not been closed. To perpetuate retention, doctrines for naval deployment are being developed. To open up future possibilities, programmes for anti-ballistic missiles are being actively pursued.

5. Nuclear testing which has been carried out even as our negotiations proceeded has been justified as essential for national security and for permitting completion of work on new designs and gathering of data to enable computer simulation and modelling to preserve and refine capabilities into the distant future. We see that vast amounts of resources, both human and material, continue to be devoted to competitive nuclear weapons related R&D. The submissions by some nuclear weapon states to the International Court of Justice are further evidence that they are loath to relinquish their monopoly and regard nuclear weapons as integral to their military strategy. The CTBT that we see emerging appears to be shaped more by the technological preferences of the nuclear weapon states rather than the imperatives of nuclear disarmament. This was not the CTBT that India envisaged in 1954. This cannot be the CTBT that India can be expected to accept.

6. India remains convinced that complete elimination of nuclear weapons will enhance global security. Experience tells us that such an objective cannot be achieved in an adhoc and discriminatory manner. Clandestine transfers of nuclear weapon technology, a phenomenon which has caused us concern also in our region, attests to the necessity of pursuing the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons in the concrete manner proposed by India. Collectively, we have followed such a route for dealing with other weapons of mass destruction - chemical and biological weapons. And we all believe that the world is a safer and better place with these treaties. Yet, there is opposition when it comes to elimination of nuclear weapons. This inconsistency in approach can only be explained by the desire to retain a monopoly, a desire which is sought to be furthered by the CTBT. We cannot accept that it is legitimate for some countries to rely on nuclear weapons for their security while denying this right to others.

7. Under such circumstances, it is natural that our national security considerations become a key factor in our decision making. Our capability is demonstrated but, as a matter of policy, we exercise restraint. Countries around us continue their weapon programmes. either openly or in a clandestine manner. In such an environment, India cannot accept any restraints on its capability if other countries remain unwilling to accept the obligation to eliminate their nuclear weapons.

8. India has demonstrated its resolve in the past. We have refused to accede to the discriminatory order of today's international nuclear regime. This policy has been maintained, despite pressures of one sort or another. The same conviction is reflected in our stand on the CTBT. Last year, we expressed our dismay at the indefinite extension of the NPT because, in our view, it sought to legitimise the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by five countries. Today, the right to continue development and refinement of their arsenals is being sought to be legitimised through another flawed and eternal treaty. Such a treaty is not conceived as a measure towards universal nuclear disarmament and is not in India's national security interest. India, therefore, cannot subscribe to it in its present form.

9. Among the conditions put forward for CTBT to enter into force, there are suggestions that ratification by India will be a requirement. We would not accept any language in the Treaty text which would affect our sovereign right to decide, in the light of our supreme national interest, whether we should or should not accede to such a treaty.

10. India's commitment to the cause of global nuclear disarmament remains unaltered. We have always been in the forefront of the quest for world peace. This effort will continue. The experience of

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these negotiations strengthens our resolve that nuclear disarmament needs to be pursued resolutely in a comprehensive manner for only then will it contribute to global security, the security of all states alike and security of children all over the world. This has been a central tenet of our national security policy as reflected in our foreign policy and in our nuclear policy. We are confident that future developments will demonstrate the validity of this approach.

Thank you, Mr. President.

INDIA NIGER NIGERIA ETHIOPIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

Foreign Patent Protection Scheme

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1996 on Foreign Patent Protection Scheme:

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), a government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Science and Technology is providing both financial and technical assistance to Indian inventors for patenting of inventions in India without any obligation of assignment of the patent or the Intellectual Property Rights to the Corporation. While providing financial and technical assistance for foreign patenting, the Corporation requires the assignment of the patent/knowhow to the Corporation. In turn, the Corporation agrees to share 50% of technology licensing fees when the patent-knowhow is licensed by the Corporation to the foreign parties. Due to lack of knowledge and guidance in Intellectual Property law, the industry particularly the small-medium scale units, have not always succeeded in getting their products/processes patented abroad.

Being in a position to help such units to file patents in those countries where there is potential for export of the products based on the invention, NRDC under its scheme renders financial and technical assistance by meeting 50% of the cost of foreign patenting. In turn the industry would be required to pay to NRDC a royalty of 2.5% on the export value of the products exported to those countries for which NRDC has provided the technical, legal and financial assistance to file patents. Further, the patent would be assigned to NRDC by the industry and royalty shall be paid as long as the patent is in force.

The industry is generally free to decide the country/countries where they would like to file the patents. What is more the Industry is free to export the products directly. If there is any possibility of licensing of the patented knowhow, the same shall be carried out by the Corporation in consultation with the Industry on mutually agreed terms. The technology fees earned by the Corporation by way of lumpsum premium and royalty shall be shared equally between the Corporation and the industry. The Industry would benefit considerably under this Scheme as NRDC bears up from the enormous cost of foreign patenting before the products exportability has been established. Further, the industry has all the freedom to export on their own, to the markets of their choice and at the best prices.

NRDC is in a convenient position to pursue this as it markets the technologies of over 200 R&D Institutions in the country, e.g. the Laboratories of CSIR, DRDO, ICAR, ICMR, the IITs, BARC, Industry Research Associations and some Public Sector units. It has got information on over 5000 indigenous technologies and 2000 foreign technologies from Israel, China, Russia, Holland, South Korea, Japan etc. It has on-line data base to carry out international patent search.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA RUSSIA ISRAEL KOREA

Date : Jun 25, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

A Message from the External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral to His Excellency Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1996 regarding a message from the External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral to H.E. Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh:

Excellency,

It gives me great happiness to extend to you my felicitations and warmest greetings on your appointment as the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. It is deeply gratifying to have the opportunity of working with an old and valued friend like you in the great task of building firm bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. We in India give great importance to developing cordial and constructive ties with Bangladesh.

I take particular pleasure at the prospect of renewing our close friendship.

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

INDIA BANGLADESH USA

Date : Jun 25, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

A Message from the External Affairs Minister to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1996 regarding a message from the External Affairs Minister to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh:

Excellency,

I am delighted to have the honour of felicitating you on your assumption of office as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Your appointment is the culmination of a long saga of toil and sacrifice for the people of Bangladesh. As one who has been privileged to receive your friendship and know of the ideals which have inspired you, I have particular pleasure in conveying my admiration for your achievement, and best wishes for the tasks ahead.

I am confident that India and Bangladesh would develop relations of great cordiality, friendship and cooperation, to the mutual benefit of both our countries, while you are at the helm of affairs.

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

INDIA BANGLADESH

Date : Jun 25, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister felicitates Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed on her appointment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 25, 1996 on felicitation by Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda to Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh on her appointment:

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed on her assumption of the Office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The Indian Prime Minister expressed confidence that Bangladesh would make progress towards greater prosperity and harmony under her leadership. He stated that her appointment provided an opportunity to deepen and expand the ties between the two nations. The Prime Minister emphasised that "India attaches great importance to developing cordial and cooperative relations with Bangladesh" adding that it would be his endeavour to work with her towards this goal.

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INDIA BANGLADESH

Date : Jun 25, 1996

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INDIA

A Message from the External Affairs Minister I. K. Gujral to HRN Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia on the Dahran blast

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1996 on the news about the bomb blast in Dahran:

Your Highness,

I have received with a sense of shock and deep concern the news about the bomb blast today in Dahran, causing loss of life and grievous injury to many innocent persons. Terrorism in every form deserves to be condemned. I convey my profound grief and sympathies to the affected families.

Please accept, Your Highness, assurances of my highest consideration.

INDIA SAUDI ARABIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Message from the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma to the President of the United States of America on the bomb blast in Dahran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 27, 1996 on a message from the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, to the President of the United States of America, H.E. William Jefferson Clinton on the bomb blast in Dahran:

Excellency,

I was greatly saddened to learn this morning of the bomb blast in Dahran which caused great damage and loss of life. I send you my deepest sympathy on this terrible event which has cost the lives of many US soldiers.

The killing of so many innocent victims underlines once again the importance

of determined international action to combat the menace of terrorism.

INDIA USA

Date : Jun 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Guidelines for Euro-issues

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1996 on guidelines for Euro-issues:

A scheme for issue of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares (through Depository Receipt Mechanism) was notified by Government of India in November, 1993. Revisions/modifications in the operative guidelines for Euro-issues are announced from time to time.

2. On the basis of the periodic review and assessment of the current situation, the following Euro-issue guidelines, in continuation of the Notification of November, 1993, shall come into effect for approvals granted on, or after the date of issue of these guidelines, on supersession of all previous guidelines on the subject.

TRACK RECORD

3. An issuing company seeking permission for raising foreign funds by Euro-issues having a consistent track record of good performance (financial or otherwise) for a period of three years shall be allowed to issue GDRs/FCCBs.

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4. In view of the importance of the infrastructure projects, and the need to encourage equity financing of such projects, the three year track record requirement would be relaxed in case of companies seeking GDR/FCCB issues to Finance investments in infrastructure industries such as power generation, tele-communication, petroleum exploration and refining, ports, airports and roads.

APPROVALS

5. Euro-issues shall be treated as direct foreign investment (subject to extant policies governing direct foreign investments) in the issuing company. Accordingly, a company which is implementing projects not predominantly contained in Annexure III of the New Industrial Policy of 1991, or a company which undertakes a project contained in Annexure III but whose direct foreign

investment after the proposed Euro-issue is likely to exceed 51% of the post issue subscribed capital, will need to obtain prior FIPB clearance before final approval to the Euro-issue is given by the Finance Ministry.

NUMBERS OF ISSUES

6. Some restrictions had been imposed previously on the number of issues that could be floated by an individual company or a group of companies during a financial year. There will henceforth be no restrictions on the number of Euro-Issues to be floated by a company or a group of companies in a financial year.

ENDUSE: GDRs

7. In relaxation of earlier guidelines, GDR end-uses will include.

- financing capital goods imports;
- capital expenditure including domestic purchase/installation of plant, equipment and buildings and investments in software development;
- prepayment or scheduled repayment of earlier external borrowings;
- investments abroad where these have been approved by competent authorities;
- equity investment in JVs/WOSs in India.

8. However, investments in stock markets and real estate will not be permitted.

9. Within this framework, GDR raising companies will be allowed full flexibility in deploying the proceeds.

10. Upto a maximum of 25% of the total proceeds may be used for general corporate restructuring, including working capital requirements of the company raising the GDR.

11. However, Banks, FIs, and Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) registered with RBI will be eligible for GDR issues without reference to the enduse criteria mentioned in para 7 to 10 above with the restriction that investments in stock markets and real estate will not be permitted.

12. A company shall be required to specify the proposed end-uses of the issue proceeds at the time of making their application, and will be required to submit quarterly statement of utilisation of funds for the approved end-uses, duly certified by their auditors.

END - USE - FCCBs

13. Currently, companies are permitted to access foreign capital market through Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds for restructuring of external debt which helps to lengthen maturity and soften terms, and for end-use of funds which conform to the norms prescribed by the Government for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from time to time. In addition to these, not more than 25% of FCCB issue proceeds may be used for general corporate restructuring including

working capital requirements.

FCCB PRICING

14. FCCBs are available and accessible more freely as compared to external debt,

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and the expectation of the Government is that FCCBs should have a substantially finer spread than ECBs. Accordingly, the all-in costs for FCCBs should be significantly better than the corresponding debt instruments (ECBs).

15. Companies will not be permitted to issue warrants alongwith their Euro-issue.

REPATRIATION OF PROCEEDS

16. Companies may retain the proceeds abroad or may remit funds into India in anticipation of the use of funds for approved end uses.

VALIDITY

17. Both the in-principle and final approvals will be valid for three months from the date of their respective issue.

REVIEW

18. The policy and guidelines for Euro-issues will be subject to review periodically.

INDIA USA

Date : Jun 20, 1996

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1995

INDIA

Inauguration of the Wool Meet '96

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1996 regarding inauguration of the Wool Meet '96:

The Wool Meet '96, organised by the International Wool Secretariat, is scheduled to be inaugurated here tomorrow. A notable feature of the Fair is that for the first time a large number of foreign participants besides a number of

reputed Indian companies like the Raymonds, Birla, VXL India Ltd., Oswal Woollen Mills, Grasim Industries, BSL Ltd. and Greatways Ltd. only to name a few would participate in the Fair. Notable foreign companies that are likely to participate are Grignasco Spa, Todd & Duncan, Laidlow & Fairgrive, Foresell & Littletom Spg. The Trade Show is strategically scheduled to start at the buying season in order to make sourcing most convenient for retailers, wholesalers and others connected with the wool industry so that trade all under one roof could take place in a very professional and businesslike atmosphere.

The Fair will present an opportunity for the manufacturers and the trade buyers as well as the visitors and indepth knowledge of the latest trends and developments in wool products in terms of designs, textures, styles and colours. A Fashion Show also to be held on the occasion will present new collections of garments for the benefit of manufacturers as well as retailers and buyers.

The Wool Meet which is being organised since the last two years as the platform for sourcing mainly woollen knitwear and shawl has now become a complete wool textile fair for providing benefits to other apparel sectors like woven textiles etc. As such this year's Trade Fair is also open for yarn, fabric and readymade garment sectors besides knitwear and shawl sectors. In this process, the Wool Meet has grown significantly in terms of both number of participants and number of trade/business visitors from all over India. The Wool Meet '96 is being organised at the Taj Palace Inter Continental Hotel, New Delhi.

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INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Jun 28, 1996

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1995

NEPAL

Greeting from His Majesty the King of Nepal to Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1996 regarding the message of greetings from His Majesty the King of Nepal to Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India:

"My congratulations on your assumption of the High Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India. This message carries our sincere good wishes for your successful tenure along with our hope that the age old relations between our two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened during your tenure of governance."

NEPAL INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Greetings from H.E. Shri Pashupati Shumshree J. B. Rana, Minister for Water Resources of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 06, 1996 regarding the message of greetings from H.E. Shri Pashupati Shumshree J. B. Rana, Minister for Water Resources of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India:

"My wife joins me in sending our heartiest congratulations on your assumption to the High Office of Prime Minister of your country.

We send our good wishes for a most successful tenure."

NEPAL INDIA

Date : Jun 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Foreign Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs calls on the British High Commissioner

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1996 on Foreign Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs calling on the British High Commissioner:

The British High Commissioner was called to the Ministry of External Affairs today by Foreign Secretary, who conveyed to him our concern over the offensive statements about India made in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva by the British Permanent Representative. Foreign Secretary told the High Commissioner that such statements were inappropriate under any circumstances, and

particularly so between governments which enjoyed close

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and friendly relations. Such comments which would place a strain on our bilateral relations, should not be made.

Foreign Secretary also told the High Commissioner that India's position on the CTBT was based on principle, and we would not be deflected from what we considered to be the correct course of action by intemperate statements made by countries from whom we expected a much greater degree both of responsibility and understanding.

INDIA SWITZERLAND

Date : Jun 28, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's address to the nation over Radio and Television

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 29, 1996 regarding Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's address to the nation over Radio and Television:

We have seen reports of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's address to the nation over Radio and Television on the 28th June, 1996. The tone of this address was at variance with the letter sent to our Prime Minister. We wonder which to take seriously?

INDIA USA

Date : Jun 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Deployment of M - 11 Missiles by Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Jun 13, 1996 regarding deployment of M-11 missiles by Pakistan:

Government have seen reports in the US press regarding deployment of M - 11 missiles by Pakistan. The acquisition of these missiles is well-known and is a matter of great concern to us. The news regarding their deployment is being ascertained through various sources including the United States. The Government of India will take all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jun 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

PALESTINE

India's Representative Office in Palestinian area

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1996 on the opening of India's Representative Office in Pakistan area:

India has opened its Representative Office in the Palestinian National Authority administered area. The Office, located in Gaza city, was opened on 24 June 1996, with the arrival there of the Acting Representative, Shri T. S. Tirumurti, First Secretary, alongwith his team.

This is an historic event, manifesting yet again India's consistent support to the Palestinian cause and legitimate aspirations of the friendly Palestinian people. The opening of the Office also symbolises India's strong support for the Middle East

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Peace Process. The Office has been established on the basis of the accords signed between Israel and the Palestinians, within the overall ambit of the Peace Process.

The Representative Office would contribute to further strengthening the close friendly relations between India and the Palestinians, and at the same time it would help promote, expand, and diversify these relations in economic, commercial, cultural, and other fields.

The Palestinian National Authority has welcomed the opening of India's

Representative Office, expressing the hope that India's solidarity and support to the Middle East Peace Process would finally help in bringing about a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

INDIA PAKISTAN USA ISRAEL

Date : Jun 28, 1996

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 19, 1996 regarding visit of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to India:

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, will be arriving in New Delhi on June 20 on a two day visit to India. Mr. Kadirgamar would meet the External Affairs Minister on June 20 and hold discussions on issues of mutual interest. During his visit, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister would also call on the Prime Minister, Minister of Industry Finance Minister and the Leader of Opposition.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 19, 1996

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister calls on the External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jun 20, 1996 on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister calling on the External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral:

The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar called on the External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral at South Block today, at 1200 hrs. The visiting Foreign Minister, describing his trip to India as one of goodwill,

conveyed Sri Lanka's interest in maintaining very close and cordial relations with India. Welcoming the SLFM as the first foreign dignitary he was receiving, the EAM said that India was committed to a policy of friendship and cooperation with Sri Lanka. The SLFM handed over a letter from the President of Sri Lanka congratulating EAM on his assumption of office and expressing the hope that there would be further enhancement of the close relations between the two countries.

While expressing satisfaction at the development of economic and commercial relations between the two countries both Foreign Ministers agreed that ties could be strengthened and diversified. The SLFM

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extended an invitation to the External Affairs Minister to visit Colombo later in the year for the 3rd session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the need for taking steps to resolve problems faced by the fishermen of the two countries. They also discussed matters relating to SAARC and other matters of bilateral and regional interest.

Mr. Kadirgamar briefed External Affairs Minister on the political situation and current developments in Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Information by Ambassador Arundhati Ghose to the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT Negotiations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on 27, va: regarding information by Ambassador Arundhati Ghose to the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations in Geneva:

On 26th June, our Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador Arundhati Ghose informed the President of the Conference on Disarmament and the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on CTBT negotiations that India would no longer be able to maintain its offer of CTBT monitoring facilities as part of the international verification system. In her communication, Ambassador Ghose has requested that references to monitoring facilities located in India would need to be deleted from the draft Treaty text.

2. Ambassador Ghose's letter is in response to a communication from the President of the CD, addressed to all countries which could have taken part in the International Monitoring System in order to prepare for the finalisation of the monitoring facility lists. Our response is in keeping with the Indian statement on 20 June indicating that India would not be able to subscribe to the CTBT in its present form.

SWITZERLAND INDIA

Date : Jun 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Indo-British Cooperation in Education

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Jun 28, 1996 on Indo-British cooperation in education:

The British High Commissioner to India, Mr. David Booth, met the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S. R. Bommai, here today and discussed the steps to further strengthen the cooperation primarily in the field of Education and Culture between the two countries. Both of them recalled the long relationship

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between India and Britain in these two fields.

The High Commissioner informed the Minister that his Government was presently funding a scheme for training primary school teachers in Andhra Pradesh. In this context, the Minister suggested that this scheme could be extended to other States by making additional provisions.

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INDIA USA

Date : Jun 28, 1996

July

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OMAN TURKMENISTAN

Date : Jul 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Visit of the Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar to Bangladesh

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1996 on visit of the Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar to Bangladesh as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister:

The Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar is visiting Dhaka as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister from July 5-7. The Foreign Secretary's visit is aimed at conveying a message of goodwill and desire for cooperation with the new government in Bangladesh. The visit reflects the high priority which India attaches to developing cordial and constructive cooperation with its neighbours.

The Foreign Secretary will carry letters from the Prime Minister to Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and from the External Affairs Minister to Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, the new Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. The Foreign Secretary will also call on other senior leaders and high officials in

Dhaka.

BANGLADESH INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jul 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Visit of the Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar to Bangladesh as Prime Minister's Special Envoy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 06, 1996 regarding visit of the Foreign Secretary Shri Salman Haidar to Bangladesh as Prime Minister's Special Envoy to deliver the Prime Minister's message to Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh:

1. Foreign Secretary, Mr. Salman Haidar, who is in Dhaka as Prime Minister's Special Envoy, today delivered the Prime Minister's message to Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh. While reciprocating the sentiments and greetings of the Indian Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina said that Bangladesh would like close and friendly relations with India and all bilateral issues between the two countries need to be resolved.
2. Earlier the Foreign Secretary called on the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, and handed over a letter from External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral expressing his firm desire to enhance Indo-Bangladesh relations through Amicable cooperation to the mutual benefit of both countries. Responding with happiness to the message from the Indian external Affairs Minister, who he described as an 'old friend', the Bangladesh Foreign Minister underlined his desire to resolve outstanding issues between India and Bangladesh and work for constructive co-operation between the two countries. He described India as the natural friend of Bangladesh.
3. Foreign Secretary also called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abul Hassan Chowdhury Kaiser.
4. During discussions between the Foreign Secretary and his Bangladesh counterpart, both sides agreed to take

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steps to intensify dialogue between the two Governments on all issues in the bilateral relationship. It was agreed that expeditious action would be taken to convene the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Commission and promote media exchanges, interaction between business communities, and to increase cultural and sporting exchanges.

Volume No

1995

BARBADOS

Nomination of Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to XVIIth CARICOM Summit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1996 on nomination of Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to the XVIIth CARICOM Summit:

Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs has been nominated as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to the XVIIth CARICOM Summit being held from July 3-6, 1996 in Barbados. Shri Raghunath is carrying a message from the Prime Minister addressed to the Heads of State and Government attending his Summit.

The fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are Antigua & Barbuda. The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and the two Associate Member State - British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Calcos Islands. Its objectives are economic cooperation through the Caribbean common market, coordination on foreign policy, and common services and cooperation in functional matters such as health, education and culture, communications and industrial relations.

The Prime Minister in his message has stressed that India's relations with the Caribbean have been cordial and reach back into history. They are strengthened by shared historical and cultural experience. A large number of our countrymen left our shores for the Caribbean many years ago. Indian culture, philosophy and art have enjoyed great receptivity in the Caribbean. We look forward to exploring and promoting ways of forging closer relations with the Caribbean region through trade, joint ventures, tourism, and ties between academic and research institutes. We seek to give substance to our economic and technical cooperation in the spirit of South-South cooperation. India would be happy to share the experience it has gained and to enlarge the participation from the Caribbean in the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. The message also refers to similar perspectives on international trends and developments and the tradition of cooperation between India and the region in the United Nations and hopes for its continuation. The message expresses the belief that India's presence in the Security Council would not only provide a constructive voice to the aspirations of the developing countries but enable us

to work towards promoting cooperative peace and security.

The visit of the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to Barbados at this junct-

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ture can be seen in the context of India's keenness to further strengthen and intensify the close and friendly relations that India already has with the countries of the Caribbean community and to utilise this opportunity to interact at the highest level with them towards this purpose. The initiative has been taken in the overall context of forging closer ties with regional organisations in the world.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA BAHAMAS BELIZE DOMINICA GRENADA GUYANA JAMAICA MONTSERRAT USA

Date : Jul 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

CAMEROON

Participation by India for the first time as a Guest Delegation at the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organisation of African Unity at Yaounde

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 04, 1996 on participation by India for the first time as a Guest Delegation at the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State & Government of the Member States of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at Yaounde, Cameroon:

India is participating for the first time as a Guest Delegation at the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State & Government of the Member States of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at Yaounde, Cameroon from 1-10th July, 96. The Indian delegation is being led by the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister to the OAU Summit Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, Minister for Steel and Mines. Shri Baishya is carrying a message from the Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, to the Heads of State or Government participating in the Summit. The Indian delegation also includes the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Shri Prakash Shah and Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri A. N. Ram.

Africa and India have a special and abiding relationship. One of the major foreign policy initiatives of the new Government is to revive, reinvigorate and expand these traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation. India is dedicated to supporting the programmes of development of Africa. The Indian delegation will explore all avenues to give a fresh impetus and a new dynamism to our

technical and economic cooperation with the countries of Africa. Bilateral cooperation projects in agriculture and rural development, roads, railways, telecommunications, energy, cost-effective housing, health and entrepreneurial development have already been initiated between India and various African countries. There are also over 50 Indian joint ventures that are in operation in African countries.

Despite its limited resources, India has willingly shared its development experiences with Africa in a spirit of partnership. A large portion of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme is directed towards Africa. African students have and continue to be trained in India in diverse fields under ITEC assistance.

Africa and India have cooperated closely in the United Nations in a tradition of mutual understanding, goodwill & respect. India has always identified with the aspirations of the African people and has backed the efforts of the Organisation of African Unity since its inception. Relations between the OAU and India are extremely warm and close.

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In this connection, India looks forwards to the visit of His Excellency Mr. Salim A. Salim, Secretary General of the OAU at an early date. India is also engaged in constructive partnership and cooperation with other regional organisations like COMESA, SADC, UNECA, ECOWAS and AFDB.

CAMEROON INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date : Jul 04, 1996

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1995

INDIA

A request made by Pakistan High Commissioner, Riaz Khokhar for a courtesy call

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 02, 1996 on a courtesy call made by Pakistan High Commissioner, Riaz Khokhar:

Pakistan High Commissioner, Riaz Khokhar had made a request for a courtesy call on Shri I. K. Gujral, External Affairs Minister. The External Affairs Minister received Pak High Commissioner Khokhar this morning. External Affairs Minister conveyed India's desire for establishing a relationship of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. He emphasised India's commitment for enhancing economic, cultural and social contacts between the two countries at Government and people-to-people levels. The External Affairs Minister expressed the hope that the dialogue between the two countries would resume at an early date.

The High Commissioner of Pakistan reciprocated the warm sentiments expressed by External Affairs Minister. He conveyed to the Minister that Islamabad was engaged in preparing a response to Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda's letter to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The courtesy call was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Jul 02, 1996

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Visit of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 30, 1996 on visit of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius to India at the invitation of Shri H. D. Deve Gowda Prime Minister of India:

At the invitation of Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, will pay an official visit to India from August 14 to Aug 19, 1996.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Shrimati Veena Ramgoolam.

During his visit to India, Prime Minister Ramgoolam will hold talks with his Indian counterpart on matters of bilateral

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concern as well as on regional and international developments. There will be meetings with other Indian leaders including calls on the President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and the Vice President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam will also have an opportunity to interact with the Indian business community with a view to promoting further investment from and trade with India.

The official visit of Prime Minister Ramgoolam will coincide with the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of India's independence on Aug 15, 1996.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Aug 15, 1996

Volume No

1995

OMAN

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman to India

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 16, 1996 on visit of His Excellency Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman to India at the invitation of Shri I. K. Gujral, External Affairs Minister:

His Excellency Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Oman will be paying an official visit to India from July 17-19, 1996 at the invitation of Shri I. K. Gujral, External Affairs Minister. His Excellency Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah holds a senior Cabinet rank. He will be accompanied by a senior level seven member delegation.

The visit is taking place within the framework of periodical consultations between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries on a regular basis. This opportunity will be availed to review Indo-Oman bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international developments as well as other issues of common interest.

During his visit, His Excellency Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah will also call on the Prime Minister.

OMAN USA INDIA

Date : Jul 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

OMAN

Visit of Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman to India

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 18, 1996 on visit of Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman to India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Shri I.

K. Gujral:

Mr. Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman, who holds a senior Cabinet position in Oman, paid an official visit to India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral from July 17-19, 1996. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation.

The Omani dignitary's visit is part of bilateral framework for regular high level political dialogue and in particular, consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

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In the Official-level talks which were held in three sessions, the two sides had a comprehensive exchange of views on important regional and international issues of mutual interest including the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative. The official-level talks were followed by a meeting between the two Ministers. The Omani dignitary will also call on Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda later in the evening today.

The official-level talks reviewed the existing relations and expressed satisfaction at the growth and consolidation of bilateral relations and steps taken in diversifying and further stimulating relations in various fields. Both sides expressed desire to have the next session of the Joint Commission in the second half of this year in Muscat.

In the discussions between the two Ministers, the focus was on bilateral economic relations and the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative. There was full agreement between the two sides on the IORI. Both the sides reiterated the common resolve to marry Oman's energy resources with India's raw materials through joint manufacturing activities in such areas as cement, hydro-carbone, aluminium, etc. It is also agreed that Oman Minister of Commerce & Industry would visit India next month. Oman welcomed India's interest to participate in the development of Ryaut Port and the related industrial activities. Both the sides agreed on the increased role for the private sector in strengthening the economic relations and noted that the Indo-Oman Joint Business Council which will meet in Muscat in September will play an important role in achieving this objective.

The talks were held in a spirit of warmth, cordiality and friendship, consistent with the traditional ties of friendship between the two countries and reflecting the desire of both the sides to strengthen the existing relations.

OMAN USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Remarks carried in the Pakistani media attributed to the President of Pakistan in the recent terrorist activities in Pakistan towards India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 30, 1996 on allegation in the Pakistani media attributed to the President of Pakistan in the recent terrorist activities in Pakistan point towards India:

We have seen remarks carried in the Pakistani media attributed to the President of Pakistan alleging that preliminary findings in the recent terrorist activities which have taken place in Pakistan point towards India. This allegation is entirely false and baseless.

India would like to reiterate its commitment to have a relationship of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. All outstanding issues between the two countries can only be resolved through bilateral discussions. Towards this end the Prime Minister of India has already suggested to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the Foreign Secretary level dialogue to resume between the two countries.

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PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date : Jul 30, 1996

Volume No

1995

TURKMENISTAN

Discussion held with the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral by the Deputy Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 11, 1996 on wide ranging discussions held with the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov held wide-ranging discussions with the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral today.

2. These discussions were held in a spirit of warmth friendship and mutual understanding. The two countries have a shared perception of key regional and international issues.

3. India recognised Turkmenistan on December 26, 1991. President Niyazov paid an official visit to India in April, 1992 during which the two sides signed a number of agreements including the Declaration on the Principles and Directions of Cooperation between the two countries. Former Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao visited Turkmenistan from September 19-21, 1995. During that visit, agreements were signed on several issues including the establishment of a Joint Commission. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov previously visited India in April 1995.

4. The exchange of visits between India and Turkmenistan and the different agreements that have been signed have established a strong framework for the intensification of bilateral cooperation. With a view to stimulating bilateral economic exchanges, India has extended two modest credit lines of US \$ 5 million and US \$ 10 million in 1995. Indian exports to Turkmenistan include tea, cotton yarn, fabrics, RMG cotton and accessories, RMG wool, RMG of other textile materials, drugs, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals and project goods. Turkmenistan exports to India include raw wool, raw cotton and waste, machinery and organic chemicals. Joint ventures in the pharmaceutical sector are being set up in Turkmenistan.

5. Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov will be calling on the President today at 1800 hrs. and on the Prime Minister on Jul 12, 1996 at 1800 hrs.

TURKMENISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Jul 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

TURKMENISTAN

Visit of the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Jul 15, 1996 on the visit of the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan to India:

At the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri I. K. Gujral, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris O. Shikhmuradov, visited India from July 10-14, 1996. He was accompanied by a high-level-delegation representing the surface transport, civil aviation and the banking sectors. Mr. Shikhmuradov called on the President and Prime Minister and held wide-ranging talks with the Minister of External Affairs. He handed over a message from the President of Turkmenistan to the

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Prime Minister. In these discussions the two sides re-affirmed that relations between India and Turkmenistan are based on historic contacts between the two peoples and on a foundation of partnership, trust and mutual understanding. The Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Turkmenistan Mr. Illyas N. Berdyev held discussions with the Minister of Civil Aviation Shri C. M. Ibrahim.

During their talks, the Indian and the Turkmen dignitaries reviewed the progress in all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Turkmenistan's concept of positive neutrality and India's efforts in improving relations with her neighbours are important contributions to peace and stability in their respective regions.

The two sides agreed that the exchange of high-level visits between the two countries and the agreements signed during these visits have established a strong framework for the further intensification of bilateral relations between India and the Turkmenistan in all fields. The ongoing process of the modernisation of the economies of the two countries will open greater opportunities for the growth of trade and economic contacts and cooperation in science and technology. In this context, the two sides recognised the importance of the trilateral arrangement between India, Turkmenistan and Iran for commercial flows with Central Asia through Iran. They noted the progress that was being made in the establishment of joint ventures in the field of pharmaceuticals and felt that there was considerable potential for expanding cooperation in the field of small and medium scale industries and human resource development. Efforts will be made to expand the basket of commodities for bilateral trade to include foodgrains from India. Steps will be taken to explore the possibilities of enhancing civil aviation contacts between India and Turkmenistan.

Both sides agree that long-term and stable relations of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation meet the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples and will work for the preservation and strengthening of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. They are convinced that it is necessary for multi-ethnic, pluralist states to cooperate actively to preserve their state structures from the threats of terrorism and religious or ethnic extremism and separatism. They believe that interaction between States, bilaterally and in regional organisations must be free of sectarian considerations. India and Turkmenistan have an active and fruitful cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora. As follow members of the Non-aligned Movement, they fully support its directions and decisions including those taken at the 11th NAM Summit held in Cartagena in October, 1995.

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TURKMENISTAN INDIA USA IRAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COLOMBIA

Date : Jul 15, 1996

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USA BANGLADESH INDIA AUSTRIA OMAN MALAYSIA MAURITIUS NEPAL UZBEKISTAN

Date : Aug 31, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Visit of H.E. Mr. Farooq Sobhan, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 7, 1996 on the visit of H.E. Mr. Farooq Sobhan, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to India:

H.E. Mr. Farooq Sobhan, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh arrived in New Delhi on August 6, 1996 on a 3-day visit. He is accompanied by a delegation consisting of representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Bangladesh.

He called on the Prime Minister today and handed over a letter from Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He also called on the External Affairs Minister and conveyed a message from his counterpart in Bangladesh. External Affairs Minister was invited to visit Bangladesh and mutually convenient dates in September were considered. The Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, later in the evening, called on Minister for Water Resources. The possibility of an early visit to India by the Bangladesh Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation was discussed.

The Bangladesh Foreign Secretary had detailed exchange of views with Shri Salman Haider, Foreign Secretary. The discussions covered major issues in Indo-Bangladesh relations. The Indian delegation for talks included the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka and officials from the concerned ministries in Government of India. The discussions are to continue tomorrow.

During his stay in India, the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary is scheduled to meet minister of state for commerce, the leader of the opposition and other leaders.
Aug 07, 1996

BANGLADESH INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Aug 07, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Austria Keen on Cooperation with India in Power Sector

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on August 6, 1996 on meeting between Austrian delegation led by their Finance Minister' Mr. Victor Klima and Indian delegation led by Union Power Secretary, Shri. P. Abraham:

A high-level Austrian delegation led by the Austrian Finance Minister, Mr. Victor Klima met the Union Power Secretary, Shri P. Abraham and senior officials of the Ministry here today. The Austrian delegation expressed interest in participating in the development of the power sector in India. It was pointed out that Austria was a country which had immense experience in hydel power generation and would be interested in sharing its experience with India.

Welcoming the delegation, the Secretary said that the power ministry would

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be happy to collaborate with Austria in the development of the hydel sector. The Secretary also welcomed private investment in cogeneration and said that there was immense potential in the states of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in recycling the heat generated by the sugar industry for production of power. The delegation was also told about the policy initiated by the power ministry in utilising liquid fuel for power generation. It was explained to the delegation that counter guarantee was a temporary measure introduced as many of the states utilities were commercially unviable. The Secretary told the delegation that the Centre has now been placing a lot of emphasis on restructuring State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and setting up Independent Regulatory Authorities for determination of the power tariff in various states.

The delegation which included private power developments from Australia made a brief expose of their expertise and promised to explore areas for greater cooperation through joint ventures as also direct investment in the power sector.

Aug 06, 1996

INDIA AUSTRIA USA PERU AUSTRALIA

Date : Aug 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Textile Exports Scale new high during 1995-96

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on August 6, 1996 on Textile Exports during 1995-96:

According to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Textiles for 1995-96, textile exports (excluding jute and handicrafts) during the period scaled to a new high, amounting to approximately US \$ 9022 million or \$ 9 billion, (equivalent to Rs. 29,999 crore) thus showing an increase of 5.8% in dollar terms and 12.1% in terms of rupees over the corresponding period last year. In order to meet the emerging market challenges and to retain India's pre-eminent position as exporter of textiles, Government announced several measures during the period under review. The New Garment Quota Policy (1996) was announced in the wake of the coming into force of Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) and the demand from the trade for a change in the current policy. According to the new policy, the Manufacturer Exporter Entitlement and Non Quota Exporters Systems have been removed and the number of systems removed from 3 to 2. Secondly, the annual levels would be distributed as follows: Past Performance Entitlement (PPE), 80% and First Come First Served (FCFS) including New Investor's Entitlement, 20%.

To impart best of training and to meet world standards, five more centres of the National Institutes of Fashion Technology (NIFT) have been set up in addition to the one already existing at Delhi. The proposed five new centres - at Mumbai, Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad and Madras - have already started functioning during the academic year. The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has also set up apparel training and design centres at Tirupur and Madras with a view to upgrade the technological skills of the work force employed by the garment industry.

The Indian textile industry has witnessed a phenomenal growth during the last four decades. The spindleage has increased from 11 million in 1951 to 30.94 million in October 1995 and was expected to have reached a figure of 31.52 million by the end of March 1996. In the decentralised sector, Powerloom plays a pivotal role in meeting the clothing needs of the country, its share being 72% of the total cloth production in the country. Realising the importance, a separate Export Promotion Council in the powerloom sector called 'Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council' has been formed to give thrust to the development of this sector and promotion of exports of powerloom fabrics. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

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has been engaged for conducting a joint census of handlooms and powerlooms for collecting data at the national level and its report is expected to be submitted soon.

Handlooms, being the largest economic activity after agriculture, its role is very significant. Due to implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes, the production of handloom fabric have registered more than tenfold increase, from a level of 500 million sq. metres in the early 50s to 6028 million sq. metres in 1994-95. Government have enacted the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 in order to protect the interests of handloom weavers by reserving certain textile articles for exclusive production in the sector. Twenty two textile articles are presently reserved for exclusive production by handlooms vide Notification dated August 4, 1986. An Advisory Committee constituted under the Act to review the existing reservation order, after in-depth study has since submitted its recommendations to the Government, which are under consideration.

Handloom sector has been largely dependent on the organised mill sector for supply of its principal raw material namely yarn. The Government has been making constant efforts to ensure regular supply of yarn to the sector at reasonable prices through (a) Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme (b) Scheme for supply of yarn to handloom weavers at mill-gate prices and (c) loan assistance to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for setting up of new expansion modernisation of weavers' cooperative spinning mills.

The Ministry of Textiles is also implementing the scheme of setting up of Handloom Development Centres (HDCs) and Quality Dyeing Units (QDUs) at a total estimated cost of Rs. 849.15 crores. As against the target of 3000 HDCs and 500 QDUs for four years, Government have already sanctioned 1198.HDCs and 236 QDUs and released a sum of Rs. 66.47 crores to various States and UTS till 31 March 1996.

Another sector which has assumed a special significance in the country's economy in terms of employment generation and earning of foreign exchange is the Handicrafts Sector. The export of handicrafts during 1995-96 have been recorded at Rs. 4980.15 crores, against the target of Rs. 4850 crores, thereby representing a growth of 14.21% over the corresponding period last year. With a view to boosting handicrafts exports and to provide momentum to languishing crafts, a new scheme for identification, survey and revival of languishing crafts through such measures as design development, training, pilot products, exhibitions and publicity has been introduced by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). Nineteen training centres (18 hand block printing and 1 hand block engraving) are also being run to promote hand printing of textiles and upgradation of skills in these articles.

The hand-knotted carpet industry in India employs over 15 lakhs of weavers. 90% of the carpets produced in the country are exported. The value of exports recorded during 1995-96 was Rs. 1959.80 crores (provisional) (US \$ 593.88 million). Government have taken a number of steps to meet the situation arising out of alleged use of child labour in the carpet industry which include introduction of the label "Kaleen" making it obligatory on the part of exporters to certify that there was no use of child labour in the manufacture of the carpet. A seminar on the carpet industry - prospects and perspectives was also recently organised to evolve an action oriented strategy for propelling the growth of carpet production and exports. In addition, Government have also approved projects for promotion and development of jute and wood-based handicrafts in various States in the country from UNDP assistance.
Aug 06, 1996

INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 06, 1996

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1995

INDIA

Indo-Oman Joint Working Group to study technical aspects of the Gas Pipeline

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on August 12, 1996 on Indo-Oman Joint Working Group to Study technical aspects of the Gas Pipeline:

India and Oman have agreed to set UP a Joint Working Group consisting of representatives of Oman Oil Company and Gas Authority of India to study the technical aspects of the project so as to expedite the feasibility report of the Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline. This decision was taken during discussions held here today between the visiting Oman Commerce and Industry Minister Mr. Maqbool Bin-Ali-Sultan and the Minister of State for

Petroleum and Natural Gas. Shri T. R. Baalu. The two delegations also reviewed the progress of the various projects being implemented in the oil sector by India and Oman. Besides the Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline for which at the moment a feasibility study on the technical aspects is under way, two refinery projects are being implemented as joint ventures in Bina, Madhya Pradesh and one in Maharashtra.

Welcoming the Omani Minister and the delegation, the Minister of State for Petroleum recalled the long friendship between the two countries and called for greater cooperation between the two in the oil sector. The visiting Minister thanked India for the hospitality and welcome extended to him and said that during the last two days the delegations have had fruitful discussions on pending issues related to the various projects. The Omani Minister extended a formal invitation to Shri Baalu to visit Oman.

Besides the Omani Minister, the other Members of the delegation were H.E Salim Makki, Malik AI-Adawi, Abdullah Saleh AI-Sa'rdi and Paul Weber. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri T. R. Baalu and included Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar and senior officials of the Central Oil PSU's.

Aug 12, 1996

INDIA OMAN USA MALI

Date : Aug 12, 1996

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1995

INDIA

Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project to be expedited

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on August 13, 1996 regarding Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project and the setting up of the Joint Venture ammonia-urea fertilizer plant in Oman:

India and Oman have agreed to expedite the setting up of the Joint Venture ammonia-urea fertilizer plant in Oman. The Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Sis Ram Ola assured the Omani Commerce and Industry Minister H. E. Maq-bool-Bin-Ali Bin Sultan who called on him here this morning that all clearances required for the implementation of the project would be made available by March, 1997. The Joint Venture Project to be set up with the participation of KRIBHCO and RCF will produce 15 lakh tonnes of urea and 3 lakh tonnes of merchant ammonia annually. The entire quantity of urea will be purchased by India under a buy-back arrangement at international prices.

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The Omani delegation assured the Indian side that Gas required for the project would be made available in time for the pre-commissioning activities. The visiting Minister also promised to allot the selected site for the project on a longterm lease.

The two sides agreed to finalise the Joint Venture Agreement at the earliest. Mr. Sis Ram Ola informed the visiting Minister that the two Indian companies who are participating in the Venture have already opened an office in Oman to accelerate the project activities.

The Omani Minister invited the Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mr. Ola to visit Oman to preside over the

ceremony for the signing of the Joint Venture Agreement, October this year.

It may be recalled that a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 30.7.1994 between the Government of India and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the designated companies viz. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) from India and Oman Oil Company Limited (Oman Oil) from Oman for examining the feasibility of setting up a joint venture ammonia-urea fertilizer plant in Oman. The project when completed will be the largest Joint Venture Urea Project in the World.

Aug 13, 1996

INDIA OMAN USA

Date : Aug 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Appointment of the Vice-President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan as the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 14, 1996 on appointment of the Vice-President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan as the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations:

The Vice-President of India, Shri K. R. Narayanan has been appointed as the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations with effect from 8th August, 1996 for a period of three years.

In the past Shri R. Venkataraman and Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma have both served as President of the Council in their capacity as Vice-President of India.

Shri K. R. Narayanan is a former diplomat with extensive experience in some of the most challenging diplomatic assignments. On his return to India after his diplomatic assignments he was elected to the Lok Sabha, (House of the People) thrice consecutively and was a Member of Parliament from 1985 to 1992. He was in the Union Council of Ministers and held various portfolios such as Planning, External Affairs, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Space and Ocean Development. He has wide intellectual interests and has also served as Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. His appointment as President, ICCR is expected to give a new thrust and direction to the Council's activities. It reflects the importance the Government attaches to promoting cultural cooperation with other countries.

Aug 14, 1996

INDIA USA

Date : Aug 14, 1996

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1995

MALAYSIA

Visit of External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral to Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 17, 1996 on visit of External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral to Malaysia:

Shri I. K. Gujral, External Affairs Minister will be paying an official visit to Malaysia (18-19, August, 1996) and Singapore (20-21 August, 1996) at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Ahmad Badawi, Foreign Minister of Malaysia and H. E. Prof. Jaya Kumar, Foreign Minister of Singapore.

2. The forthcoming visit is a follow-up of Indian participation for the first time in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (ASEAN PMC) as Full Dialogue Partner from 23rd to 25th July, 1996 in Jakarta, Indonesia and to consolidate bilateral relations with these important newly industrialised countries.

3. In Malaysia, External Affairs Minister will hold extensive and wide ranging talks with H.E. Datuk Abdullah B. Haji Ahmad Badawi, Minister for Foreign Affairs. He will also meet H. E. Anwar Ibrahim, the Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister, H.E. Dato Shri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works and H.E. Dato Mohamad Rahmat, Minister of Information. He will not be meeting Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohamed who will be absent from Kuala Lumpur.

4. The bilateral trade with Malaysia increased by one and half time from US \$ 560.70 million in 1994 to \$ 1.39 billion in 1995. The trend for 1996 also looks promising.

5. India's export to Malaysia in 1995 was valued at \$ 551.60 million, up 31% from \$ 421.60 in 1994.

6. Malaysia is emerging as a country with substantial investible surplus and expertise in infrastructural sectors like telecommunications, roads, ports, etc. During Prime Minister Rao's visit in August, 1995 a number of MOUs/Agreements were signed for cooperation in sectors such as roads, broadcasting, communication and satellite technology, etc.

7. In Singapore, Shri I. K. Gujral will call on Prime Minister Dr. Goh Chok Tong and hold official talks with Foreign Minister Prof. B. Jaya Kumar, address Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) and meet the Faculty members of the Institute of South East Asian Studies.

8. There have been frequent high level visits between India and Singapore. Prime Minister Goh was chief guest at the Indian Republic Day celebrations in January, 1994. In September of the same year, Prime Minister Rao visited Singapore followed by another visit from Prime Minister Goh to Calcutta in January, 1995 and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in January, 1996. The first Global Indian Entrepreneurs Conference (GIEC) bringing together several hundreds of blue chip NRI businessmen from around the world which was addressed by Union Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. Singapore is the country coordinator for dialogue between India and ASEAN. India Singapore bilateral trade turnover in 1995-96 was US \$ 2.02 billion which is 25% higher than the turnover in 1994-95. Indian exports to Singapore increased by 20% from \$ 763 million in 1994-95 to \$ 911 million in 1995-96. Singapore is among the ten largest sources of foreign investment and the Republic's importance as a major trading centre is expected to increase substantially after Hong Kong returns to Chinese sovereignty in July, 1997.

9. With Malaysia and Singapore, we share similar positions on many inter

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national and regional issues and from July, 1996 are partners in the ASEAN Regional Forum. Our linkages extend to the Commonwealth, WTO and other fora where we often take identical or similar positions.

10. External Affairs Minister's visit to Malaysia and Singapore is a continuation of our 'Look East' policy and recognition by India of the strategic and economic relevance of the increasingly important South East Asian Countries.

Aug 17, 1996

MALAYSIA INDIA USA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDONESIA UNITED KINGDOM HONG KONG

Date : Aug 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 16, 1996 on visit of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, accompanied by Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam to India:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, accompanied by Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam is visiting India from 14th to 19th August, 1996. The Mauritian Prime Minister said he was touched to be in New Delhi on India's Independence day. This was the first occasion that a visiting Head of Government has been invited on such an occasion. Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, the architect of Indo-Mauritian relations had drawn inspiration from India's freedom struggle and had received Indian support for the freedom movement of Mauritius. After independence, the two countries fought together against colonialism and apartheid. In 1977, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam had described Indo-Mauritian relations as a friendship which would last forever.

2. The two Prime Ministers held wide ranging discussions on bilateral relations and issues of regional and international interest. They noted that Indo-Mauritian ties were now growing well in all spheres and were an example of South-South cooperation. The Mauritian Prime Minister remarked that the Indian economy was poised to emerge as the most dynamic in the region possessing a highly sophisticated and wide ranging industrial sector that included high technology. Mauritius would welcome greater interest on the part of Indian business particularly in the service sector. It was agreed that Indian Ocean co-operation offered a new prospect for closer Indo-Mauritian co-operation.

3. The Mauritian Prime Minister reiterated his country's support for India's becoming a permanent member of a restructured UN Security Council - a point recorded in his party manifesto. Both sides noted that the two countries were bound by deep historical, linguistic and cultural ties and shared a common faith in democracy. The useful exchange of views was reflective of the close understanding and identity of approach on a wide range of issues.

Aug 16, 1996

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Aug 16, 1996

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1995

MAURITIUS

Speech by Shri Deve Gowda, Prime Minister at the banquet hosted in honour of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 18, 1996 on speech by Shri Deve Gowda, Prime Minister at the banquet hosted in honour of Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam Prime Minister of Mauritius:

It is a great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and Mrs. Ramgoolam among us this evening. Your presence in India on the occasion of our fiftieth Independence Day is reflective of the special ties that bind our two countries and peoples.

2. India and Mauritius stood together in the struggle for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi visited Mauritius at the beginning of this century and, in 1931, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam played a prominent role in the arrangements to receive Gandhiji in London for the Round Table Conference. These events are enduring symbols of the historic relations between our two countries, and the close association between the leaders of our freedom movements. Inspired by their leadership and their spirit of sacrifice, our people fought and won their right to a place of respect among the family of sovereign nations.

3. As in India, so too in Mauritius, we find a rich diversity of cultures with people of different races, religions and languages living together in unity and harmony. We also share a common faith in Parliamentary democracy. Through recent general elections in both our countries, which have brought about changes in government, our people have demonstrated their political maturity.

4. Our geographical proximity and the complementary nature of our economies provide the preconditions for us to work together in the economic field. Technical cooperation between our two countries has progressed satisfactorily. Trade, joint ventures and investments have increased substantially. The economic liberalisation programme in India, and the successful efforts by Mauritius to diversify and modernise its economy have opened up prospects for strengthening these ties further. I am happy to welcome the presence of leading businessmen from Mauritius and hope that they have been able to identify new opportunities with their counterparts from the Indian side.

5. As developing countries, our primary responsibility is to raise the living standards of our peoples. We have affirmed our policy of continued liberalisation of the economy and look forward to promoting trade and investment with the widest circle of countries. Cooperation between nations can, and must, reinforce the domestic drive to development so that the benefits of globalisation reach the poorest sections of society. Our Government is committed to ensuring adequate protection to the weaker sections of society even as we liberalise our economy.

6. Regional cooperation is another priority area of our economic policy. In this connection we commend the initiative of Mauritius in launching the Indian Ocean Rim Association. I assure you of our intention to work closely with you in this grouping in our common endeavour to harness the skills and resources of the region, and ensure its emergence as a major element of regional cooperation. We are similarly engaging our neighbours in other forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of South-East Asian Nations with which we have recently upgraded our structural ties.

7. The trend towards enlarging international cooperation is contradicted by the current negotiations on the Comprehensive

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Test Ban Treaty. The reluctance of the nuclear weapon powers to give up their arsenals is fresh proof of their discriminatory attitude on this issue of vital global importance. Attempts are being made to put pressure on us to agree to this discrimination, despite its obvious negative implications for our national security. We have made it clear that we shall not allow such efforts to succeed.

8. Excellency, we have had a useful exchange of views which reflect our close understanding and identity of approach on a wide range of issues. We hope that you and Mrs. Ramgoolam will have a pleasant visit and would carry back happy memories of your brief stay in India. Your visit has contributed greatly to further strengthening our close and fraternal ties.

9 May I now invite all of you present here to raise a toast :

- to the health of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Mauritius and Mrs. Ramgoolam,- to the health of all distinguished guests present here tonight,

- to the well-being and prosperity of the people of Mauritius,

- to the ever-growing friendship between India and Mauritius.

Aug 18, 1996

MAURITIUS USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Aug 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Visit of Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, 'Foreign Minister of Nepal to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 12, 1996 on visit of Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Foreign Minister of Nepal to India:

Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Foreign Minister of Nepal arrives today on a two day working visit. He would be accompanied by senior Nepalese officials. During the course of his stay, Dr. Lohani would call on the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Home Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and other senior political leaders.

A wide range of matters of mutual interest, to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various sectors, are likely to be discussed.

Visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. P. C. Lohani to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 13, 1996 on visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. P. C. Lohani to India:

The Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. P. C. Lohani, arrived in New Delhi on August 12 for a two day visit. On the first day of his visit, the Foreign Minister called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. During the call, the close and friendly bilateral relations that exist between the two countries were reviewed. Among others, the bilateral trade, transit, investment, cooperation in water resources, economic cooperation, regional issues etc. were discussed.

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2. There was a reiteration of the invitation from the Prime Minister of Nepal to our Prime Minister to make an early visit to Nepal. It was decided that dates for this visit would be finalised through diplomatic channels.

Aug 12, 1996

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Aug 12, 1996

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1995

NEPAL

An Official visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 14, 1996 on an Official visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani to India:

The Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani paid an official visit to New Delhi from 12-14 August 1996, at the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs of India. During the course of his stay, apart from official talks with the External Affairs Minister, he called on the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Leader of the Opposition Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao as well as other dignitaries and political personalities in New Delhi.

All major aspects of bilateral relations were reviewed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, which characterises the close and cordial relations between India and Nepal. The two sides expressed happiness at the growing cooperation, between the two countries. The discussions inter alia covered, review of the 1950 Treaty of Peace & Friendship, questions relating to trade, transit and investment as well as regional issues.

TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP OF 1950

Both sides agreed to continue talks at appropriate levels on the question of reviewing the Treaty.

TRADE

The Nepalese Foreign Minister expressed appreciation at the progress made, during the recent visit of the Indian Commerce Secretary to Kathmandu, in meeting the Nepalese request for removing the 50 % material and labour content requirement for duty free imports, of products of Nepalese manufacture, into India. The understanding reached in principle, on streamlining the countervailing duties levied, on Nepalese exports to India, was also a

welcome development. The Ministers agreed that the understanding reached during the visit, should be formalised within the near future. It was agreed that the Trade Treaty which is to expire in December 1996, should be renewed as soon as possible and would duly reflect the above decisions.

INVESTMENTS

The sides reiterated their common desire to encourage and accelerate the pace of Indian investments in Nepal. The External Affairs Minister informed the Foreign Minister that formulation of a new policy in this regard was under consideration by the Indian Ministry of Finance. It was noted that the CII team had been commissioned to undertake a study at an early date, on the setting up of one or more Export Processing Zones in Nepal. The Nepalese side requested that the Nepal Rashtra Bank be permitted to invest funds in high yield treasury bills in India. It was agreed to give early consideration to the request.

TRANSIT TO BANGLADESH

The External Affairs Minister noted the practical difficulties being faced by Nepal in using the existing transit route through Radhikapur. He agreed, in principle, that the Government of India will facilitate an overland transit route through and to Bangladesh. The sides agreed that appropriate modalities would be finalised expeditiously.

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INDIA ASSISTED PROJECTS IN NEPAL

The sides noted that the High Level Task Force meeting had taken place last week in New Delhi, and expressed satisfaction at the good progress achieved in implementing projects in Nepal with Indian assistance.

TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION

The sides considered the decisions reached during the last round of 'Air Services Talks' held in New Delhi. The External Affairs Minister stated that India was favourably disposed, in principle, to the requests made by the Nepalese side. It was agreed that steps would be taken to have early bilateral talks between the Civil Aviation Ministries in order to conclude a new Civil Aviation Agreement.

RIVER NAVIGATION

Recognising the potential in the area, the sides agreed to have early discussions on utilising river transportation to facilitate movement of goods to and from Nepal.

COUNTERING TERRORISM

Both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow any activities in the territory of either country prejudicial to the security of the other.

MONITORING OF BORDER

In order to discourage movement of undesirable elements across the open border, the two sides agreed that there should be a more effective system of monitoring of movement across the border. It was also agreed to set up a Joint Working Group to make suitable recommendations to the two Government in this regard.

INDIAN TEACHERS IN NEPAL

The External Affairs Minister of India apprised the Nepalese Foreign Minister of the problems being faced by Indian school and university teachers in Nepal. The Foreign Minister of Nepal assured that the matter was receiving sympathetic consideration and hoped that it would be resolved at an early date, to mutual satisfaction.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

The Foreign Minister reiterated the invitation from the Nepalese Prime Minister, to the Indian Prime Minister. for an early visit to Nepal. The Prime Minister said that he was looking forward to the visit in the near future, on mutually convenient dates.

Aug 14, 1996

NEPAL INDIA USA RUSSIA BANGLADESH

Date : Aug 14, 1996

Volume No

1995

OMAN

Indo-Oman Joint Commission to meet in Oman

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on August 13, 1996 on Indo-Oman Joint Commission meeting in Oman and Omani Trade Minister's call on Dr. Ramaiah:

A meeting of the Indo-Oman Joint Commission is likely to be held soon in Oman. The first session of the Indo-Oman Joint Commission, co-chaired by the Commerce Ministers of the two countries, was held in New Delhi last year. The visiting Minister of Commerce and Industry of Oman, Mr. Maqbool Ali Sultan, along with his delegation, called on Dr. B. B. Ramaiah, Minister of State for Commerce, here today and discussed possibilities of strengthening

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Indo-Omani bilateral trade and economic Cooperation. It was indicated that preceding the Joint Commission, the first meeting of the Indo-Oman Joint Business Council (JBC) would take place in Oman next month. Both FICCI and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CH) would be sending delegations to Oman soon to identify and pursue the areas of cooperation. Dr. Ramaiah said India would welcome similar delegations from Oman in order to step up the momentum of trade and economic exchanges. The Omani Minister underlined his government's keenness to enhance trade relations with India, which, he said, was beneficial to his country, and opportunities for cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Omani Minister has already in a communication to the Indian Commerce Minister stressed the need for exploring a framework for a strategic trade alliance between India and Oman for enhancing bilateral trade ties. Oman also evinced interest in having a joint venture in Oman for upgrading production facilities for certain textile items. Both the proposals have been referred to appropriate agencies for necessary follow-up, viz., the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) for deputing experts to study the proposal in respect of trade cooperation and the Ministry of Textiles in regard to the joint venture.

During the discussions, the Ministers noted the satisfactory progress of Indo-Omani trade and scope for cooperation in different sectors, including the hydrocarbon sector. Trade between India and Oman in 1995-96 increased by about 20% over the previous year, with Indian exports to Oman at Rs. 363.48 crores and imports at Rs. 66 crores.

Aug 13, 1996

OMAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Visit of British Foreign Secretary, H.E. Mr. Malcolm Rifkind to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 29, 1996 regarding British Foreign Secretary, H.E. Mr. Malcolm Rifkind's visit to India:

The British Foreign Secretary, H.E. Mr. Malcolm Rifkind who is on an official visit to India met with the Ministers of Home Affairs and Finance and called on his counterpart, the External Affairs Minister today. He is scheduled to meet the Minister of State for Commerce, the industry Minister and will call on the Prime Minister later in the evening.

Foreign Secretary Rifkind and the External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral discussed matters of mutual interest including regional and international cooperation. The External Affairs Minister conveyed to him India's interest in establishing good relations with Pakistan and spoke of the several unilateral initiatives taken by the present Government to facilitate people to people contact. He reiterated that any differences between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and that India would spare no efforts in this direction.

Both sides exchanged views on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the External Affairs Minister drew atten-

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tion to the national consensus on the stand that India had taken at Geneva. The External Affairs Minister emphasised that India would continue to be guided on these matters by its perceptions of its national interests. Both the Ministers agreed that their respective views on CTBT would not affect their close bilateral relations.
Aug 29, 1996

INDIA USA PAKISTAN SWITZERLAND

Date : Aug 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

UZBEKISTAN

Visit of the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 21, 1996 on visit of the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov to India:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan is currently visiting India. He arrived on August 19, 1996 and will be returning to Uzbekistan on August 23, 1996.

On August 19, 1996, he called on the Vice-President. The Vice-President and Mr. Kamilov stressed on the importance of intensifying bilateral interaction between Uzbekistan and India in trade, other economic exchanges, science and technology and culture. They noted that relations between the two countries have a strong base of old historical contacts and cultural affinities. They also felt that India and Uzbekistan must work together to address problems in the region to further the interest of peace and security.

On August 20, 1996, Mr. Kamilov called on the Prime Minister. The discussion centred on bilateral and regional issues. They were gratified at the steady improvement in bilateral ties in all spheres. They were happy to note that there was a broad agreement in the perception of the two countries on key issues. They condemned the growth of terrorism & extremism in all forms. The Prime Minister extended an invitation to the President of the Republic of the Uzbekistan Mr. Islam Karimov to visit India.

During his visit to India, Mr. Kamilov will be calling on the President and will hold meetings with the Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance and Minister of State (Commerce).

Mr. Kamilov will also have opportunities of meeting with the representatives of Indian business and industry.
Aug 21, 1996

UZBEKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 21, 1996

September

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MALI CROATIA YUGOSLAVIA PAKISTAN IRAN MONGOLIA

Date : Sep 30, 1996

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1995

BHUTAN

Bilateral Economic Co-operation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 3, 1996 regarding visit of high level delegation from Bhutan to discuss bilateral economic relation:

A high level delegation from Bhutan, led by H.E. Lyonpo C. Dorji, Chairman, Planning Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan, visited New Delhi from 26 August to 2 September 1996, to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

On-going cooperation was reviewed in detail and the two delegations had detailed discussions on future areas of cooperation in the context of Bhutan's forthcoming Eighth Five Year Plan (1997 - 2000). The Indian delegation reiterated continued support to Bhutan's programme of socioeconomic development. The major areas of cooperation identified included hydropower projects, infrastructure development social sector and the renewable natural resources sector. India is expected to be Bhutan's most significant development partner in the Eighth plan.

As in the past, the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere of trust and friendship. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the successful outcome of the meetings.

During his stay in New Delhi, Lyonpo C. Dorji called on senior leaders including the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral; and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Professor Madhu Dandavate. In response to an invitation extended by the Royal Government of Bhutan. Professor Madhu Dandavate will be visiting Thimpu shortly, to finalize Indian assistance for Bhuan's Eighth Five Year Plan.

Mr. C. Dorji, also called on the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Salman Haidar, and exchanged views on the future cooperation between the two countries. He expressed the deep gratitude of the government and the people of Bhutan to the government and friendly people of India for their deep interest in the well-being of the people of Bhutan.
Sep 03, 1996

BHUTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Visit of President of India to Oman, Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic and Italy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 27, 1996 on State visit of the President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimala Sharma to Oman, Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic and Italy:

The President of India, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and Smt. Vimala Sharma,

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will pay State Visits to Oman (October 3-6, 1996), Poland (October 6-9, 1996), Slovak Republic (October 9-10, 1996), Czech Republic (October 10-13, 1996) and Italy (October 13-16, 1996), at the invitations of the respective Heads of State.

The President's visit is the first State visit after the last General Elections in India and the assumption of office by the new Government. It emphasizes the continuity in India's foreign policy based on India's steadfast commitment to Peace, Disarmament and Development. The visit underscores the immense new opportunities for India for cooperation, partnership and growth, following major changes in recent years in the global political and economic landscape, including, in particular, the spread of democracy and the development of market-oriented economies throughout the world.

While Oman is a leading and important economic partner in the Gulf region, Poland and the Slovak and Czech Republics are of crucial importance in view of our traditionally warm and friendly bilateral relations with them and in the context of the emerging impulses for greater integration in Europe. Italy, a member of the G-7, is one of our leading economic partners in Europe.

Under the auspices of the President's visit, bilateral negotiations will proceed towards the finalisation of several agreements. These include negotiations relating to Culture, Investment Protection, Agricultural Cooperation, Foreign Office Consultations and on combating organised crime.

The State visit, the first from India during the fiftieth year of our Independence, will strengthen India's close political and economic linkages with Europe and the Gulf, underline our abiding faith in our cherished values of peace, tolerance, mutual respect and partnership, and will contribute to greater understanding and friendship.

With the President will be a high-ranking delegation of Governors, Union Ministers, Parliamentarians and officials. The delegation with the President includes Shri Mohammed Shafi Qureshi, Governor of Madhya Pradesh,

Shri M. M. Jacob, Governor of Meghalaya, Shri S. R. Bommai, Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Minister of Agriculture, Shri Bola Buli Ramaiah, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Commerce, Shri Suraj Bhan, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, and Shri Maqbool Dar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, MP, Shri John F. Fernandes, MP, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, MP, Shri Basudev Acharya, MP, Shri Satish Aggarwal, MP and Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, MP, Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and Shri S. S. Sohoni, Secretary to the President.

A high-level delegation of leading industrialists and businessmen representing FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and CII will also accompany the President and focus on emerging opportunities for expanding trade, industrial and economic cooperation.

Sep 27, 1996

INDIA OMAN POLAND ITALY CZECH REPUBLIC USA

Date : Sep 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

India and Japan signs MOU for Training Indian Industrial Workers in Japanese Industries

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on September 6, 1996 regarding India and Japan signs MOU for training Indian Industrial workers in Japanese Industries:

Japan International Training Cooperation Organisation (JITCO) has agreed with the proposal of the Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) in the Ministry of Labour to organise suitable training of Indian Industrial workers in Japanese industries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed by Shri Abhik Ghosh DGE&T on behalf of Ministry of Labour, Government of India and Mr. Hisato Murayama, Executive Director & General Manager, on behalf of JITCO, Japan in the presence of Labour Minister Shri M. Arunachalam, here today.

Under this Agreement, workers from Indian industries would be deputed to Japan for specialised training in different fields for a period of 1 to 2 years. The entire expenditure for to and for air passage, boarding and lodging as well as training of Indian Workers would be borne by Japanese industries. All workers deputed for training will be sponsored by Indian industries, would be required to undertake that the workers would be employed in the same industry on their return after training in Japan. The Agreement also provides that separate agreements would be signed between the concerned industries in India deputing trainees to Japan and the receiving industries in Japan.

The young Indian workers who will be deputed to Japan, would be required to undergo a course in Japanese language for 160 hours before they embark for the training programme. Necessary guidelines and rules for inviting applications, their scrutiny and the selection of candidates for training in Japan would be framed by DGE&T in the Ministry of Labour.

Sep 06, 1996

JAPAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 06, 1996

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1995

KOREA

India and South Korea to Increase Air Services

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on September 18, 1996 regarding India and South Korea to increase Air Services:

India and the Republic of Korea have Agreed to increased operations of air services between the two countries. Bilateral talks were held between the two countries recently. They have agreed to an additional route schedule. Both sides will now entitled to operate two services per week on the new route schedule. They have also agreed to allow all cargo flights to be operated by either side by entering into code sharing arrangement.

The new route schedule, which would be in addition to the existing schedule, al

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lows New Delhi as a point of call for the designated airline of Korea, and Seoul as a point of call to the designated airline of India. This route schedule also provides for 5th freedom traffic rights from intermediate points. Bangkok or Macau for the designated airline of Korea and Hongkong or Macau for the designated airline of India.

Both sides will now be entitled to operate two service per week with any type of aircraft on the new route schedule. This entitlement will be in addition to the existing entitlement of two servicesJ600 seats per week. It has also been agreed that these additional services may be operated by either side on a provisional basis immediately.

It was also decided that any unilateral utilization of the additional two services per week on the new route would be subject to a commercial arrangement between the airlines to be duly approved by the concerned Aeronautical Authorities.

All-cargo flights can now be operated by either side by entering into code sharing arrangement with (a) an airline or airlines of either Contracting Party, and or (b) an airline or airlines of a third country, provided the third country authorizes or allows comparable arrangement between the airlines of the other Contracting Party and other airlines on services to, from and through such third country.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri Anil Bajjal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Korean by Mr. Kwang-Jae Kim, Director, International Air Transport Division, Ministry of Construction and Transportation respectively.

Sep 18, 1996

KOREA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Air Services between Mauritius and Delhi

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on September 23, 1996 regarding Air Services between Mauritius and Delhi to commence soon:

India and Mauritius have agreed to commence air services between Mauritius and Delhi in bilateral talks held recently.

In the bilateral talks on civil aviation held in New Delhi recently a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Indian and Mauritian delegation permitting the designated airlines of Mauritius to operate one service per week on the routing Mauritius Delhi -Mauritius with any type of air craft in addition to their existing services to Bombay. The designated airlines of Mauritius shall be permitted to announce their service to Delhi with immediate effect. A joint venture agreement between Air India and Air Mauritius governing to the latter's present operations to Bombay will also apply to new service to Delhi.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri Anil Baijal, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Mauritius delegation was led by Shri Taukoordass, Supervising Officer, Ministry of External Communications. Mauritius Government had requested for grant of permission to Air Mauritius for weekly operations between Mauritius and Delhi on the same lines as joint venture arrangements in their present operations to Bombay.
Sep 23, 1996

MAURITIUS USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 23, 1996

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

US Cruise Missile attacks near Baghdad

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on September 3, 1996 regarding Cruise Missile attacks on targets near Baghdad:

We are gravely concerned at reports of US cruise missile attacks today on targets near Baghdad, and the adverse effect that this is likely to have on peace and security in the area. We believe that enforcement actions under UN Security Council resolutions can only be undertaken by the Council itself. Details of the US action, and the material damage and loss of lives caused by the bombing are not available. We are concerned at the possible loss of civilian lives and we are monitoring the situation closely.

Sep 03, 1996

IRAQ USA INDIA

Date : Sep 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Normalization of Relations between the Yugoslavia and Croatia

The following is the text from Official Spokesman's statement of Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi on September 6, 1996 on Agreement on the Normalization of Relations between Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia:

Government of India welcomes the Agreement on the Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia signed in Belgrade on 23 August 1996 by the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia. It is a positive development in line with the understandings reached under the Dayton Accord.

Government of India have consistently maintained that only a negotiated political settlement which is just, equitable and acceptable to all the parties concerned, can provide an enduring solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Government of India hopes that the present Agreement will in turn contribute towards creating a more favourable environment for the full implementation of the Dayton Accord, including through the peaceful and successful conduct of elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina scheduled for 14 September 1996.

Sep 06, 1996

CROATIA MALI YUGOSLAVIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 06, 1996

Volume No

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OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Violent Clashes in the West Bank and Gaza

The following is the text of a Official Spokesman's statement of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on September 27, 1996 on Violent Clashes in the West Bank and Gaza:

Government of India is deeply concerned at the recent serious incidents of violence in the West Bank and Gaza caused by the action of the Israeli authorities of opening a tunnel beneath Al Haram. Al Sharif (the Temple Mount) in East Jerusalem. We are horrified at the tragic loss of several innocent lives and the large scale injuries following violent clashes. The current situation underlines the need for immediate and effective measures to end the violence and create a climate which would enable purposeful negotia-

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tions, based on a recognition of the underlying causes of the conflict.

These developments also serve to emphasise the moral, legal and humanitarian imperatives of the Middle East peace process, and the necessity of building further on the agreements and understandings already reached, in order to move rapidly towards a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East, on the basis of the principles and time schedules already agreed on. India urges all parties concerned to intensify their efforts towards realising these objectives, keeping in view that durable peace and stability in Middle East requires addressing the Palestinian issue.

Government of India's concern and views have been conveyed to the Israeli and Palestinian authorities.
Sep 27, 1996

INDIA USA ISRAEL PERU

Date : Sep 27, 1996

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1995

PAKISTAN

Kidnap of a staff member of Indian High Commission in Islamabad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 30, 1996 regarding kidnapping of a staff member of Indian High Commission in Islamabad:

A staff member of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was kidnapped from outside his residence by around 15 members of the intelligence agencies of Pakistan this morning. The incident was witnessed by two other staff members of the Indian High Commission.

The Ministry of External Affairs has conveyed its most serious concern at this unacceptable action of the Pakistani agencies. The Ministry has demanded the immediate and safe release of the staff member to the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. The same demand has been reiterated by our High Commissioner in Islamabad with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. It is our hope that the staff member will be released soon and that no bodily harm has come to him.

The Ministry of External Affairs also notes that this kidnapping has come in the wake of the Government of India's demand that Pakistan withdraw a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, as he was involved in activities incompatible with his official status.

Sep 30, 1996

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1996

Volume No

1995

TEHRAN

Official visit of H.E. Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 4, 1996 regarding official visit of H.E. Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran to India from 3rd to 5th September 1996:

H.E. Mr. Alaeddin Broujerdi, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran is on an official visit to India from 3rd to 5th September, 1996.

The visiting Deputy Minister held detailed discussions with Foreign Secretary, Shri Salman Haidar on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Mr. Broujerdi called on External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral this morning. In the afternoon he called on Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri T. R. Balu. The Hon'ble Vice President of India will receive the visiting Iranian dignitary later today.

Sep 04, 1996

IRAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Indo-British Collaboration for Urban Development

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on September 6, 1996 regarding Indo-British Collaboration for Urban Development:

Mr. Martin Laing, Chairman British Overseas Trade Board, accompanied by a team of representatives of British Companies today called on the Union Minister of State Urban Affairs and Employment Dr. U. Venkateswarlu and held talks on key areas for Indo-British collaboration.

Welcoming the team, Dr. Venkateswarlu said that with the urban population in India growing at an alarming rate there is immense scope for collaboration in infrastructure development in urban areas. Slum improvement,

Sanitation, Urban Transport, Housing and Water Supply are areas with excellent potential for partnership, the Minister added.

Mr. Laing suggested that a small Indian delegation could visit UK to study the waste-management programmes. He also stressed the need to have a definite framework for policies on infrastructure. He also expressed interest in having private-public partnerships. Mr. Laing was accompanied by a delegation consisting of representatives of companies\organisations such as Biwater, ANZ Grindlays, Trafalgar House, Mivan Ltd., WS Atkins, Taylor Woodrow and also Counsellor Economic and Commercial, British High Commission Mr. Warwick Morris.

Shri K. S. Sharma, Secretary WE & PA), Shri N. P. Singh, Secretary (UD) and other senior officials of the Ministry also took part in the discussions.
Sep 06, 1996

INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Sep 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

TEHRAN

British Companies Keen on Investing in Projects in India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on September 6, 1996 on British Companies keen on investing in infrastructure projects in India:

The Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, Mr. Martin Laing, has said that the British companies are keen on investing in port and road projects in India. Mr. Laing revealed this in a meeting, with the Minister for Surface Transport, Shri T. G. Venkataraman, here today. Mr. Laing was accompanied by a trade delegation having representatives from Biwater, ANZ Grindlays, Kaeverner House Corporate Development Ltd., Mivan Ltd., WS Atkins and Taylor Woodrow. The Secretary of the Ministry of Surface Transport, Shri S. Sundar, told the delegation that the major ports in the country are preparing a long-term perspective plan and have already identified the areas where private investment can be made. He informed the delegation that his Ministry has decided to put to toll the foreland sections of National Highways which will be upgraded from two-lanes by private investment through BOT route.

The Minister told the delegation that India has the third largest road network in the world and therefore it is imperative to maintain and upgrade the existing roads first and then go for new roads. Expressing satisfaction at the scope available for private investment in the country, Mr. Laing said there would be further discussions on the investment opportunities.

Sep 06, 1996

IRAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 06, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement, between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

The Government of the Republic of India, represented herein by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of Mongolia, represented herein by the Ministry of Agriculture & Industry, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties

In pursuance of the Treaty of Friendly Relations and cooperation signed between the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia in New Delhi on 22nd February, 1994.

Desirous of enhancing the existing friendly relations between the two countries through development of cooperation in the field of agriculture; and

Recognising the advantages to be derived by their respective people from the implementation of such cooperation;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE - I

The Contracting Parties shall promote scientific technical and economic cooperation in the field of agriculture subject to their respective laws, regulations and practices in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit.

ARTICLE - II

Such Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation in various areas of agri

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culture including food crops; agricultural extension, livestock development, agricultural cooperatives, agricultural machinery, etc. will be implemented, inter-alia, by means of the following:

- a) promotion and development of cooperation between the agricultural industries, economic entities, scientific institutions and other organizations.
- b) Exchange of new technology in plant cultivation for crops such as cereals, vegetables, edible oil, tea, sugarbeet, fodder crops etc. and exchange of their seeds and samples;
- c) development of modern methods of bio-technology and selection in animal husbandry and crop production, particularly cashmere and milk goat breeding, livestock products;
- d) formulation and implementation Of joint projects research and experimentation;
- e) establishing food processing small industries, joint ventures and economic entities;

f) exchange of scientists, specialists and trainees as well as of scientific literature, information, documentation and methodology (know-how);

g) other means as may be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE - III

The Contracting Parties shall promote cooperation through short and medium term programmes within the framework of the joint activities in the areas mentioned in Article 11. Biennial Work Plans will be drawn up by mutual agreement between the Contracting Parties to give effect to the objectives of this Agreement.

ARTICLE - IV

A Joint Agricultural Working Group shall be formed to provide guidance, review the progress of activities and to facilitate cooperation under this Agreement. The Joint Working Group shall meet once in two years alternately in Mongolia and India.

Each Contracting Party shall designate an Executive Secretary who shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities carried out under the auspices of this Agreement. The Executive Secretaries shall be permanent members of the Joint Agricultural Working Group.

ARTICLE - V

The sending party will bear the costs of air transport and the receiving party will provide local hospitality for persons deputed under cooperation programmes pursuant to this Agreement. Activities pursuant to this Agreement are subject to the availability of resources and to the respective laws and regulations of the Contracting Parties. Cooperation envisaged in the form of exchange of materials, seeds, seedlings, breeding materials, research results beneficial to both sides and other exchanges of information, etc. as listed in Article-II above will take place on a reciprocal basis. Contracting Parties agree that actual exchange shall take place after exchange of detailed list of materials, seeds, seedlings, breeding materials, etc. through diplomatic channel and consequent confirmation by both the parties. Both Embassies shall provide necessary assistance. The sending side will bear all the costs involved on the exchange of materials and information. The two, sides should notify each other two months in advance of the sending and receiving of study groups and provide full information necessary.

ARTICLE - VI

Under this Agreement, the designated coordinating authorities will be the Ministry of Agriculture for the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture & Industry for the Government of Mongolia.

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ARTICLE - VII

This Agreement shall come into force from the date of its signing.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a subsequent period of five years, at a time unless either of the Contracting Parties gives to the other a written notice six months in advance of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Amendments and modifications to the Agreement, if necessary, may be made by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties.

From the date of entering into force of this Agreement the Protocol between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of India in the field of agricultural research and education signed at New Delhi on the

14th day of August, 1992 shall be invalidated.

Done at Ulaanbaatar on this 16th day of September, 1996 in two originals each in the Hindi, Mongolian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any difference in interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of Mongolia
Sep 30, 1996

INDIA MONGOLIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 30, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Agreement between the Government of 'the Republic of India and the Government of Mongolia in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources

The Ministry of Mines, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry, Government of Mongolia (hereinafter referred to as the Parties);

Being desirous to develop co-operation in the field of geology and mineral resources between the two countries on principles of equality and mutual benefit on a long and stable basis in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of India and Mongolia signed on 22nd February, 1994;

Convinced that this Agreement would form the basis of favourable conditions for development of bilateral relations;

Have agreed upon the following:

1. AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

1.1 MINERAL EXPLORATION

Recognising the vast geological potential in Mongolia, both Parties agree to take steps to identify and develop the country's mineral resources. Towards this end, the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta shall offer assistance to Geological Survey of Mongolia in map making, data processing and surveys. Geological Survey of India shall also provide training in India to Mongolian Geologists, Geo-Physicists and Geo-Chemists. Details of the assistance and training to be provided by Geological Survey of India, Calcutta shall be worked out in mutual consultation with the Geological Survey of Mongolia.

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1.2 MINERAL PROCESSING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur shall offer assistance in ore body modelling and assessment of ore reserves using computerized techniques. The modern facilities provided by the Ore Dressing Laboratories of Indian Bureau of Mines at Nagpur may be utilised to suitably train Mongolia Scientists in beneficiation/ore dressing. Assistance in economic evaluation of mineral deposits and their development would also be provided. The number of scientists to be trained and programme of the training shall be finalised in consultation with the Mongolian side.

1.3 JOINT VENTURE

Both Parties shall explore the possibility of setting up joint ventures to mine and Process mineral reserves in India, Mongolia or any other third country.

1.4 TRADE IN THE MINERAL SECTOR

Both Parties shall encourage trade in the mineral sector between India and Mongolia.

2. NODAL AGENCIES

(a) Ministry of Mines, Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Agriculture and Industry, Government of Mongolia shall be the respective nodal agencies for co-ordinating all programme of cooperation under this Agreement.

- Indian Party :Ministry of Mines.

- Mongolian Party :Ministry Agriculture and Industry.

(b) The nodal agencies shall be responsible for the implementation of programmes, review of progress and evaluation of results. For this purpose, the nodal agencies shall hold meetings periodically on mutually agreed dates in New Delhi and Ulaanbaatar alternately.

3. EXPENSES ON PROGRAMMES OF COOPERATION,

The expenses for economic co-operation will be met by the Parties separately. Expenses on travel under this Agreement shall be met by each Party. However, for training of Mongolian officials in India, all local expenses will be met, by the Indian Side.

4. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any controversy arising during interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by mutual negotiation of both Parties.

5. VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT

(a) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of three years. It shall automatically be extended for a further period of three years, unless either Party gives to the other a written notice of 90 days in advance of its intention to terminate the Agreement before expiry of the validity period.

(b) This Agreement may be amended or supplemented according to the proposal of one Party, upon agreement by the other Party.

(c) The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the programme and projects already executed and in progress and shall be completed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

Signed at Ulaanbaatar on 16th September, 1996, in two originals each in Hindi, Mongolian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text prevail.

For Ministry of Mines, Government of the Republic of India

For Ministry of Agriculture and Industry Government of Mongolia
Sep 30, 1996

INDIA MONGOLIA USA

Date : Sep 30, 1996

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1995

ANNEXURE III

Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India

The Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia and the 'Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India (hereinafter to be referred to as "two sides").

Desirous of promoting political dialogue, economic and cultural cooperation between the two sides and, on this basis, further developing and strengthening the friendly relations between India and Mongolia in conformity with the Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation, concluded in 1994.

Considering as useful exchanges of views between the two sides on bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest and

Wishing to facilitate operational decisions on questions of mutually beneficial cooperation, hereby agree on the following.

1. The Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and hold regular meetings to review all aspects of their bilateral relations and undertake exchanges of views on international issues, and on issues of mutual interest.
2. The regular meeting shall also focus on all aspects of the bilateral relationship between Mongolia and the Republic of India, especially in the areas of political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.
3. The two sides will promote the exchange of information, and trainees between their respective Ministries.
4. Delegations of both sides participating in the work of international organisations and fora, shall undertake exchanges of views, in a spirit of constructive cooperation, on different questions of mutual interest.
5. The meetings will be held, in principle, on an annual basis, alternately in Ulaanbaatar and in New Delhi. These meetings may be conducted at the level of senior officials according to mutual agreement.
6. The present Protocol may be amended or modified by mutual consent of both sides. Any difference or dispute that may arise in the implementation or interpretation of this Protocol shall be settled by mutual agreement.

7. This Protocol shall enter into force from the date of its signing and shall be valid for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a further period of five years at a time, unless either of the two sides gives to the other a notice, in writing, 6 months in advance of the date of its expiry, of its intention to terminate the Protocol.

Done at Ulaanbaatar on this 17th day of September, 1996 in two originals each in Hindi, Mongolian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt the English text shall prevail.

(T. Chimeddorj) Ambassador of Mongolia to India on behalf of the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia

(Kushok Bakula) Ambassador of the Republic of India to Mongolia on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs of India
Sep 30, 1996

INDIA MONGOLIA USA AZERBAIJAN

Date : Sep 30, 1996

October

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SRI LANKA

Date : Oct 01, 1996

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AFGHANISTAN

Developments in Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 12,
1996 on developments in Afghanistan:

We have followed the recent developments in Afghanistan with deep concern.

The eruption of renewed fighting in September which led to the fall of Kabul has created a dangerous new situation of great fluidity.

We were particularly shocked by the brutal murder of former President Najibullah and his brother. India shares the widespread sense of outrage at this act. The imposition of a harsh and fundamentalist ideology, which is contrary to the traditional ethos of Afghanistan, has raised serious misgivings about the human rights situation, especially the rights of women, in Afghanistan.

India's relations with Afghanistan stretch back into remote history. Ties of friendship, culture and religion bind the people of India and Afghanistan together. India gives its full support to the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. We are deeply saddened by the violence and the consequent loss of life and suffering. We call for peaceful negotiations among Afghan parties to settle all outstanding issues. It is emphasised that the cessation of foreign interference is necessary for a resolution of the conflict.

India supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General and his Special Representative in bringing peace to Afghanistan. India is prepared to play its full part in these and other international efforts aimed at bringing peace to Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Visit of Australian Foreign Minister to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 22, 1996 regarding visit of Australian Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Alexander Downer to India:

The Australian Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Alexander Downer is visiting India from October 19-23, 1996 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral.

The Australian Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister, Mr. H. D. Deve Gowda and met with Mr. P. Chindambaram, Minister of Finance as well as Mr. Murasoli Maran, Minister of Industry. The

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Industry Minister is hosting a banquet in honour of the distinguished Australian

Guest this evening.

H.E. Mr. Downer held wide-ranging talks on issues of mutual interest with his Indian interlocutors in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Both sides expressed their keenness to develop political and economic relations reaffirming their interest in investment and trade related issues. In the context of the Indian Ocean Rim initiative, both sides expressed themselves in favour of consolidation and enhancement of the efficacy of this grouping.

The Australian Foreign Minister has inaugurated the Australian-India "New Horizons" promotion on 22 Oct, Indi. He is to inaugurate the Public Policy Conference on 23 Oct 1996 which is being organised by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and the Indian Ocean Centre, Perth. This Conference will focus on Indian Ocean Regional Cooperation; it will dwell on the Indo-Australian Business partnership; and shall take up such significant issues as - environment, sustainable development, cultural diversity, media and new technologies.

AUSTRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Vice President's visit to Tehran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1996 regarding Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President's visit to Tehran from 22nd to 27th October, 1996:

Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India, will be visiting Iran from the 22nd to the 27th of October on the invitation of Mr. Hassan Ebrahim Habibi, First Vice President of Iran. During the course of his visit, The Vice President will exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues with the top leadership of Iran. Apart from Tehran, he will also be visiting the historic cities of Isfahan and Shiraz. The Vice President will address the University of Shiraz.

The Vice President's visit will add to the warm and friendly relations between the two countries.

IRAN INDIA

Date : Oct 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Visit of Foreign Minister of Iran to New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 18, 1996 regarding Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati Foreign Minister of Iran visited New Delhi:

Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister of Iran visited New Delhi on 17/10/1996. During the visit Dr. Velayati had discussions with Shri I. K. Gujral Minister for External Affairs, on bilateral relations, regional and international issues. The Iranian Minister was received by Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda.

2. The two Ministers discussed the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and called for cessation of foreign intervention in that country. They felt that continued

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foreign intervention would lead to a further deterioration in the situation. The two Ministers also expressed the view that all Afghan parties should hold discussions for a peaceful resolution of the situation. They were of the strong opinion that there was no military solution to the Afghan problem.

IRAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Oct 18, 1996

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1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Floods in the Sudan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1996 on floods in the Sudan:

Reports of the widespread floods and consequent extensive damage in the Sudan have been received in India with much concern. The Government and the people of India convey their heartfelt sympathy to the Government and the people of Sudan, especially for the loss of human lives.

2. In this hour of need of Sudan, Government of India is airlifting, by air on an urgent basis, essential drugs and medicines, as a gesture of India's sympathy and traditional friendship with Sudan.

SUDAN INDIA

Date : Oct 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Invitation to Japanese Foreign Minister to visit India

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Oct 22, 1996 regarding Invitation to Japanese Foreign Minister to visit India in near future:

The Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Y. Ikeda spoke to the External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral telephonically, on the forenoon of 22 October. He enquired about Mr. Gujral's health and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. Gujral conveyed his felicitations to Mr. Ikeda on the victory of Mr. Ikeda and of his party, in Japan's recently concluded Parliamentary elections and congratulated him on Japan's election to the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed that the friendly contest for the Security Council seat would not have any adverse impact on the excellent bilateral relationship between India & Japan. The Ministers expressed their determination to work together in a friendly and constructive spirit to further enhance cooperation between the two countries in both the bilateral and multilateral spheres.

The External Affairs Minister also extended an invitation to the Japanese Foreign Minister to visit India in the near future. This invitation was accepted by the Japanese Foreign Minister. The External Affairs Minister has also sent a letter on these lines to his Japanese counterpart.

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1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistan High Commissioner summoned to Ministry of External Affairs by Secretary (West)

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 31, 1996 regarding Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) register our strong protest and outrage at the attack on Shri A. K. Wahi and his family in Islamabad:

The Pakistan High Commissioner was once again summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs by Shri V. K. Grover, Secretary (West) today to register our strong protest and outrage at the attack on Shri A. K. Wahi and his family in Islamabad.

2. Secretary (West) conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner that after the arrival of Shri Wahi and his family in New Delhi, Senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs observed that Mrs. Wahi had been emotionally traumatised and severely injured. Her hand which had been knifed was bandaged and her foot which was fractured was plastered with steel support. Such behaviour by Pakistan Government agencies is uncivilized and inhuman. Use of violence particularly against a woman was abhorrent.

3. We also understand that about ten persons had broken into the house with the specific purpose of abducting Wahi and assaulting his family members. This is totally unacceptable. It constitutes a gross violation of international conventions on diplomatic behaviour, the bilateral code of conduct and was affront to human dignity.

4. Pakistan High Commissioner suggested two sides should call a truce on picking up each other's officials no matter what the provocation. If any one indulged in undiplomatic behaviour, the respective High Commission should be informed and those persons quietly withdrawn. Secretary (West) said the proposal would be examined but it did not detract from the merits of the cases of apprehension of Pak staff members, Khoso and Mattoo, who had recently been caught red handed while committing acts incompatible with their diplomatic status. Secretary (West) also conveyed that these suggestions in no way mitigate the totally unwarranted and barbaric attack on Wahi and his wife which the nation and the Government of India condemn in the strongest terms.

5. It was conveyed that if Islamabad cannot protect the lives and the well-being of our personnel in Pakistan, we will review the entire gamut of our relations with Pakistan.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA OMAN

Date : Oct 31, 1996

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1995

RUSSIA

Russian Defence Minister called on External Affairs Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 23, 1996 regarding Russian Defence Minister H. E. Mr. Igor Rodionov called on External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral:

The Russian Defence Minister, H. E. Mr. Igor Rodionov called on External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral this morning to wish him a speedy recovery. Bilateral issues were discussed and both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening the traditional, friendly and multi-faceted relations of cooperation between the two countries. The evolving situation in Afghanistan was also discussed.

The Russian Defence Minister had called on Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda yesterday and also met with the Defence Minister, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

RUSSIA USA INDIA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Oct 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

RUSSIA

Joint Statement on the Visit of H.E. Mr. O. D. Davydov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 30, 1996 regarding visit of H.E. Mr. O. D. Davydov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relation of Russian Federation to India:

His Excellency Mr. O. D. Davydov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation, visited India from 26-30 October 1996.

During his stay in India, H. E. Mr. O. D. Davydov, called on the Prime Minister of India and had meetings with the Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance, Minister of Steel and Mines, Minister of State for Commerce and other dignitaries.

Discussions during these meetings took place in the traditionally warm and friendly atmosphere characteristic of interaction between the two countries. Issues covered included the current state of bilateral cooperation and prospects for its further development.

The sides noted with satisfaction that in 1995-96 bilateral trade turnover between India and the Russian Federation had grown by 54%, compared to 1994-95 and that trade continued to grow in the current year.

The sides noted the wide scope for closer cooperation in the power and metallurgy sectors.

The sides expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the recent negotiations aimed at the finalisation and signing of inter-governmental agreements on avoidance of double taxation and on customs cooperation.

The sides also agreed to consider measures to expedite finalisation of the Supplement to the Agreement of November 1988 on cooperation in construction of a nuclear power station in Kudankulam, India.

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Attaching great importance to further growth of bilateral trade turnover, the sides reaffirmed the necessity of widening the scope of bilateral trade, and especially the supply of machinery and high technology items.

The sides also considered steps that could be taken to eliminate existing bottlenecks in the rupee trade and in technical cooperation. Other issues discussed included value addition norms for Indian exports to Russia; export to third countries of the goods exported under the Rupee debt repayment fund; guarantees offered by Russian banks for projects in India; and widening of the range of goods exported under the Rupee debt repayment fund.

The sides reaffirmed their intention to develop multifaceted cooperation to mutual benefit, especially in the fields of trade and economic relations.

It was agreed that further measures required to promote Indo-Russian trade and economic cooperation would be comprehensively addressed at the third session of the Indo-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, which is intended to be held in Moscow towards the end of 1996.

RUSSIA USA INDIA

Date : Oct 30, 1996

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1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Prince visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 01, 1996 regarding official visit of His Royal Highness Prince (General) Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia to India:

His Royal Highness Prince (General) Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia is paying an official visit to India from October 6-13, 1996.

2. HRH Prince Khalid is son of HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, who is brother of His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and second in line of succession, as well as Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Civil Aviation.
3. HRH Prince Khalid graduated from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, UK, and specialised in Air Defence at the Air Defence School in USA. He was largely instrumental in raising and equipping the Air Defence Arm and Strategic Rocket Force of the Saudi Armed Forces. He was the Saudi Chief of Air Defence in 1990, and the Joint Forces Commander during the Gulf War. He has also been entrusted with special diplomatic assignments.
4. During his visit, HRH Prince Khalid is scheduled to call on high Indian dignitaries, besides his meeting with the Chiefs of Air and Naval Staff. He will address the National Defence College at New Delhi, and Defence Services Staff College at Wellington. His itinerary also includes visits to Agra, Jodhpur and Bangalore.
5. HRH Prince Khalid's visit reflects the mutual desire of the two countries to further build upon their high level contacts and to strengthen their dialogue on strategic matters of mutual interest.

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SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA NEW ZEALAND

Date : Oct 01, 1996

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1995

SRI LANKA

Official visit of External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Oct 17, 1996 regarding official visit of External Affairs Minister Shri I. K. Gujral to Sri Lanka:

The External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral, will pay an official visit to Sri Lanka from October 24-27, 1996. During his visit, the External Affairs Minister would call on the Sri Lankan President and hold talks with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar and other senior leaders of the Sri Lankan Government.

During the visit of the External Affairs Minister, the third session of the Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Commission would be convened in Colombo. The Joint Commission has been institutionalised to broaden bilateral relations into all possible areas of cooperation ranging from trade, finance and investment, social, cultural and educational matters and matters related to science and technology.

The Joint Commission would review the work done by the three sub-Commissions and take stock of the entire range of bilateral relations covered by these sub-Commissions.

The Commission is expected to review bilateral trade and examine ways of optimising the potential of trade and economic interaction between India and Sri Lanka in view of the opportunities created by the economic liberalisation being pursued by both countries.

A review of the present state of cultural exchanges including exchange of artists, scholarships, grant of scholarships, to Sri Lankan students and means of further enhancing interaction in these spheres are expected to feature in the forthcoming talks.

In the area of science and technology, talks are expected to focus on finalising an action plan to boost cooperation in the fields of bio-technology, alternate sources of energy, information technology etc.

The earlier two rounds of the Joint Commission were held in New Delhi in January 1992 and April 1994.

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SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 17, 1996

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AFGHANISTAN INDIA AUSTRALIA USA BANGLADESH CHINA CUBA FINLAND PAKISTAN OMAN SAUDI ARABIA ETHIOPIA HONG KONG

Date : Nov 01, 1996

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1995

AFGHANISTAN

Meeting on Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1996 regarding India has been invited by the United Nations Secretary General to participate in a meeting convened by him on Afghanistan in New York:

India has been invited by the United Nations Secretary General to participate in a meeting convened by him on Afghanistan in New York on 18.11.1996 at the senior officials and experts level. India will be participating in this meeting. The Indian delegation will be led by Shri K. Raghunath, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. It may be recalled that India had recently participated in the Regional Conference on Afghanistan in Tehran on 29-30 October, 1996, organised by Iran. India has made positive and constructive contributions in the efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and it will be guided by these principles in its participation at this meeting and beyond.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA IRAN

Date : Nov 14, 1996

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

India to Participate in an International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16 1996 regarding Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs have invited India to participate in an International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan:

In a letter addressed to the External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs have invited India to participate in an International Forum on Assistance to Afghanistan.

The Minister has accepted the invitation and officials of the Government of India will be deputed for this purpose. A copy of the letter from United Nations is attached.

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AFGHANISTAN INDIA

Date : Nov 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

ASEAN

First ASEAN - India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 16, 1996 regarding First ASEAN - India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting:

A formal institutional linkage was established between ASEAN and India when the ASEAN-India Sectoral Dialogue relationship was inaugurated in 1993. The Fifth ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in 1995 decided to upgrade this to Full Dialogue Partnership. The full Dialogue Partnership was followed by India's participation at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta in July 1996. At that Conference, the ASEAN and Indian Ministers outlined a vision of a shared destiny and intensified cooperation in all fields.

2. Pursuant to the decision on ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership, an ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was established. The JCC is a key institutional mechanism for providing substantive content and implementing programmes of cooperation. Although comprehensive, the JCC will focus on actualising ASEAN-India cooperation in trade and investment, science and technology, tourism, infrastructure, human resource development and people to people interaction.
3. The First Meeting of this JCC was held in New Delhi from November 14-16, 1996. This Meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri I. K. Gujral.
4. The Meeting was attended on the ASEAN side by delegations from ASEAN-Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN-Indonesia, ASEAN-Malaysia, ASEAN-Philippines, ASEAN-Singapore, ASEAN-Thailand, ASEAN-Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Heads of Missions in New Delhi.
5. The Indian delegation was led by Shri A. N. Ram, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs and included representatives of Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Science & Technology, Tourism, Human Resource Development, Surface Transport, Railways and Industry.
6. The JCC Meeting was co-chaired by Shri A. N. Ram, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs of India and Mr. Michael Cheok, Director General of ASEAN-Singapore.
7. In his Inaugural Address, Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral recalled the vision set out by the ASEAN Ministers and himself during the Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta in July 1996. He referred to the importance of

ASEAN and India to the geo-political complex to which they belonged and to each other in their own right. He affirmed that historic linkages, economic complementarities and policy coherence meant that ASEAN-India relations would henceforth be predicated on intrinsic value. The context of Pan Asian, Asia-Pacific and South-South Co-operation dynamics was invoked. He saw the JCC as providing the necessary institutional mechanism for giving practical meaning and sustaining the momentum of ASEAN-India Full Dialogue Partnership.

8. In his Opening Statement, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs and Co-Chairman of the JCC, Shri A. N. Ram mentioned that the JCC mechanism recaptures the traditional depth and closeness of ASEAN-India relations in a contemporary idiom. Just as the ASEAN-India dimension has assumed special significance in India's Asian and global foreign policy perspectives, the economic content of that equation is itself gaining prominence. The JCC has the responsibility for sustaining economic cooperation and tak-

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ing a comprehensive view, including in the realm of culture, academics, education, media and popular contact. It could provide additional dimensions and upgrade co-operation efforts by taking up functional and coordinated overview of multiple Dialogue processes. He also recalled the long-term objective of fostering AFTA-India linkage as outlined in the Ministers' Statements during the Jakarta PMC. Briefly, the JCC could act as an agent of change and substantial transformation in ASEAN-India relations, synthesising the natural ingredients of cooperation in a mutually rewarding manner.

9. In his Opening Statement, the Director General of ASEAN-Singapore and Co-Chairman of the JCC Mr. Michael Cheok stated that the establishment of a full Dialogue Partnership demonstrates ASEAN's and India's commitment towards a renewed and strengthened relationship. According to him, ASEAN and India have established the necessary mechanisms which will lay the foundation for more specific content and focus to be injected into the dialogue process. ASEAN and India can further harness this synergy in the relationship to strengthen economic linkages. The establishment of Working Groups on Trade and Investment, and Science & Technology underscore the pivotal role of these sectors. As the dialogue matures, the much needed "human touch" will come from people-to-people exchanges, human resource development and tourism cooperation.

10. The first JCC focussed attention on establishment of institutional mechanisms in specific sectors of cooperation as well as discussed ways and means of expanding and intensifying ASEAN-India cooperation in the identified areas of trade, investment, science and technology, tourism, human resource development, infrastructure and people-to-people interaction. A significant outcome of the JCC was the establishment of the ASEAN-India Working Groups on Science & Technology and Trade & Investment. The terms of reference of the Working Group on Science & Technology were adopted, and those on the Working Group on Trade & Investment are expected to be finalised shortly.

11. The overarching objective of trade and investment cooperation is to establish institutional linkages and programmes for trade and investment facilitation and promotion. This will include ASEAN-India cooperation in the field of standards and quality. The Working Group on Trade & Investment will

also examine possibilities of AFTA-India linkage. The JCC agreed to establish a tie-up between ASEANWEB and its Indian counterpart and a technical expert will be deputed from India for the purpose. The AIBC is to act as a vehicle for expanding relations between ASEAN industry/professional/trade associations and their Indian counterparts.

12. The Indian delegation made a multi-media presentation on "Technology Vision 2020" by way of future cooperation possibilities, covering a wide range of activities like food processing, health, agriculture, engineering, electronics and communications, services and their cross-sectoral linkages. The JCC recognised India's expertise in the field of science and technology and agreed that further consolidation of cooperation in the three agreed areas of Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Information Technology as well as possible new areas would be examined by the Working Group on Science and Technology. Approved projects will be implemented in Advanced Materials relating to 'Wear Resistant and Thermal Barrier Coatings for Automotive and other Applications', 'Development of Raw Material and NdFeB Magnets and Application Engineering' and in Information Technology entitled 'Multimedia in Education'. In addition, a large number of project profiles are being worked out in the field of Biotechnology, particularly in the areas of Agricultural Biotechnology, Animal Biotechnology, and Biofertilizers.

13. There was agreement that scope for ASEAN-India cooperation in tourism was considerable and that continuation of familiarisation tours and tourism seminars, including upgradation of tourism infra-

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structure were important areas of cooperation. An ASEAN-India Week including tourism, trade-related and other events is to be held in 1997. A study for preparing a tourism profile from the perspective of ASEAN-India cooperation is to be commissioned under the ASEAN-India Fund.

14. Extensive discussions were held in human resource development highlighting the scope of cooperation in the fields of education and training, including vocational training, English Language study, and such technical disciplines as port automation and management. The ASEAN Secretariat will prepare a study on capabilities and requirements of ASEAN and India in order to focus on the sectors of cooperation in this rich and diversified area. This study will also include suggestions for cooperation among the centres of excellence. As a means of strengthening human resource development and augment interaction between academics and intellectuals from ASEAN and India, a study is to be commissioned for strengthening and setting up India study centres in ASEAN member countries and South East Asia study centres in India.

15. In the field of infrastructure, India made presentations on policy and opportunities for ASEAN-India cooperation in the railways, ports and highways, and power sectors. The JCC agreed that this being a vast sector involving a number of Ministries on both sides, exchange of information relating to investment opportunities could be tackled by establishing focal points in ASEAN and India for direct contact. ASEAN-wide mechanisms could be used in the area of mining, transportation and communications. It was felt that infrastructure was an important area which could profit from an ASEAN consortium approach vis-a-vis

India. Available ASEAN-wide mechanisms could also be used and information disseminated to respective private sectors.

16. The JCC reaffirmed enhanced people-to-people interaction and welcomed India's proposal for an ASEAN-India Lecture Series to promote awareness of the potential for ASEAN-India cooperation among our peoples. The organising of an ASEAN-India Week would also help towards this end.

17. Concurrently with the JCC Meeting, the ASEAN-India Business Council also had a very productive session. The high-lights include ASEAN participation at the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) '97, visit of ASEAN business delegation for the IETF '97 and holding of an ASEAN-India Round Table involving, captains of business and industry from both sides, Indian participation at the ASEAN Business Summit scheduled to be held in Jakarta in March 1997 along with a full meeting of the AIBC, continuation of work on the ASEAN-India Business Directory brought out by the India-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Committee (IAECC) the Indian counterpart of AIBC, and sectoral buyer-seller meets.

18. The External Affairs Minister of India had announced India's offer to establish a hi-tech, state-of-the-art Informatics Training Centre in ASEAN. The NIIT, which is already active in many ASEAN countries, made a presentation on the project to be established in an ASEAN country on a commercially self-sustaining basis. The Government of India will meet some initial establishment costs and provide scholarships to hundred ASEAN students every year for training in this institution.

19. The JCC reviewed the use of the ASEAN-India Fund. It expressed its deep appreciation for India's contribution to the ASEAN-India Fund totalling over US \$ 500,000 (Rs. 170 lakhs approx.) todate. It also provided broad guidelines for future projects to be financed under this Fund.

20. The next Meeting of the JCC will be held in Singapore in about 18 months time. The exact dates will be decided through diplomatic channels.

21. The JCC expressed sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of India for the warm hospitality accorded

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to the ASEAN delegates and excellent arrangements made to ensure that the meeting was a success. The JCC was held in an atmosphere characterised by the traditional spirit of ASEAN and Indian solidarity and cordiality.

INDIA INDONESIA USA MALAYSIA PHILIPPINES THAILAND VIETNAM REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Date : Nov 16, 1996

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Australian Health Minister meets Shri Saleem I. Shervani Union Health Minister

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Nov 01, 1996 regarding meeting of Australian Health Minister with Shri Saleem I. Shervani Union Health Minister:

Deputy Premier and Health Minister, Government of New South Wales, Australia Dr. Andrew Refshauge and the Chief Commonwealth Medical Adviser to the Australian Government Dr. Tony Adams met the Union Health Minister, Shri Saleem I. Shervani here today and discussed the bilateral cooperation in the Health Sector.

Shri Shervani explained how India has been pursuing its plans and programmes vigorously to achieve its goal in the Health and Family Welfare sector. He said, "but for our family planning measures, India's population by now would have been 113 cores in place of 90 crores. We are trying to strengthen our surveillance and monitoring system to get the best out of our vast Health infrastructure facilities and skilled manpower. Health has no boundary, and as health for all is not possible without help of all".

Australia is organising multi dimensional programmes in six major metropolitan cities in India viz. New Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Chandigarh to highlight the best of the Australia of the 90's. The Health Programme is run under the scheme "Health; sharing and progress" and consists of a mission upto 20 health companies and organisations of Australia.

AUSTRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Official visit of H.E. Mr. Abdus Samad Azad Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 14, 1996 regarding official visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to India:

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Abdus Samad Azad paid an official visit to India from 8-13 November, 1996 at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister of India H.E. Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Azad and an official

delegation which included Foreign Secretary Mr. Farooq

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Sobhan Additional Foreign Secretary and senior officials.

During his visit, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister held extensive discussions with the Indian leadership. He called on the President and the Prime Minister of India and conveyed messages to them from President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina respectively. He also had meetings with the Vice-President of India, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Ministers of Home and Water Resources and senior political leaders. He had a detailed exchange of views with the Indian External Affairs Minister. All the discussions were held in a most friendly and cordial atmosphere and covered a broad range of issues pertaining to bilateral relations.

SHARING OF THE GANGA WATERS

On the sharing of the Ganga waters, there was further exchange of views and forward movement in the talks between the two sides. Both sides reiterated their intention of arriving at an agreement on a fair and equitable sharing of the Ganga waters before the onset of the next dry season. It was noted that a meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts had taken place on September 27/28, 1996 and it was agreed that a further meeting would be held in the very near future.

The two Ministers noted that the forthcoming meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh at the Rome World Food Summit will be very helpful in furthering the spirit of friendship and cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of India extended a warm welcome to Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to visit India at her early convenience.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Ways and means to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed. In this connection, it was agreed that the Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission would meet as early as possible.

TRADE

Ways and means for promoting Indo-Bangladesh trade, in particular the question of narrowing the trade gap, were examined. Reference was made to the announcement made by the Indian External Affairs Minister during his visit to Bangladesh in September 1996 that the Indian Government would grant fourteen categories of exports from Bangladesh 50% tariff concessions across the board and waive all quantitative restrictions in respect to those items. The Indian side reiterate its intention to complete all administrative formalities to make the decision operational by 1st January 1997.

SECURITY-RELATED ISSUES

It was agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to

curb undesirable activities. The two sides reiterated their determination not to allow misuse of their territories for any activity targetted against the other.

BOUNDARY DEMARCATION

It was decided to expedite action on demarcation of the boundary and exchange of enclaves. It was felt that institutionalised discussion between the two governments on this issue in the Joint Working Group would be appropriate.

CHAKMA REFUGEES

In response to the invitation conveyed by India, the Bangladesh side conveyed that a high-powered delegation would be sent to interact with the Chakma refugees in Tripura and encourage them to return to their homes. The Indian side assured their continued cooperation to facilitate the early return of the Chakma refugees. Both sides agreed to cooperate with each other on this matter.

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BANGLADESH USA INDIA ITALY MALI

Date : Nov 14, 1996

Volume No

1995

CHINA

India and China agree to Exchange T.V. Programmes

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Nov 01, 1996 regarding India and China agree to exchange T.V. Programmes:

India and China have signed a memorandum of cooperation on exchange of TV programmes. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by Mr. K. S. Sarma, Director General, Doordarshan, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Shri Yang Weiguang, Vice Minister Incharge of Radio, Films and Television in China in New Delhi yesterday. Earlier the six member Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Weiguang met the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. N. P. Nawani.

The two sides have been decided to exchange TV programmes in the fields of News, Economic Development, Culture, Education, Children, Science, Technology, Entertainment and Sports. They have also decided on supply of programmes on both commercial and non-commercial basis. It would be incumbent on each party to regulate the question of copyright for the programme it offers to the other party. As per the agreement the receiving country will not allow any third party

to use the programme without prior permission of the supplier.

The two countries have agreed to explore and develop advancements in broadcasting technology including the exchange of information, the provision of technical assistance and the licensing of technology, subject to appropriate agreement to be negotiated. The Memorandum also includes cooperation and assistance in terms of information, organization and technical assistance to visiting reporters, production teams and administrative staff between the two countries.

The Chinese side gifted a tele-serial titled "Journey to the West" to Doordarshan. It is based on the work of the very famous Chinese traveller Huensang who came to India. Doordarshan gifted to Chinese Delegation a series titled "Bharatiya Natyashastra" by Padma Subramaniam and also a telefilm titled "A Monk (Bodhidharma), the great Indian Buddhist monk who gave Zen philosophy to the world. The telefilm was directed by S. N. Dhir, Executive Producer of Doordarshan.

CHINA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

CHINA

Visit of H.E. Mr. Jiang Zemm President of China to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 19, 1996 regarding 3-day state visit of H.E. Jiang Zemm President of China to India:

The President of China, H.E. Mr. Jiang Zemm, will pay a 3-day State visit to India, from 28 November to 1 December 1996, at the invitation of President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

2. During his visit, the Chinese President will have meetings with the President, Vice President, PM, and Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and will also meet other senior leaders. He will address a group of leading industrialists and business persons. In addition to his programme in Delhi, he is expected to visit Agra.

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CHINA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 19, 1996

Volume No

1995

CUBA

Indo-Cuban Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1996 regarding third sessing Indo-Cuban Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation:

The Third Session of the Indo-Cuban Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi from November 20-22, 1996. Discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere underlining the close and warm relations between our two countries.

2. It was agreed to consolidate and further strengthen cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, Agricultural Research, and Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Cooperation Programmes in these areas for the period 1997-98 were finalised and signed. These Programmes envisage exchange of scientists, academicians and scientific information. The two countries decided to identify and expand Scientific Cooperation into areas such as that of Medicine and Biotechnology, Environment, Industry, Software, etc.

3. The Joint Commission also addressed the question of encouraging the setting up of joint ventures in Cuba and Indian investments in Cuba. It was agreed that a meeting of the Joint Business Council will be held in New Delhi in 1997 to enable the entrepreneurs from the two countries to look into the possibilities of investments and joint ventures.

4. Prior to the meeting of the Joint Commission, a meeting of the Trade Revival Committee was held. The Committee has drawn up a plan of action to resolve the problems relating to the outstanding Cuban debt, promotion of the sale of Cuban medicines, and sale of nickel. The question of supply of rice to Cuba on deferred payment terms was also discussed. Delegations from India will visit Cuba shortly to further discuss and finalise these issues.

5. During her stay in Delhi, the leader of the Cuban delegation, H.E. Mrs. Noemi Benitezy de Menidoza, called on the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Commerce and had detailed discussions on issues of mutual interest.

6. In view of the recent hurricane in Cuba, the Government of India will be providing relief assistance to Cuba for rehabilitation purposes.

CUBA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

FINLAND

Visit of the President of Finland to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1996 regarding visit of the President of Finland to India:

Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, the President of Finland, and Mrs. Eeva Ahtisaari, will pay a state visit to India, from 25-28 November 1996. In addition to New Delhi the President will also visit Bombay.

2. Finland and India have always had close bilateral relations, sustained by a traditions of a regular exchange of visits.

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While these visits have continued at all levels, a visit by a Finnish President to India takes place now after a gap of nine years. It is, therefore, particularly welcome.

3. The President of Finland will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Foreign Trade Minister and a powerful business delegation.

4. Trade with Finland has grown rapidly over the last five years, and the visit of the President is expected to give a further impetus to economic cooperation, both in trade and joint ventures.

5. During his visit, the President of Finland will hold discussions with the President and Prime Minister of India. He will receive several Ministers and will inaugurate an important business seminar.

6. President Ahtisaari is a figure very well known and highly respected in international affairs, from his previous capacities as an Ambassador of Finland, and as Under Secretary General of the United Nations.

FINLAND INDIA USA

Date : Nov 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Prime Minister's Statement on Development in Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 05, 1996 regarding statement made by the Prime Minister on the developments in Pakistan:

"We have learnt last night that the President of Pakistan has removed from office the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and dissolved the National Assembly. We see these events as Pakistan's internal developments and are following them closely.

India has always been keen to maintain good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. This policy continues."

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 05, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Message from Prime Minister to Mr. William J. Clinton President of United States of America

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 07, 1996 regarding message of felicitation from Prime Minister to Mr. William J. Clinton on his Re-election as President of the United States:

"Please accept my warm felicitations on your re-election as President of the United States. Your impressive victory is a tribute to your leadership and the success of the far-reaching policies that your Government has followed during the last four years.

Your vision of the post-Cold war world has served to provide new opportunities for the remarkable expansion and strengthening of Indo-US relations. A strong foun-

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ation for our relationship has been built that will endure far into the future. We look forward to the further consolidation and deepening of Indo-US

cooperation.

We would be delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming you in India during your second term, specially in the course of our celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of our Independence next year. I take this opportunity of renewing the invitation that was extended by my predecessor. A visit by you would impart a powerful impetus to the new Indo-US Partnership to which both our countries are committed.

I would like to convey my best wishes to you for a successful and productive second term as President, and for your personal health and well being."

INDIA USA

Date : Nov 07, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Condolence Message of External Affairs Minister to Ambassador of Oman

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1996 regarding External Affairs Minister offered his condolences to Ambassador of Oman on the untimely passing away of Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence:

External Affairs Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral offered his condolences today to the Ambassador of Oman on the untimely passing away of His Highness Sayyid Fahar Bin Taimur Al Said, Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence. External Affairs Minister offered warm tributes to the role of HH Sayyid Fahar in Oman's nation building endeavours and also his rich contribution to the cause of Indo-Oman relations.

HH Sayyid Fahar was an uncle of Sultan Qaboos. He had a long association with India having been educated at Mayo College, Ajmer, to which he donated a whole residential block named Oman House. He also donated an "Old Boys" house to the college. He was a staunch supporter of Indo-Oman relations.

President of India had earlier sent a message of condolences to Sultan Qaboos.

INDIA OMAN USA

Date : Nov 08, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Condolence Message from E.A.M. to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kazakstan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 08, 1996 regarding Condolence Message from External Affairs Minister to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kazakstan on the tragic accident in which a Kazakstan Air Craft was destroyed:

"I was profoundly shocked by the tragic air accident which took place near Delhi last evening leading to a horrifying loss of life. The victims included those abroad a Kazak aircraft. This moment of tragedy will be deeply felt in your country, as it is in India. I send my deepest sympathy to you and the families of the bereaved".

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INDIA

Date : Nov 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Condolence Message from External Affairs Minister to the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1996 regarding Condolence Message from External Affairs Minister to the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia on Tragic Accident in which a Saudi Air Craft was destroyed:

"I am deeply shocked by the tragic accident near Delhi last night in which a Saudi aircraft was destroyed. We are horrified by the vast loss of life in this catastrophe. Most of the victims were from our two countries, and we deeply mourn them. My deepest condolences to the families of the bereaved.

Please accept my profound sympathy in this tragic moment. We fully share your sense of loss and sorrow".

INDIA SAUDI ARABIA

Date : Nov 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Dr. P. S. Rao, JS(L&T) elected as a member of International Law Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 13, 1996 regarding Dr. P. S. Rao JS (L&T) and Legal Adviser of M.E.A. Elected as a Member of International Law Commission:

At the elections held on 11th November, 1996 at the UNGA, Dr. P. S. Rao, Joint Secretary and the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of External Affairs was elected to 34 Member UN law making body for a term of 5 years consequently for the third time. Dr. Rao obtained highest majority of votes in the Asian Group polling 141 votes. There were 12 candidates for 7 seats available for the Asian region. Others who got elected were Japan (141), China (127), Bahrain (121), Indonesia (106) and Philippines (96).

The election of Dr. Rao is seen as a important recognition of his stature and the valuable contribution he has been making to the development and condification of international law and to the work of the UN in general.

Dr. Rao has been the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of External Affairs since 1985. He was the Chairman of the International Law Commission for 1995. He has also been one of the Chief Coordinators of the Legal Offices of the Member States of the United Nations for the last 7 years. He has contributed a number of articles on various important issues of international law to Indian and foreign books and journals. He has represented India at various UN bodies and has been a Member of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Commission on Environmental Law, besides possessing advance legal degrees from Andhra University in India and the Yale Law School in USA.

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INDIA BAHRAIN CHINA JAPAN PHILIPPINES USA

Date : Nov 13, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Indo-Pak bilateral issues

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 12, 1996 regarding Indo-Pak bilateral issues:

Responding to questions, the Spokesman said that we have seen press reports indicating that Pakistan is interested in creating an atmosphere for addressing Indo-Pak bilateral issues through a process of dialogue. We have also said the same and are willing to discuss all issues with Pakistan. We await a formal response in this regard. We are looking for a normal, peaceful and cooperative relation with Pakistan.

INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Nov 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

India will continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard its security

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 22, 1996 regarding India will continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard its security:

We are deeply concerned at recent reports of terrorist training camps being run by the Harkat-ul-Ansar in the Khost area in Afghanistan. These reports, which are based on visits by reputed journalists, state that local as well as Pakistani youth are being trained for terrorist activities in Kashmir and other places. The fundamentalist managers of these camps and their sponsors are seeking to disrupt life in J & K following the elections and restoration of the democratic process. We have successfully faced such threats in the past and will do so again in the future. The people of J & K have rebuffed terrorism and have displayed their commitment to the democratic way of life, and have comprehensively defeated the objectives of the terrorists and their sponsors. The consequences of imparting terrorist training to youth will only recoil on the societies that promote such terrorism.

In the light of these reports, it is reiterated that India will continue to

take all necessary measures to safeguard its security.

INDIA AFGHANISTAN

Date : Nov 22, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Hijacking of Ethiopian Airlines

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1996 regarding Hijacking of Ethiopian Airlines:

We have learnt with deep shock and dismay of the hijacking of an Ethiopian Airlines aircraft from Addis Ababa and its subsequent crash landing off the Indian Ocean island of Comoros, resulting in the tragic loss of a large number of lives. The Government of India most strongly condemns this abhorrent act of air piracy. We also wish to express our sincere condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives in this unfortunate incident.

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According to information received so far, 21 of the passengers of the ill-fated flight were Indian nationals, of whom six have survived. Two of the surviving Indian passengers, Mrs. Naina Rawal and Mrs. Sony Ramchand Nankani, were flown out to Reunion island where they have been hospitalised and are being treated for their injuries. The four other surviving Indian passengers have been shifted to Nairobi, from where they would be flown to their respective destinations. Our High Commissioner in Nairobi and Consul General in Reunion are in contact with our nationals and are rendering them all necessary assistance.

The Government of Comoros has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Comoros to coordinate and oversee rescue and repatriation operations. The bodies of those passengers who lost their lives in the incident, which include 15 Indians are in the custody of the Government of Comoros. Special facilities have been set up at Moroni airport for grant of visas etc. for relatives of the passengers reaching there. Our Ambassador in Madagascar, concurrently accredited to Comoros, and our Hony. Consul General at Comoros would be at hand to render necessary assistance in this regard.

ETHIOPIA INDIA COMOROS KENYA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Address by US Ambassador to Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Nov 28, 1996 on Press Report regarding an address by US Ambassador to Pakistan:

In response to questions the Official Spokesman said that we have seen a press report regarding an address by US Ambassador to Pakistan to the United Services Institution in Delhi yesterday. The function was organised by the USI which invites prominent personalities to speak on certain subjects.

We have noted the views and observations attributed to the US Ambassador which appear to us gratuitous. We have made repeated efforts to restart dialogue with Pakistan and we are yet to receive positive response.

Recent developments leading to the restoration of the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and the installation of an elected Government are internal questions for India. The designs of Pakistan to secure the cession of the State from the Indian Union through the instrument of terror have been defeated. All foreign observers should be fully cognisant of these realities.

In the context of the remarks attributed to the visiting Ambassador, it is reiterated that all India-Pakistan issues must be addressed bilaterally in the framework of the Simla Agreement and there is no role for third party interference or advice.

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PAKISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Nov 28, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 21, 1996 regarding Memorandum which was circulated by Pakistan in the First Committee of the 51st Session of the UNGA:

Pakistan has circulated a Memorandum on "Conference on Peace and Security, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in South Asia" in the First Committee of the 51st Session of the UNGA. India remains committed to developing peaceful and friendly relations with all countries in its neighbourhood including Pakistan. In keeping with the conviction that all outstanding issues can be resolved through peaceful means and bilateral discussions, India has put forward a number of proposals. Practical steps are needed to enhance confidence between the two countries, reduce mistrust and create an environment which will enable the people in both countries to work together for a more prosperous and secure future. India has urged Pakistan that the Foreign Secretary level dialogue between the two countries, which stands suspended since January, 1994, be resumed at the earliest.

The Government of India believes that forwarding old proposals, which have already failed to gain acceptance, in an attempt to internationalise issues are not a sign of serious intent. India's response to such proposals is well-known and has already been circulated in the Conference on Disarmament (Document - CD.1109 dated 28.8.1991).

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 21, 1996

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Pakistan's Baseline

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Nov 27, 1996 regarding Government of India reserved its rights to seek suitable revision of the baseline:

The Government of India's attention has been drawn to Pakistani press reports stating that Pakistan has issued a notification specifying coordinates of Pakistan's baseline for determining the limits of its territorial waters, contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf.

2. India today conveyed to Pakistan, through diplomatic channels, that it unequivocally rejects as unacceptable the coordinate point (K) 23.33.90

No.....68 07, 80 E of the Pakistani notified baseline as it encroaches upon the territorial waters of India which are within India's sovereign jurisdiction. It has been further conveyed to Pakistan that the Government of India reserved its right to seek suitable revision of the baseline in so far as it impinges upon India's sovereign jurisdiction.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Nov 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on confidence building measures in the military field along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the two sides).

Believing that it serves the fundamental interests of the peoples of India and China to foster a long-term good-neighbourly relationship in accordance with the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

Convinced that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas accords with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and will also contribute to the ultimate resolution of the boundary question.

Reaffirming that neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means or seek unilateral military superiority.

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, signed on 7 September, 1993.

Recognising the need for effective confidence building measures in the military field along the line of actual control in the border areas between the two sides.

Noting the utility of confidence building measures already in place along

the line of actual control in the India-China border areas,

Committed to enhancing mutual confidence and transparency in the military field.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Neither side shall use its military capability against the other side. No armed forces deployed by either side in the border areas along the line of actual control as part of their respective military strength shall be used to attack the other side, or engage in military activities that threaten the other side or undermine peace, tranquillity and stability in the India-China border areas.

ARTICLE II

The two sides reiterate their determination to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Pending an ultimate solution to the boundary question, the two sides reaffirm their commitment to strictly respect and observe the line of actual control in the India-China border areas. No activities of either side shall overstep the line of actual control.

ARTICLE III

The two sides agree to take the following measures to reduce or limit their respective military forces within mutually agreed geographical zones along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas:

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- (1) The two sides reaffirm that they shall reduce or limit their respective military forces within mutually agreed geographical zones along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas to minimum levels compatible with the friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries and consistent with the principle of mutual and equal security.
2. The two sides shall reduce or limit the number of field army, border defence forces, para-military forces and any other mutually agreed category of armed force deployed in mutually agreed geographical zones along the line of actual control to ceilings to be mutually agreed upon. The major categories of armaments to be reduced or limited are as follows: combat tanks, infantry combat vehicles, guns (including howitzers) with 75 mm or bigger calibre, mortars with 120 mm or bigger calibre, surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and any other weapon system mutually agreed upon.
3. The two sides shall exchange data on the military forces and armaments to be reduced or limited and decide on ceilings on military forces and armaments to be kept by each side within mutually agreed geographical zones along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas. The ceilings shall be determined in conformity with the requirement of the principle of mutual and equal

security, with due consideration being given to parameters such as the nature of terrain, road communication and other infrastructure and time taken to induct/deinduct troops and armaments.

ARTICLE IV

In order to maintain peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas and to prevent any tension in the border areas due to misreading by either side of the other side's intentions:

- (1) Both sides shall avoid holding large scale military exercises involving more than one Division (approximately 15,000 troops) in close proximity of the line of actual control in the India-China border areas. However, if such exercises are to be conducted, the strategic direction of the main force involved shall not be towards the other side.
- (2) If either side conducts a major military exercise involving more than one Brigade Group (approximately 5,000 troops) in close proximity off the line of actual control in the India-China border areas, it shall give the other side prior notification with regard to type, level, planned duration and area of exercise as well as the number and type of units or formations participating in the exercise.
- (3) The date of completion of the exercise and deinduction of troops from the area of exercise shall be intimated to the other side within five days of completion or deinduction.
- (4) Each side shall be entitled to obtain timely clarification from the side undertaking the exercise in respect of data specified in Paragraph 2 of the Article.

ARTICLE V

With a view to preventing air intrusions across the line of actual control in the India-China border areas and facilitating overflights and landings by military aircraft:

- (1) Both sides shall take adequate measures to ensure that air intrusions across the line of actual control do not take place. However, if an intrusion does take place, it should cease as soon as detected and the incident shall be promptly investigated by the side operating the aircraft. The results of the investigation shall be immediately communicated, through diplomatic channels or at border personnel meetings, to the other side.
- (2) Subject to Paragraphs 3 and 5 of this Article, combat aircraft (to include fighter, bomber, reconnaissance, military trainer, armed helicopter and other armed

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aircraft) shall not fly within ten kilometers of the line of actual control.

- (3) If either side is required to undertake flights of combat aircraft within

ten kilometers from the line of actual control, it shall give the following information in advance to the other side, through diplomatic channels:

- (a) Type and number of combat aircraft;
 - (b) Height of the proposed flight in meters);
 - (c) Proposed duration of flights (normally not to exceed ten days);
 - (d) Proposed timing of flights; and
 - (e) Area of operation, defined in latitude and longitude.
- (4) Unarmed transport aircraft, survey aircraft and helicopters shall be permitted to fly up to the line of actual control.
- (5) No military aircraft of either side shall fly across the line of actual control, except by prior permission. Military aircraft of either side may fly across the line of actual control or overfly the other side's airspace or land on the other side only after obtaining the latter's prior permission after providing the latter with detailed information on the flight in accordance with the international practice in this regard.

Notwithstanding the above stipulation, each side has the sovereign right to specify additional conditions, including at short notice, for flights or landings of military aircraft of the other side on its side of the line of actual control or through its airspace.

- (6) In order to ensure flight safety in emergency situations, the authorities designated by the two sides may contact each other by the quickest means of communications available.

ARTICLE VI

With a view to preventing dangerous military activities along the line of actual control in the India-China border areas, the two sides agree as follows:

- (1) Neither side shall open fire, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns or explosives within two kilometres from the line of actual control. This prohibition shall not apply to routine firing activities in small arms firing ranges.
- (2) If there is a need to conduct blast operations within two kilometres of the line of actual control as part of developmental activities, the other side shall be informed through diplomatic channels or by convening a border personnel meeting, preferably five days in advance.
- (3) While conducting exercises with live ammunition in areas close to the line of actual control, precaution shall be taken to ensure that a bullet or a missile does not accidentally fall on the other side across the line of actual control and causes harm to the personnel or property of the other side.
- (4) If the border personnel of the two sides come in a face-to-face situation

due to differences on the alignment of the line of actual control or any other reason, they shall exercise self-restraint and take all necessary steps to avoid an escalation of of the situation. Both sides shall also enter into immediate consultations through diplomatic and/or other available channels to review the situation and prevent any escalation of tension.

ARTICLE VII

In order to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between their military personnel and establishments in the border areas along the line of actual control, the two sides agree:

(1) To maintain and expand the regime of scheduled and flag meetings between their border representatives at designated places along the line of actual control;

(2) To maintain and expand telecommunication links between their border meet-
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ing points at designated places along the line of actual control;

(3) To establish step-by-step medium and high level contacts between the border authorities of the two sides.

ARTICLE VIII

(1) Should the personnel of one side cross the line of actual control and enter the other side because of unavoidable circumstances like natural disasters, the other side shall extend all possible assistance to them and inform their side, as soon as possible, regarding the forced or inadvertent entry across the line of actual control. The modalities of return of the concerned personnel to their own side shall be settled through mutual consultations.

(2) The two sides shall provide each other, at the earliest possible, with information pertaining to natural disasters and epidemic diseases in contiguous border areas which might affect the other side. The exchange of information shall take place either through diplomatic channels or at border personnel meetings.

ARTICLE IX

In case a doubtful situation develops in the border region, or in case one of the sides has some questions or doubts regarding the manner in which the other side is observing this Agreement, either side has the right to seek a clarification from the other side. The clarifications sought and replies to them shall be conveyed through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE X

(1) Recognising that the full implementation of some of the provisions of the present Agreement will depend on the two sides arriving at a common

understanding of the alignment of the line of actual control in the India-China border areas, the two sides agree to speed up the process of clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control. As an initial step in this process, they are clarifying the alignment of the line of actual control in those segments where they have different perceptions. They also agree to exchange maps indicating their respective perceptions of the entire alignment of the line of actual control as soon as possible.

(2) Pending the completion of the process of clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control, the two sides shall work out modalities for implementing confidence building measures envisaged under this Agreement on an interim basis, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question.

ARTICLE XI

Detailed implementation measures required under Article X of this Agreement shall be decided through mutual consultations in the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question. The India-China Diplomatic and Military Expert Group shall assist the India-China Joint Working Group in devising implementation measures under the Agreement.

ARTICLE XII

This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. It shall remain in effect until either side decides to terminate it after giving six months' notice in writing. It shall become invalid six months after the notification.

This Agreement is subject to amendment and addition by mutual agreement in writing between the two sides.

Signed in duplicate in New Delhi on 29 November, 1996 in the Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

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INDIA CHINA USA LATVIA TOTO

Date : Nov 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning the maintenance of the Consulate General of the Republic of India in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the two Parties"), with the common desire to develop friendly relations and enhance consular relations between the two countries, have agreed as follows:

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China gives its consent to the maintenance by the Government of the Republic of India of its Consulate General in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.
2. The Government of the People's Republic of China shall, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April, 1963 and relevant laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, accord necessary assistance and facilities to the Consulate General of the Republic of India in the exercise of consular functions.
3. The Government of the People's Republic of China takes note of the fact that the Consulate General of the Republic of India in Hong Kong concurrently performs consular functions in Macau and agrees to the continuation of this arrangement after the Government of the People's Republic of China resumes the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December, 1999.
4. The operation of the Consulate General of the Republic of India in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, including its privileges and immunities, shall be regulated by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April, 1963.
5. The two Parties shall handle consular matters between them in a friendly and cooperative spirit on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
6. The present Agreement shall enter into force on 1 July, 1997. The two Parties shall complete their respective domestic legal and constitutional processes that are necessary to give effect to this Agreement before this date and notify the other Party accordingly.

Done in New Delhi on 29 November, 1996 in duplicate in the Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Agreement on maritime transport between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties").

Desirous of promoting the friendly relations between the two countries.

Proceeding from the common aspiration for all possible expansion and deepening of economic and Maritime cooperation between the two countries.

Based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit

Have concluded as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The term "vessel" shall mean any merchant ship registered in the territory of either Contracting Party, flying its national flag and engaged in international maritime transport. This term does not include warships, fishing vessels, research vessels, and other non commercial transport ships.

2. The term "crew member" shall mean the master and other persons working or serving on board a vessel of either Contracting Party who hold the seamen's identity documents as referred to in Article 8 of the Present Agreement and whose names are included in the crew list of that vessel.

The term "shipping enterprise" shall mean any natural person or economic entity registered in the territory of either Contracting Party and/or having an operation office in that Contracting Party and engaged in international merchant shipping in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Contracting Party.

ARTICLE II

The Contracting Parties shall continue their efforts to maintain and develop effective working relationships between the authorities responsible for maritime affairs in these countries. In Particular, the Contracting Parties shall carry on mutual consultations and reciprocal exchanges of information between the authorities and to grant all possible assistance to the vessels of the two countries and refrain from taking any action which might cause harm to the

development of maritime transportation.

ARTICLE III

1. Vessels of either Contracting Party may sail between ports of both Contracting Parties which are open to foreign vessels or from the ports of the other Contracting Party to the ports of a third country in transport of Cargo and Passengers.
2. The Contracting Parties shall actively cooperate with each other in materializing the principle of equality and reciprocity in transportation of all Cargos and Passengers (including liner) between the two countries.

ARTICLE IV

Each Contracting Party shall mutually grant to vessels of the other Contracting Party the "MOST FAVOURED NATION" treatment in its ports open to foreign vessels with regard to proceeding formalities for vessel's entry and departure, utilising ports for loading or unloading cargo and embarking or disembarking passengers, paying port dues and charges as well as utilising services and facilities for navigation.

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ARTICLE V

The Contracting Parties shall adopt, within the limits of their law and regulations, all appropriate measures to facilitate and expedite maritime traffic.

ARTICLE VI

The provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to the cabotage and inland shipping.

ARTICLE VII

1. The documents relating to registration of vessels, certificates of tonnage and survey and other ship's documents issued or recognised by the competent authorities of either Contracting Parties in accordance with its laws and regulations, shall be recognised by the other Party.
2. The vessels of each of the Contracting Parties holding the aforesaid certificates of tonnage shall not be subjected to remeasurement in the ports of the other Party and the net tonnage of the vessels noted in the certificates shall be taken as the basis for calculation and collect of the tonnage dues and port charges.

ARTICLE VIII

1. Each Contracting Party shall recognise the identity documents of the crew members duly issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party.

These identity documents are:

- for the Chinese crews: "the Seamen's Book of the People's Republic of China";

- for the Indian crews: "an Indian Seamen's Continuous Discharge Certificate/Identity Card.

2. Either Contracting Party shall recognize the seamen's identity documents as valid documents which are issued by competent authorities of third countries provided the holders of such documents are engaged on board the vessel of the Contracting Party as per the law and regulations of the Contracting Party.

ARTICLE IX

1. During stay of the vessel of one Contracting Party in the port of the other Contracting Party, the other Contracting Party shall permit the crew members of that vessel to go ashore for temporary shore leave. Sick crews may go ashore to see doctor and remain in hospital for the time necessary for their medical treatment. In either case no visa shall be required, but a crew list shall be submitted by the Captain to the competent authorities in accordance with the regulations in force in that port.

2. Holders of seamen's identity document specified in Article 8(2) of the present Agreement and included in the crew list shall avail the aforesaid facilities on the fulfilment of visa and immigration formalities.

3. While landing and returning to the vessel the said persons shall be subject to frontier and customs control in force in that port.

ARTICLE X

1. Holders of the seamen's identity documents specified in Article 8 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 being repatriated or for travelling for any other reasons acceptable to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party after having appropriate visa of the other Contracting Party.

2. Each of the Contracting Party reserves the right to deny entry into its territory to any crew member whom it considers undesirable, even though they hold the identity documents as referred to in Article 8 of this Agreement. In that event the competent diplomatic or consular

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official of the Contracting Party whose crew member has been denied entry shall be informed of the decision.

ARTICLE XI

1. The vessels, crew members and passengers of either Contracting Party shall abide by the laws and regulations of the other Contracting Party during their

stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

2. Both Contracting Parties agree that the relevant authorities of either Contracting Party shall not interfere with the internal affairs on board vessels of the other Contracting Party under normal circumstances, and the judicial authorities of either Contracting Party shall not exercise their criminal jurisdiction against an offence on board the vessel of the other Contracting Party during the stay of the vessel in its territory, except where

- (1) the result of the offence extends to the territory of one Contracting Party;
- (2) the offence harms the public order or the public security of one Contracting Party;
- (3) the offence involves persons other than the members of the crew on board the vessel; and
- (4) measures taken by one Contracting Party to suppress illicit traffic in drugs or psychotropic substances or any other smuggling activities.

3. When competent authority of either Contracting Party intends to adopt compulsory measures or conduct official investigations on board vessels of the other Contracting Party during the stay of the vessels in its territory under the circumstances specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, they shall notify in advance the diplomatic representatives or consular officials of the other Contracting Party or the Captain, and shall facilitate the contact of these representatives or officials with that vessel.

4. The competent authorities of a Contracting Party shall not entertain proceedings arising out of a contract of service as a member of the crew of a vessel of the other Contracting Party without the consent of the competent diplomatic or consular official of the flag country of the vessel except in cases when the contract of service was concluded within the territory of that Contracting Party.

5. The provisions in paragraph 2 of this Article shall not affect the rights of supervision and investigation of each of the Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective national laws.

ARTICLE XII

All income derived by shipping enterprises of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party shall be settled in freely convertible currencies mutually acceptable to both Contracting Parties. Such income may be used for the payments in the territory of the other Contracting Party or be freely remitted, subject to, and in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations of the Contracting Party in the territory of which the revenue accrued.

ARTICLE XIII

The Contracting Parties agree that taxation of income and profits derived

from international maritime transport of the vessels of the either Contracting Party shall be governed by the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries.

ARTICLE XIV

1. If a vessel of one of the Contracting Parties suffers shipwreck, runs around, 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. The relevant authorities of the Contracting Party involved shall be notified as soon as possible.

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2. If cargo and other properties unloaded or rescued from board the vessels in distress need to be temporarily stored in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the other Contracting Party shall provide as much as possible the necessary assistance and shall exempt any taxes on these cargo and properties in so far as they are not delivered for sale or use.

3. The provisions of this Article shall not affect the application of the laws and regulations of the Contracting Parties or their international obligations.

ARTICLE XV

With a view to promoting the development of maritime transport and resolving problems which may arise in the implementation of this Agreement, representatives of competent maritime authorities of the Contracting Parties shall meet to discuss proposals raised by either Contracting Party at the date and place mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE XVI

Any dispute over the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be settled through friendly consultation between the Contracting Parties on the basis of mutual understanding.

ARTICLE XVII

All the previous arrangements and protocols between the two Parties relating to maritime transport will continue to remain in force so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of his Agreement.

ARTICLE XVIII

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify through diplomatic channels the other Contracting 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 delivery of the last notification.

2. The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and thereafter it shall be automatically extended for a one year period at a time unless either of the Contracting Parties expresses its desire to terminate or renegotiate the provisions of the Agreement by giving a written notice to the other Contracting Party to that effect six months prior to the expiry of any of the above mentioned periods.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being only authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in New Delhi on this date of 29 of the month of November in the year of 1996 in two originals in the Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all the three texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in the interpretation of the text, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

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CHINA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : Nov 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Agreement on Cooperation for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and other crimes between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Parties);

GUIDED by their traditional friendly relations between the two countries;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the magnitude of and rising trend in acts of international organised crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

GUIDED by their international obligations and national legislation;

DESIROUS of cooperation with a view to suppressing such international criminal acts;

HAVE AGREED upon the following:

ARTICLE I

1. The parties shall cooperate and render mutual assistance in the areas of:
 - (1) Combating illegal production, distribution and trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
 - (2) Combating organised crime;
 - (3) Combating forgery of currency (bills) securities and official documents;
 - (4) Combating illegal dealing and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, strategic and prohibited materials;
 - (5) Combating international illegal activities in the economic field;
 - (6) Exchanging experience in police training and education.
2. The parties shall cooperate in the fields of scientific research of mutual interest in the above areas.

ARTICLE II

1. Cooperation between the two Parties shall be accomplished by:
 - (1) Exchanging information in all areas indicated in Article-I of this Agreement;
 - (2) Taking measures in their respective territories against illegal and criminal activities indicated in Article-I of this Agreement;
 - (3) Exchanging regulations, publications and results of scientific research in the areas of mutual interest;
 - (4) Making joint efforts in scientific research, technical interchange in all areas covered under Article-I of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall hold meetings between experts when considered necessary by mutual agreement, and this shall be agreed upon in advance.
3. The information and materials exchanged under this Agreement shall not be handed over to a third party without the prior consent of the submitting Party.

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ARTICLE III

The Parties shall execute requests under this Agreement subject to their respective domestic legislations and rights and obligations undertaken by them under other bilateral or multilateral international Agreements.

ARTICLE IV

The implementation of this Agreement shall be entrusted to the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Public Security of the Peoples' Republic of China.

ARTICLE V

1. This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.
2. This Agreement shall remain valid from the date of its entry into force.
3. The validity of this Agreement may be terminated by either of the Parties giving thirty days notice in advance through the diplomatic channels.

Done at New Delhi on 29 November, 1996 in two originals each Hindi, Chinese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India

For the Government of the People's Republic of China

CHINA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 27, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of India and the Federated States of Micronesia

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia;

Being desirous of further promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between their two countries;

Basing on principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

Having in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter;

Being committed to the maintenance of international peace and security;

Have agreed to establish diplomatic relations with effect from Nov 29, 1996 between their two countries in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961.

Done at Tokyo on this the twenty ninth day of November of 1996 A.D. in duplicate each in Hindi and English, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-

For the Government of the
Republic of India
(KULDIP SAHDEV)
Ambassador Extraordinary
& Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of India to Japan

Sd/-

For the Government of the
Federated States of Micronesia
(MASAO NAKAYAMA)
Ambassador Extraordinary
& Plenipotentiary of the
Federated States of Micronesia
to Japan

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INDIA USA AUSTRIA JAPAN

Date : Nov 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE VI

Protocol on the Establishment of Consular Relations between the Republic of India and the Federated States of Micronesia

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia;

Being desirous of further promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between their two countries;

Basing on principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

Having in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter;

Being committed to the maintenance of international peace and security;

Have agreed to establish consular relations between their two countries in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of April 24, 1963 and any agreements that may be concluded between them in this regard.

Done at Tokyo on this the twenty ninth day of November of 1996 A.D. in duplicate each in Hindi and English, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-

For the Government of the
Republic of India
(KULDIP SAHDEV)
Ambassador Extraordinary
& Plenipotentiary of the
Republic of India to Japan

Sd/-

For the Government of the
Federated States of Micronesia
(MASAO NAKAYAMA)
Ambassador Extraordinary
& Plenipotentiary of the
Federated States of Micronesia
to Japan

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INDIA USA AUSTRIA JAPAN

Date : Nov 29, 1996

December

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USA

Date : Dec 01, 1996

Volume No

1995

ARMENIA

Armenian Parliamentary Delegation calls on Shri Jena

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1996
regarding Armenian Parliamentary Delegation's call on Shri Jena:

An Armenian Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr. Babken Araktsian Chairman of
the National Assembly of Armenia called on Shri Shrikant Kumar Jena, Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs here today.

Shri Jena apprised the delegation of Indian Parliamentary procedure and some of the latest initiatives like reservations of seats for women etc. The Armenian delegation showed keen interest in the Indian Democratic System and function of the Parliament.

Recalling Armenian President's visit to India, Shri Jena said that the India wants to promote bilateral cooperation further in various fields. He appreciated Armenian support to India's stand at various International forum.

The visiting delegation and its leader referred the historical contacts of both the countries and said that people of Armenian have lot of goodwill for India. He mentioned setting of India-Armenia society recently in Armenia to promote friendship between the countries. Both the leaders were hopeful that relations between the countries will further strengthen in coming time.

ARMENIA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1996 regarding visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina to India from 10-12 December 1996:

Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, is visiting India on a state visit from December 10-12, 1996. She is visiting Ajmer Sharif on December 10 and would arrive in New Delhi on December 11 when she would be accorded a ceremonial reception and guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

She is scheduled to have ranging discussions with the Prime Minister. The Bangladesh Prime Minister is accompanied by Foreign Minister, Minister for Water Resources, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Secretary for Water Resources and other high ranking officials. The Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister would include the External

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Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Minister for Water Resources, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Secretaries of the Ministry of Water Resources and Surface Transport, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and other senior officials. Talks would be followed by a banquet hosted by the Prime Minister in honour of the visiting dignitary at Hyderabad

House.

The President would host a lunch in honour of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on December 12.

She is scheduled to call on the Vice President and meet the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, President of the Congress Party and other senior leaders. This visit assumes great significance as it takes place just a few days before the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh.

The official talks are expected to cover all major issues in bilateral relations.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Dec 10, 1996

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Delegation calls on Union Home Minister

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1996 regarding Bulgarian Delegation's call on Union Home Minister:

The Bulgarian delegation headed by H.E. Mr. Atanas Paparizov, Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Co-operation of the Republic of Bulgaria and Co-Chairman of the Bulgarian-Indian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation called on Union Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta, here today.

The leader of the delegation handed over a personal letter to Union Home Minister from the Bulgarian Prime Minister addressed to the Indian Prime Minister, inviting the latter for visiting Bulgaria at some mutually convenient time.

Both the leaders also discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to economic and trade co-operation between Bulgaria and India. The Bulgarian delegation sought the cooperation of the Indian Government in the field of trade and economic co-operation. Union Home Minister assured the Bulgarian delegation his and his Government's full co-operation in this regard.

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BULGARIA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

CUBA

Second Ordinary Meeting of Ministerial Council of Association of Caribbean States

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1996 regarding second ordinary Meeting of Ministerial Council of Association of Caribbean States (ACS):

The Second Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Council of Association of Caribbean States (ACS) held in Havana from 9-13 December, 1996 took the decision to admit India as an Observer to the ACS.

2. The ACS has 25 member States and 12 independent territories, including most of Central American and Caribbean countries, the G-3, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Suriname and Cuba. The ACS brings together nearly 200 million people with a combined GDP of US \$ 500 billion and with a trade of US \$ 180 billion. India's closer association with the ACS will be of benefit.

3. While considering India's case, the ACS Ministerial Council referred to the traditional close and friendly relations of India with the Caribbean region and India's interest in enhancing its participation in organisations in the Caribbean. It also referred to the significant population of Indian origin, a factor that specially fosters exchanges in the field of culture, philosophy and art. It highlighted that there are important prospects for economic exchanges between India and the region and by sharing experiences connected with the development process, India will enrich the work of the ACS.

CUBA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA DOMINICA SURINAME USA

Date : Dec 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Agreed Minutes with Five Countries signed during Goa Conference Consultative Committee of Ministry of

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 12, 1996 regarding Agreed Minutes with five countries signed during Goa Conference Consultative Committee of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas meets:

The Centre has signed agreed minutes with 5 countries for cooperation in various areas of the petroleum sector and for increase supplies of crude oil and petroleum products during the recently concluded Fifth International Energy Conference in Goa. This information was given by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri T. R. Baalu, while addressing the Members of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas here yesterday. The ministry has entered into an agreement with Brazil for deep water

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exploration in India, with Myanmar for participation in the upstream sector, with UAE and Indonesia for increased supplies of crude oil and petroleum products. The Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom covers issues relating to technical cooperation on safety procedure and Production Sharing Contracts.

Shri Baalu, informed the Members that India had held bilateral discussions during the Conference with Malaysia, Iran, UAE, Qatar, Indonesia, Brazil, Myanmar, Norway, UK, USA, Russia and Japan. The discussions centred around India's participation in the up-stream sector of these countries and improving supplies of crude oil and petroleum products. The Minister told the members that a delegation from Saudi Arabia led by the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth, Mr. Ali Al Naimi had had wide ranging talks with India on possible areas of co-operation in the Hydrocarbon sectors.

Turning to the subject matter of discussions in yesterday's meeting, namely, refining and pipelines the Minister informed the members that the demand for petroleum products which is currently estimated to be about 81 MMT is likely to go up to 112.8 MMT by the terminal year of Ninth Plan. The Minister informed the members that at present there were 14 refineries operating in the country and in view of increasing demand the Government had decided to permit the setting up of joint venture refineries in collaboration with the existing PSU's. The Minister commended the capacity utilisation of the refineries which has been over 100% for the last several years and which had gone up to 104.1% in the last year.

Expressing concern at the mounting outstandings of oil companies which was expected to go up to Rs. 15,500 crores at the end of March 1997 the Minister stressed the need to develop appropriate strategies and measures to meet the situation.

Replying to Members queries, the Minister said that the Detailed Project Report of the Joint Venture Complex between Kuwait Petroleum and Indian Oil Corporation will be ready by January, 1997. The members were also informed that the Karnal and Panipat Refineries would be completed at the earliest. It was also clarified to the Members that the 12% fixed rate of return would be on normative cost and will be determined by the Oil Coordination Committee under

the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) regime.

The following Members attended the Meeting S/Shri: Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Smt. Sheela Gautam, Sartaj Singh, Jai Parkash, Dr. Chhatrapal Singh, Radha Mohan Singh, Dr. Sahebrao Bagul, C. D. Gamit, M. H. Gavit, Lal Babu Prasad Yadav, P. N. Siva, Udhab Burman, K. Subbarayudu, Shatrughan Prasad Singh, Anant Geete, Bhakta Charan Das Dr. Arvind Kumar, Ram Sajivan, Ram Deo Bhandari, R. Margabandhu, Dipankar Mukherjee, Surinder Kumar Singla and Smt. Jayanti Patnaik.

INDIA USA BRAZIL INDONESIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IRAN MALAYSIA QATAR RUSSIA
JAPAN NORWAY UNITED KINGDOM SAUDI ARABIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC KUWAIT
BURMA

Date : Dec 12, 1996

Volume No

1995

INDIA

Delegation of MPs from Namibia and South Africa calls on Vice President

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 18, 1996 regarding call of delegation of MPs from Namibia and South Africa on Vice President:

A nineteen-member delegation of Member of Parliament from Namibia and South Africa called on Shri K. R. Narayanan, Vice President of India, here today. The delegation members observed that India and South Africa share strong bonds in history and struggle. Vice President warmly recalled his participation on the 1st Day of Independence in both South Africa and Namibia. The two sides had

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extensive discussion on the structures and functioning of the parliamentary democracy in India. The delegation members pointed out that the comparative study during their current visit would go a long way in shaping and operating the interim constitution recently passed in South Africa.

INDIA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA USA

Date : Dec 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

ISRAEL

State visit of H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman the President of Israel and Mrs. Reuma Weizman

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 30, 1996 regarding State visit of H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman the President of Israel and Mrs. Reuma Weizman:

H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman, the President of Israel, and Mrs. Reuma Weizman arrived in New Delhi on Dec 29, 1996 on an 8-day State visit. President Weizman is accompanied by a senior level official delegation, and 24 high level Israeli business representatives.

On December 30 Prime Minister Shri H. D. Deve Gowda called on President Weizman. Both leaders acknowledged the visit as an historic landmark in the relations between the two countries. They reviewed their bilateral relations and co-operation in various fields and expressed satisfaction at the manner and peace of their development. Particular note was taken of the growing cooperation in the areas relating to agriculture, water resource management, and science & technology. They also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, particularly the developments in South Asia and the Middle East Peace Process. The meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

At a ceremony, witnessed by the President of Israel and the Prime Minister of India, 4 bilateral cooperation agreements were signed: for technical cooperation; scientific and industrial research; exchange programme in culture and education; and, to set up an agriculture demonstration cooperation project. Prime Minister Deve Gowda hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary, Shri I. K. Gujral, Minister for External Affairs also called on President Weizman.

Earlier in the morning, President Weizman was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan by the President, Smt. Vimla Sharma, the Prime Minister, and other Indian dignitaries. Later, President Weizman laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

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ISRAEL INDIA USA

Date : Dec 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

Visit to India by the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 10, 1996 regarding visit to India by President of the Republic of Kazakstan His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev:

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of India, the President of the Republic of Kazakstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, accompanied by a high level delegation, paid a goodwill state visit to India from December 9-11, 1996. During his visit, he had wide ranging talks with the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice-President Shri K. R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Shri H. D. Deve Gowda. He also met with Minister of External Affairs, Shri I. K. Gujral. These talks were held in a spirit of warmth, friendship and mutual understanding which has traditionally characterised relations between India and Kazakstan. The discussions brought out the shared perceptions of both sides on key bilateral, regional and international issues.

The President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister of India warmly felicitated President Nazarbaev on the auspicious occasion of the fifth anniversary of the independence of Kazakstan. The two sides share the view that the independence of Kazakstan as well as the emergence of other countries in Central Asia as sovereign independent states represents a historic development. These events have opened up unprecedented opportunities for the further growth and progress of the countries and peoples of the region as well as for productive and mutually-beneficial links with the outside world.

The two sides noted the traditionally friendly and cordial relations between India and Kazakstan, and their satisfactory all-round development, based on goodwill and mutual benefit. They reiterated their commitment to further developing and consolidating on a stable and long term basis, the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. They emphasised that this would be in the interest of the two countries and their peoples, and will contribute to the promotion of peace, stability, security and development in Asia and in the world. These relations are based on the principles of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They reiterated their support for each other's territorial integrity as constituted by law and enshrined in their respective Constitutions.

The two sides took note of the steady growth of cooperation in the economic and other functional areas. They expressed great satisfaction with the directions for bilateral cooperation chartered out on the occasion of high level exchanges, and in particular, during the present visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakstan. It was further noted that there was great unfulfilled potential, and that the two sides would work to realise this and give further content to economic cooperation. They drew attention to the new opportunities that have opened up, as a result of the economic reform and liberalisation programmes in both countries, and the large material and human resources in both countries. They emphasised that concrete and effective steps should be taken for strengthening and diversifying exchanges in a number of sectors including trade,

transportation, science and technology, defence - technical cooperation, health care, information, culture, education, tourism and sports. They reaffirmed the decision taken during the visit of the Vice-President of India to Kazakstan in

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September 1996, to give immediate attention to the intensifying cooperation in small and medium scale industries, peaceful uses of atomic energy and defence and noted that Working Groups in these areas had been set up. It was also decided that Indo-Kazak cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector would involve not only exploration and developmental activities, but also investment for upgradation and modernisation of the existing infrastructural facilities, such as refineries and pipelines, as well as training programmes to be organised in India.

The two sides decided to encourage the activities of the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation. They agreed to take further steps to strengthen all round cooperation in leading sectors through the activation of the Sub-Committees of the Joint Commission set up for this purpose. They were of the view that the effective utilisation of the two credit lines of US \$ 10 million each extended by India to the Republic of Kazakstan would help promote economic relations and Indian investments in the Republic of Kazakstan.

The two sides reaffirmed their adherence to the Declaration on the Basic Principles and Directions of Inter-Governmental Relations between the Republic of Kazakstan and the Republic of India signed on February 22, 1992, during the milestone visit of President Nazarbaev to India, and the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They also recalled the other important bilateral agreements and documents between the Republic of Kazakstan and the Republic of India including those concluded during the visit of former Prime Minister of India, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao to Kazakstan from May 25-26, 1993. They were happy to note that a Convention of the Avoidance of Double Taxation, an Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investment and an MOU on holding reciprocally days of culture in each other's country were signed during the present visit of President Nazarbaev. Along with previously-signed documents, these agreements contribute to the establishment of a strong framework for the development of mutually-beneficial, friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries and peoples in the economic and cultural fields.

The importance of improved communications between India and Kazakstan as well as other countries of the region was stressed by both sides as a vital factor necessary to promote the development of mutually beneficial cooperation to its full potential. In this connection, the Kazak side expressed its interest in joining India, Turkmenistan and Iran in their endeavour to improve multi-modal surface communication between India and Central Asia.

The two sides agreed that the maintenance of regular contacts and dialogue at all levels, including meetings at the highest level, and mutual consultations on bilateral, regional and international issues meets the interest of both countries. In this context, they felt that it was necessary to develop and promote more active inter-Parliamentary ties and exchange experience in the

field of legislative activity as well as between academic and research centres. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India will continue to maintain close contacts and cooperate meaningfully on a bilateral basis, and within the framework of the United Nations and other international organisations.

The two sides are convinced that it is essential for multi-ethnic, pluralist states to cooperate actively to preserve their state structures from the threats of terrorism and extremism in different forms and separatism. They recalled that the Declaration on Principles and Directions of Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Republic of Kazakstan provides for cooperation with each other in their fight against crimes in general, particularly terrorism, taking of hostages, crimes against civil aviation security, illegal international trade in narcotics and in cultural

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and historical objects. They also declared their opposition to all forms of religious bigotry, extremism, hatred and violence. They underlined that interaction between states, bilaterally and in regional organisations, must be free of sectarian considerations.

The Indian side expressed its high appreciation for, and understanding of, the efforts of Republic of Kazakstan to promote peace and stability in Asia. In this context, it was felt that the timely and imaginative initiative taken by H.E. President Nazarbaev for a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building measures in Asia (CICA) would contribute to the enhancement of regional peace and stability.

The Kazakstan side expressed appreciation of the steps taken by the Government of India, and the progress achieved, for creating a climate of peace and cooperation in this region, and with other countries of Asia. Based on a shared perception of the causes and nature of regional conflicts such as Afghanistan, both sides agreed to cooperate and consult regularly on such leading issues.

The President of Kazakstan extended a warm invitation to the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India to visit Kazakstan. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. Mutually convenient dates for these visits would be decided through diplomatic channels.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TURKMENISTAN IRAN PERU AFGHANISTAN

Date : Dec 10, 1996

Volume No

1995

Presentation of Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1994 to Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad of Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 19, 1996 regarding Presentation of Jawaharlal Nehru Award to the year 1994 to Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad of Malaysia:

Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia is visiting India to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1994. The Award will be conferred on Prime Minister Mahathir by the President of India at a glittering ceremony on 20th December, 1996 at 1800 hrs. at Ashok Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The Vice-President of India, who is the Chairman of the Jury for the Nehru Award and the Prime Minister will also be present on the occasion.

Throughout his distinguished career in public life Dr. Mahathir has shown a remarkable ability to evolve appropriate public policies and national strategy which have brought Malaysia peace, stability and prosperity. He has imparted a new vision and a sense of purposiveness which have made Malaysia one of the most dynamic economies of Asia. Malaysia's rapid rise to the status of a near developed country and its determined bid to attain the stature of a developed country by the year 2020, are part of a comprehensive vision articulated by Dr. Mahathir.

Dr. Mahathir has untiringly directed attention to the problems of the developing nations which were becoming marginalised, more so now as a result of the end of the Cold War. He has displayed a rare

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candour and forthrightness in speaking out against injustice and in articulating the need to reduce and eliminate disparities between the rich and poor nations. He has made innovative and meaningful proposals to foster greater cooperation amongst the developing nations. He played an important role in the setting up of the South Commission and the South Centre and the formation of the G-15. Indeed the first G-15 Summit was hosted by Dr. Mahathir in Malaysia. The Malaysian Government under his leadership has an active technical assistance programme and directly supports several international cooperative projects.

Dr. Mahathir-bin-Mohamad has been chosen for the 1994 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for his outstanding contribution to building closer cooperation amongst the developing nations and for his bold and vigorous articulation of their concerns. His qualities of leadership have helped to steer Malaysia towards greater prosperity and build a harmonious multi-racial society. In international affairs, he has tenaciously pursued the objectives of equity and justice speaking out for the poorer nations in world forums. In doing so, he has enlarged the area of international peace and understanding - the objective for which the Jawaharlal Nehru Award was instituted.

Date : Dec 19, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of Foreign Minister of Pakistan

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on Dec 18, 1996 on visit of Sahabzada Yakub Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan to Delhi to participate in SAARC Ministerial Meeting:

Sahabzada Yakub-Khan, Foreign Minister of Pakistan who is in Delhi to participate in the SAARC Ministerial Meeting paid a courtesy call today on Shri I. K. Gujral, External Affairs Minister. Both Ministers discussed the progress achieved by SAARC and expressed satisfaction in this regard. External Affairs Minister felt that SAPTA process should be expedited in the interest of the entire region. External Affairs Minister further said that it was necessary to strengthen the SAARC Secretariat. External Affairs Minister expressed appreciation at the positive role being played by the SAARC Secretary General. It was felt that the SAARC Secretariat should be strengthened by inducting experts especially in the field of economic activity.

External Affairs Minister urged that both countries should work towards the urgent repatriation of fishermen, children and civilian prisoners in each other's custody on a humanitarian basis. Pakistan Foreign Minister agreed and mentioned that data should be exchanged by both sides. It was felt that officials concerned meet as soon as possible to address this issue, preferably within a month.

Foreign Minister Yakub-Khan broached the possibility of working towards Indo-Pak talks. External Affairs Minister referred to the letter sent by Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda to the former Prime Minister of Pakistan suggesting that the Foreign Secretary level dialogue between the two countries be revived. External Affairs Minister stressed that India stood

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committed to that letter and awaited a response from Pakistan.

External Affairs Minister emphasised that India was keen on increasing people to people contact and had unilaterally taken a number of steps in this direction. In this context, the visa regime should be relaxed and police restrictions minimised. External Affairs Minister said that it was necessary to put an end to the barbarous conduct in the treatment of the personnel in our

Mission in Islamabad. In this context, it was agreed that the Code of Conduct governing behaviour towards each other's Mission personnel should be strictly observed.

The meeting was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Dec 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

MRTA Guerrila Attack on the Japanese Embassy in Lima

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 23, 1996 on incident involving MRTA Guerrila attack on the Japanese Embassy in Lima:

In response to a question about the incident involving MRTA Guerrila attack on the Japanese Embassy in Lima the Spokesman stated, "We view the developments in Lima with concern. A large number of people including Peruvian Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors of friendly countries and other important personalities have been taken hostage in the attack on the residence of the Japanese Ambassador. We strongly condemn all acts of terrorism. We hope that there will be a satisfactory resolution of the issue as soon as possible".

JAPAN PERU INDIA

Date : Dec 23, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Visit of the President of Israel H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman 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 Dec 23, 1996 regarding the State visit of President of Israel H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman accompanied by his wife

from December 29 to January 5, 1997:

The President of Israel, H.E. Mr. Ezer Weizman, accompanied by his wife, will be paying a State visit to India from Dec 29, 1996-January 5, 1997, at the invitation of the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. This will be the first Presidential visit between the two countries.

During the visit, President Weizman will hold talks with the President and the Prime Minister. The Vice President, Speaker Lok Sabha, and Minister of External Affairs, are expected to call on the visiting dignitary. Some bilateral cooperation agreements are expected to be signed during the visit.

President Weizman will be accompanied by a delegation of officials and businessmen. Besides New Delhi he will also visit Agra, Bangalore, Cochin, and Mumbai.

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INDIA ISRAEL USA

Date : Dec 29, 1996

Volume No

1995

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS

Comments on Kashmir attributed to Mr. Derek Fatchett of British Labour Party

The following is the text of a statement issued by the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Dec 25, 1996 regarding comments on Kashmir attributed to Mr. Derek Fatchett of the British Labour Party:

We are dismayed by the comments on Kashmir attributed to Derek Fatchett of the British Labour Party, which are particularly intemperate and ill-judged. These have provoked a natural reaction in India, and it is therefore necessary to put Government's position on record.

Fatchett seems to have made his comments to Labour supporters of Pakistani origin. Earlier this year, speaking to Councillors of Indian origin, he put forward a view on Kashmir which he thought go down well with them; needless to say, he did not say to them what he has now said.

Leaders of the Labour Party have visited India recently, and, know from meetings with our leadership, how strongly held our views on this matter are. Kashmir is and will continue to be an integral part of India; no foreign party has any role to play there.

After a long interregnum when the terrorists disrupted the democratic

process the people of Jammu and Kashmir have again been able to express their political choice in elections, witnessed by the world. The Government they have elected has got down to the challenge of rebuilding a state shattered by terrorism. That terrorism, and the support to it from across our borders, has not stopped. India expects that those who claim to be its friends and champions of democracy will recognise how much has been achieved already to defeat terrorism through lawful means, and not do or say anything at this critical juncture that heartens the terrorists or their supporters abroad.

INDIA PAKISTAN

Date : Dec 25, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC

11th Meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women in Development Held

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on Dec 04, 1996 regarding 11th meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women in Development:

Senior Officers incharge of Women's Bureau of Seven SAARC member countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and India as well as representative from SAARC Secretariat met for the 11th Meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women in Development held here today. The meeting discussed various issues relating to women and girl child in the region which include status of implementation of the Plan of Action for Women; follow up on the 4th World Conference on Women; Implementation of the Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child; Publication of 4th Issue of SAARC Solidarity Journal;

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and Preparation of a Regional Overview on Girl Child in Especially Difficult Circumstances.

The SAARC Technical Committee on Women in Development is responsible for formulating programmes, preparing projects and monitoring the implementation of such activities in the area of Women in Development. At present, India is the Chairperson of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women in Development.

INDIA BANGLADESH BHUTAN MALDIVES NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA USA

Date : Dec 04, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC

The Seventeenth Session of Council of Ministers of SAARC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 17, 1996 regarding Seventeenth Session of the council of Ministers of SAARC scheduled to be held on 19-20, December 1996:

The Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC is scheduled to be held on 19-20 December 1996. Preparatory to the Meeting of the Council, which will have a large number of items on its agenda, for further enriching cooperation within the region, Meetings of the Programming Committee and the Standing Committee are held.

The Meeting of the Programming Committee was organised on 14-15 December, 1996. The Programming Committee approved the budget of the SAARC Secretariat for the year 1997 which would be US \$ 1.0747 million. In order to further strengthen the Secretariat, draft service rules and administrative and financial provisions of the Secretariat were also finalised. The activities to be undertaken by our 11 technical committees relating to agriculture; communications; education, culture and sports, environment and meteorology; health, drug abuse; rural development science and technology; tourism, women in development, were also finalised by the Programming Committee. The report of the Programming Committee alongwith its recommendations is submitted to the Standing Committee for approval.

Foreign Secretaries of SAARC Member States comprise the Standing Committee. It meets for three days and yesterday (16 December) with unanimous consent of all countries, it was decided to examine ways to strengthen SAARC and our regional cooperation, in all domains, in an extended informal session, which continued till late in the evening. The practice of extended informals has been appreciated by all delegations as useful, and necessary, in view of the heavy agenda of 23 items before the Standing Committee. All participants agreed it was a most productive session. The Standing committee held its formal meeting today (17 December).

A major issue before the Standing Committee is the enhancement of our economic and trade cooperation to achieve the goal of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), preferably by 2000 A.D. Also coming up for consideration are Regional Conventions on Promotion of Investment and Avoidance of Double Taxation. Another important issue is the promotion of people to people contacts, specially amongst the youth of the region. Projection of SAARC activities within and outside the region to create an increased awareness of our regional organisation would receive great attention.

Other main items on the Agenda of the Standing Committee include consideration of several matters pertaining to the strengthening of the Secretariat to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, in keeping with the present stage of evolution of SAARC and its future role. The Standing Committee is considering the reports of the 11 Technical Committees. It is also expected to decide on an improved process of examination of these reports so that our technical cooperation activities can become more targeted and goal-oriented. The activities of the four regional centres,

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on Agriculture, Meteorology, Tuberculosis and the SAARC Documentation Centre, hosted by India would be strengthened. Standing Committee's efforts are expected to be directed towards introducing greater degree of harmony and systemisation in the functioning of these centres. The Standing Committee would also devise. The progress in the implementation of SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and on SAARC Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It would also deal with the topics of enhanced cooperation in Police Matters activities of the SAARC Regional Fund and cooperation between SAARC and other regional and international organisations.

Joint Study-cum-Familiarization programmes for all fresh recruits in the Foreign Services of Members States are proposed to be conducted by the SAARC Secretariat.

The Meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled to conclude on 18 December 1996 with a series of recommendations for consideration by the Council of Ministers, which would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, on 19 December 1996.

INDIA USA

Date : Dec 17, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Standing Committee of SAARC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 18, 1996 regarding Standing Committee of SAARC consisting of Foreign Secretaries of member-states successfully completing the formal session of Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee of SAARC consisting of Foreign Secretaries of member-states successfully completed the formal session of the Standing Committee

today. The deliberations were conducted in a constructive spirit and new avenues of cooperation were agreed upon to be recommended to the Council of Ministers of SAARC, consisting of Foreign Ministers, for approval. The general areas of the deliberations have already been indicated in the press release of 17 December. The areas put up for approval are economic cooperation, technical cooperation, cooperation under SAARC conventions SAARC regional funds, cooperation with regional and international organisations, activities of SAARC regional apex bodies such as SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, several administrative matters relating strengthening of Secretariat, etc.

2. The Standing Committee recommended examination of the possibility of holding SAARC film festivals, TV film festivals, children film festivals to intensify cooperation in the cultural area, under the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange Programme.
3. The Standing Committee appreciated the successful conclusion of a second round of trade negotiations under SAPTA. It also appreciated the commendable initiative of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) in holding a SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference, which was held in New Delhi on 19-21 November, 1996.
4. India is committed to cooperation with all SAARC member countries and to strengthening and expansion of our regional cooperation. India pledged a sum of Rs. 25 million as its contribution of SAARC activities in the next financial year.
5. The report of the Standing Committee would be considered for approval by the Council of Ministers at their seventeenth session, which would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister tomorrow, 19 December.

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INDIA USA

Date : Dec 18, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Inaugurating of Seventeenth Session of SAARC Council of Ministers

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 19, 1996 regarding inauguration of Seventeenth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers by Prime Minister:

The Seventeenth session of the SAARC Council of Ministers was inaugurated

today (19th December) morning by Prime Minister, Shri H. D. Deve Gowda. In his thought provoking address to the assembled Foreign Ministers of the SAARC countries, he highlighted that the Common Minimum Programme of the Government attaches the highest priority to good and friendly relations with neighbouring countries. He stressed that we visualise SAARC as the principal means through which friendly relations could be forged between SAARC Countries. Referring to the transformation of the global economic environment, Prime Minister said that South Asian Region should participate fully in this process, for the benefit of the region. Prime Minister, expressed his happiness at the commitment expressed at the First meeting of the Commerce Ministers of SAARC countries, which was held in New Delhi, January 8-9, 1996, to achieve a South Asian Free Trade Area by the turn of the century. Prime Minister also noted the enthusiasm of the business community in South Asia, which the SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference held in New Delhi recently, recommended that the target date to achieve SAFTA could even be advanced by two years. He hoped that the present Seventeenth session of the Council of Ministers would give momentum to the growing economic cooperation in the region.

Prime Minister pointed out that it is essential that the benefits of economic growth are felt by the vast sections of our society which live in poverty. Prime Minister underlined the progress achieved by India in the field of literacy and called for active involvement of all members of society, especially voluntary and non-governmental organisations, to achieve a fully literate SAARC region.

(The Council of Ministers has decided that the Prime Minister's address should be annexed to its report which will be adopted tomorrow)

The formal opening of the session was preceded by an informal meeting of the Foreign Ministers. Several new vistas of cooperation in diverse fields like, education, tourism and travel, air-links, communications, food security, advanced-technologies including information technology, subregional cooperation, promotion of people-to-people contacts through youth camps, establishment of a human resource development centre, were discussed.

The formal agenda of the meeting was adopted and includes 18 items. The important topics are related to poverty eradication, economic cooperation, information, environment, children, and schemes to promote people-to-people contacts.

All Foreign Ministers also delivered their general statements.

The External Affairs Minister in his statement highlighted that when the region speaks with one voice, the voice of over a billion people, the world has to take note of it.

On a sad note the meeting condoled the tragic passing away of former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Mustafir-ul-Rehman Saheb and observed a minutes' silence to pray for the bereaved soul. The meeting also directed the Secretary-General to convey the condolences of the Council to the bereaved family members.

The session is expected to continue and adopt its report tomorrow.

INDIA USA BANGLADESH

Date : Dec 19, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAARC

Details of Deliberation of the Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 20, 1996 regarding details of deliberation of the Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC:

The Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers of SAARC was held in New Delhi from 19-20 December 1996. The Meeting was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, Foreign Ministers of all SAARC Member States participated in the meeting. The Council had before it a substantive and rich agenda. In addition, the Council also discussed a large number of additional proposals which were made for further enriching and expanding regional cooperation. The Meeting of the Council of Ministers was preceded by the Twenty Second Session of the Standing Committee, which was also organised in New Delhi from 16-18 December 1996.

2. In his inaugural address, the Prime Minister stressed that the South Asian region must, like other regions of the world, endeavour to prosper by opening channels for the flow of goods, services, capital and people. He underlined that economic growth must be accompanied by the improvement of the quality of life of the people in the largest sense and called for eradication of poverty from the region, by the targeted date. Prime Minister expressed confidence that the Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers would give further momentum to the growing cooperation in the region.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

3. The Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and approved the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter Governmental Group along with its annexed National Schedules of Concessions. The Council decided that all Member States should complete the necessary procedures, including the issue of Customs Notifications, so that the Schedules finalised during the Second Round can enter into force latest by 1st March, 1997.

4. The Report of the Inter Government Group, approved by the Council, also

calls for immediate launching of the Third Round of Trade Negotiations under South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

5. The Council approved the report of the Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation (CEC), which includes recommendations on the preparation and conclusion of common Agreements for Investment Promotion and Protection of Investment, and an Agreement of Avoidance of Double Taxation. The Council welcomed the convening of the Meeting on Investment Promotion and Protection in India and the Meeting on Avoidance of Double Taxation in Pakistan, to be held during 1997.

6. The Council agreed that the Eighth Meeting of the CEC should be held in New Delhi in April 1997, which would inter alia monitor progress of trade flows on products covered in the First and Second Rounds of Trade Negotiations.

7. The Council directed that the newly established Inter-Governmental Expert Group (IGEG) on Transition to South Asian Free Trade Area (SAPTA) should start its work at the earliest to prepare an Action Plan with time frames for each individual step for the realisation of the role of SAFTA, preferably by the year 2000.

8. The Council appreciated the role of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) in promoting and expanding economic cooperation in the region. In

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particular, it welcomed the SAARC Chambers' initiative in organising the SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference (SECC) in New Delhi on 19-21 November, 1996 and directed the Committee on Economic Cooperation to examine at its Eighth Meeting various recommendations emanating from the First SAARC Economic Cooperation Conference, which can be implemented for SAARC action at the Governmental level.

MEETING OF SAARC COMMERCE MINISTERS

9. The Council endorsed the recommendations contained in the Joint Statement of the First Meeting of SAARC Commerce Ministers held in New Delhi 8-9 January, 1996 for the approval by the Ninth SAARC Summit. It agreed that such meetings of Commerce Ministers should be held on an annual basis, preferably simultaneously with SAARC Trade Fairs, to enhance the effectiveness of both events.

MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

10. The Council agreed that Meetings of SAARC Information Ministers and Environment Ministers should be organised keeping in view the importance of developments in these fields.

CHILDREN OF SOUTH ASIA

11. The Council endorsed the Rawalpindi Resolution adopted by the Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on the Children of South Asia. The resolution contains ambitious, but necessary, goals to be accomplished by 2000 and 2010. These include reduction of under five mortality to below 35 per 1000 live births

by 2010 and elimination of gender imbalance in social parameters within a fixed time frame.

YOUTH

12. The Standing Committee recommended that Member States should consider the organisation of youth camps, adventure camps, science and arts camps, social service camps and entrepreneur development camps. This recommendation was approved, with the approval of the report of the Standing Committee by the Council.

POVERTY ERADICATION

13. The Council viewed eradication of poverty as an issue of high priority for SAARC. It welcomed the recommendations of the second meeting of Finance/Planning Ministers, which had been held in New Delhi, 3-4 January, 1996 and keeping them in view, decided to propose to the Ninth SAARC Summit that the Theme for the SAARC Year 1997 be "Participatory Governance". The Council also noted the progress made by the Member States in the implementation of the Plan of Action during 1995, which had been observed as the SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication.

LITERACY

14. The Eighth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi had noted that illiteracy was one of the major causes of poverty, backwardness and social injustice. It had called on Member States to initiate more concrete programmes aimed at eliminating illiteracy in the region by the year 2000. The Council of Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made by Member States in the endeavour.

SOUTH ASIAN FESTIVALS

15. The Council hoped that all efforts will be made to continue cultural interaction in the region. While approving the Report of the Standing Committee, the Council decided that the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Committee should examine the possibility of holding SAARC Film Festival, TV Film Festivals, Children's Film Festival and TV Festivals to intensify cooperation in the cultural arena.

TOURISM PROMOTION

16. The Council felt that visa related procedures and documentation for SAARC nationals be simplified for promotion of intra-SAARC tourism. It called upon Member States to endeavour to establish

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direct air-links between SAARC capitals and to examine possibilities of introducing cheaper airfares for travel within the region.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

17. The Council examined several possibilities for better and cheaper

telecom-links between SAARC countries including, inter alia, a SAARC satellite and updating, expansion and harmonisation of telecom hardware in the region. Member States may also examine the possibility of bringing telecom tariffs between SAARC countries as close to domestic rates as possible. The Council decided to establish a High Level Expert Group to consider and recommend specific modalities for examination by Member States in this field.

EDUCATION

18. The Council noted the offer for additional SAARC scholarships fellowships made by India. Earlier, the Standing Committee had noted that an Expert Group Meeting to review the SAARC Chairs, fellowship and Scholarships Scheme had been held in Colombo in July, 1996 and had directed the Technical Committee on Education, Culture and Sports to submit specific proposals with a view to strengthening the Scheme.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

19. The Council commended the practice of Ministerial Meetings of SAARC Countries to adopt collective positions at international fora in major conferences/summits. It noted with satisfaction the preparatory meeting of SAARC Housing Ministers held prior to Habitat - II and the Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers before the World Food Summit. The Council appreciated the signature of the SAARC - EU Memorandum of Understanding on Administrative Cooperation. It also endorsed the decisions of the Standing Committee including the approval for signature of the SAARC-International Telecommunications Union Agreement on Cooperation.

PROMOTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

20. The Council appreciated various proposals by several professional bodies, voluntary organisations and community groups or associations interested in cooperating regionally. It directed the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive proposal on the modalities to encourage such cooperation.

STRENGTHENING OF SECRETARIAT

21. The Council approved the various recommendations of the Standing Committee for strengthening of the SAARC Secretariat to enable it to function efficiently and effectively as a vehicle of our regional cooperation.

INDIA USA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

Date : Dec 20, 1996

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

Message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Prime Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 26, 1996 regarding message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Prime Minister:

Mohamoud Bin Mohammad Al-Safar, the Saudi Arabian Minister for Haj today delivered a written message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Prime Minister. The message dealt with arrangements in the Kingdom for Indian Haj pilgrims and seeking understanding and support from Government of India in this regard.

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The Saudi Haj Minister called on External Affairs Minister and discussed bilateral matters. Both the Ministers reiterated the common desire to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. The Saudi Minister conveyed an invitation from the Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal to the External Affairs Minister to visit the Kingdom. External Affairs Minister accepted the invitation and agreed to visit Saudi Arabia soon.

The Saudi Haj Minister was received and seen off by Shri B. S. Ramoowalia, Minister for Welfare, who also hosted a lunch in honour of the Saudi dignitary.

SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 26, 1996

Volume No

1995

SOUTH AFRICA

Visit of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki Exec. Deputy President of South Africa

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 03, 1996 regarding visit of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Exec. Deputy President of South Africa from 3 - 7 December 1996:

H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki is visiting India between 3-7 December, 1996 at the head of a large ministerial and business delegation. The Ministers accompanying him are:

H.E. Mr. Alec Erwin, Minister for Trade and Industry;

H.E. Mr. Lionel Mtshali, Minister for Arts, Culture, Science & Technology;

H.E. Mr. P. M. Maduna, Minister for Minerals & Energy;

H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; and

H.E. Mr. Ronnie Kasrils, Deputy Minister for Defence.

Mr. Mbeki's first ever visit to India is aimed at strengthening political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries. This high level visit follows that of President Nelson Mandela when he was Chief Guest at India's Republic Day in January, 1995; and that of several other South African Ministers and two Parliamentary delegations that came to India in 1995-96.

India-South Africa relations are based on a rich legacy of close interaction for nearly 150 years when the first persons of Indian origin reached South Africa in 1861. These ties were consolidated by the pioneering role played by Mahatma Gandhi in organising the first political opposition to policies of racial discrimination in South Africa between 1893-1914. India also gave continued support to South Africa in the anti-apartheid campaign, playing a leading role in describing apartheid as a crime against mankind in the agenda of the United Nations. India awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Prize for International Understanding to Mr. Mandela in 1979 when he was still a prisoner at Robben Island and later conferred on him its highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 1990 when he was released.

India's relations with the new South Africa, based as they are on the rich legacy of partnership during the anti-apartheid struggle, have taken very rapid strides forward: besides exchanges of high level visits

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a number of bilateral agreements have been signed and economic ties have flourished.

Mr. Mbeki occupies the no. 2 executive position in South Africa and has responsibility for economic and foreign policy issues. During his visit four major agreements will be signed to foster cooperation covering promotion and protection of investments, a double taxation avoidance agreement, a cultural agreement and a MOU on cooperation in the area of defence equipment.

Besides high level dialogue with Indian leaders Mr. Mbeki will also be interacting with Indian captains of industry in Bombay and Bangalore. While in Bangalore he will also obtain a glimpse of India's achievements in the area of science and technology when he visits the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

SOUTH AFRICA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 03, 1996

Volume No

1995

THAILAND

Visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of His Majesty the King of Thailand to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on Dec 24, 1996 regarding visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of His Majesty the King of Thailand to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

At the invitation of our Vice-President, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of His Majesty the King of Thailand is currently on a five days (December 21-26) visit to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This Royal visit takes place soon after her younger sister Her Royal Highness Princess Dr. Ghulabhorn Mahidol visited New Delhi in the last week of November this year to preside at a UN Award Ceremony. During this visit, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will be visiting various islands in the area and study the flora and fauna of the region. The Princess is an intellectual of high calibre whose love for Indian tradition and culture are well known. She is an expert in Sanskrit and Pali languages. Her programme for this visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands include a meeting with the Lt. Governor. This Royal visit is yet another manifestation of the close bilateral ties existing between India and Thailand which also share a common maritime boundary.

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THAILAND INDIA USA

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE I

Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH,

DETERMINED to promote and strengthened their relations of friendship and good neighbourliness,

INSPIRED by the common desire of promoting the well-being of their peoples,

BEING desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and of making the optimum utilisation of the water resources of their region in the fields of flood management, irrigation, river basin development and generation of hydro-power for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

RECOGNISING that the need for making an arrangement for sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka in a spirit of mutual accommodation and the need for a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga/Ganges are in the mutual interests of the peoples of the two countries.

BEING desirous of finding a fair and just solution without affecting the rights and entitlements of either country other than those covered by this Treaty, or establishing any general principles of law or precedent.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka.

ARTICLE II

(i) The sharing between India and Bangladesh of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka by ten day periods from the 1st January to the 31st May every year will be with reference to the formula at Annexure I and an indicative schedule giving the implications of the sharing arrangement under Annexure I is at Annexure II.

(ii) The indicative schedule at Annexure II, as referred to in sub para (i) above, is based on 40 years (1949-1988) 10-day period average availability of water at Farakka. Every effort would be made by the upper riparian to protect flows of water at Farakka as in the 40-years average availability as mentioned above.

(iii) In the event flow at Farakka falls below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day period, the two governments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis, in accordance with the principles of equity, fair play and no harm to either party.

ARTICLE III

The waters released to Bangladesh at Farakka under Article I shall not be reduced below Farakka except for reasonable uses of waters, not exceeding 200 cusecs, by India between Farakka and the point on the Ganga/Ganges where both its banks are in Bangladesh.

ARTICLE IV

A Committee consisting of representatives nominated by the two Governments in equal numbers (hereinafter called the Joint Committee) shall be constituted

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following the signing of this Treaty. The Joint Committee shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flows below Farakka Barrage, in the Feeder Canal, and at the Navigation Lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.

ARTICLE V

The Joint Committee shall decide its own procedure and method of functioning.

ARTICLE VI

The Joint Committee shall submit to the two Governments all data collected by it and shall also submit a yearly report to both the Governments. Following submission of the reports the two Governments will meet at appropriate levels to decide upon such further actions as may be needed.

ARTICLE VII

The Joint Committee shall be responsible for implementing the arrangements contained in this Treaty and examining any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and of the operation of Farakka Barrage. Any difference or dispute arising in this regard, if not resolved by the Joint Committee, shall be referred to the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. If the difference or dispute still remains unresolved, it shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion.

ARTICLE VIII

The two Governments recognise the need to cooperate with each other in finding a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga/Ganges during the dry season.

ARTICLE IX

Guided by the principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party, both the Governments agree to conclude water sharing Treaties / Agreements with regard to other common rivers.

ARTICLE X

The sharing arrangement under this Treaty shall be reviewed by the two Governments at five years' interval or earlier, as required by either party and needed adjustments, based on principles of equity, fairness, and no harm to either party made thereto, if necessary. It would be open to either party to seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement as contained in this Treaty.

ARTICLE XI

For the period of this Treaty, in the absence of mutual agreement on adjustments following reviews as mentioned in Article X, India shall release downstream of Farakka Barrage, water at a rate not less than 90% (ninety per cent) of Bangladesh's share according to the formula referred to in Article II, until such time as mutually agreed flows are decided upon.

ARTICLE XII

This Treaty shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of thirty years and it shall be renewable on the basis of mutual consent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Treaty.

DONE at New Delhi 12th December, 1996 in Hindi, Bangla and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

Sd /-
(H. D. DEVE GOWDA)
Prime Minister,
Republic of India

Sd /-
(SHEIKH HASINA)
Prime Minister,
People's Republic of Bangladesh

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INDIA BANGLADESH USA LATVIA

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE II

Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties");

HAVING regard to the close and friendly relations existing between them and their peoples;

DESIRING to further promote those close relations by strengthening and expanding their mutual cooperation;

CONSIDERING their common interest in the economic and social development of their peoples; and

DESIRING to promote and foster bilateral technical cooperation in a spirit of partnership;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties shall promote and foster technical cooperation between the two countries, on the basis of their expertise and capabilities, partnership, shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

ARTICLE II

Promotion of their mutual technical cooperation will be pursued through means as may be mutually agreed upon, including, inter alia, the following activities:

- (a) Exchange of experts, advisers, consultants, and technicians;
- (b) Provision of training opportunities, both academic and technical, in either country.

ARTICLE III

The competent authorities for the implementation of this Agreement shall be, on behalf of the Government of the State of Israel, the Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India, the Ministry of External Affairs.

ARTICLE IV

The basic conditions under which personnel of one country will be engaged, in accordance with this Agreement, in the other country, shall include the following:

- (a) Exemption from taxes on salary in accordance with the Convention between the Republic of India and the State of Israel for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital as signed in New Delhi on 29 January 1996 and which has already been ratified and entered into force on 15 May 1996;
- (b) Exemption from liability of payment of customs duties on personal and household effects, within six months of first arrival, and with regard to India within the limits specified in the Annexure. If serviceability of any of these items as in the Annexure is substantially affected, replacements or spare parts of similar types and quality may be imported free of duty up to a reasonable limit as may be mutually agreed upon;

(c) Grant of foreign exchange and related facilities for the purpose of remittance of salaries, emoluments etc., in confor-

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mity with their respective national laws and regulations;

(d) Exemption from liability of payment of all custom duties, taxes and other charges on capital, equipment and material imported into the other country for the purposes of this Agreement;

(e) Office facilities and inland transportation; and

(f) Any other conditions as may be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE V

If any dispute arises relating to the application or interpretation of this Agreement, there shall be consultations between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties with a view to reaching an amicable solution.

ARTICLE VI

The present Agreement may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of the Contracting Parties. Any amendment or supplement to the Agreement shall follow the same procedure as its entering into force.

ARTICLE VII

The present Agreement shall be approved or ratified in accordance with the legal procedures of the Contracting Parties. It shall enter into force on the date of the latter of the Diplomatic Notes by which the Parties notify each other that their internal legal procedures for the entering into force of the Agreement have been complied with and shall remain in force for a period of three years. The Agreement shall be automatically renewed for further periods of three years each, unless written notice of termination is given through the diplomatic channels by either of the Contracting Parties to the other Contracting Party, three months prior to the date of expiry of the relevant period.

DONE at New Delhi on this 30th day of December 1996, which corresponds to the 9th day of Pausa of the Saka year 1918, and to the 20th day of Tevet 5757, in two original copies, each in the Hindi, Hebrew and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-
AMAR NATH RAM
Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs
For the Government of
the Republic of India

Sd/-
DR. YEHOYADA HAIM
Ambassador of Israel to India
For the Government of
the State of Israel

INDIA ISRAEL USA

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE III

Memorandum of Intent

The Government of India, through its Department of Agriculture Research & Education (DARE) of the Ministry of Agriculture and in close cooperation with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (I.A.R.I.), and the Government of the State of Israel, through the Center for International Cooperation - MASHAV of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its professional agricultural agency, the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO),

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have agreed to embark on a joint high-tech agricultural demonstration cooperation project.

The discussions on the demonstration project took place between His Excellency Dr. R. S. Paroda, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India and Mr. Y. Abt, Director of the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO) in October, 1996, together with the Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), and led to a reconnaissance and planning mission of a team of Israeli experts from December 4-12, 1996. The team's task was to design a demonstration unit in cooperation with I.A.R.I.

The following are the major agreed features of the cooperation project:

1. Both countries will establish, in the first stage, a demonstration farm unit on the campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, at the Pusa Site in New Delhi, adjacent to a training facility on the campus, with the aim of developing viable technological packages and technology transfer for the small farmer and private sector.

2. The Project will include Research and Development (R & D) for open field agriculture for processed tomatoes, high oil-content maize and variety testing and seed multiplication, as well as greenhouses and other methods of protected agriculture. To the extent possible, the project will accommodate Research and Development (R & D) activities in situ on mutually agreed subjects.
3. The demonstration unit is planned as a two-phased project, with a total area of 15 hectares. The first phase of development would be on 7 hectares to be divided among protected horticulture, floriculture, vegetables and fruit orchards. The second phase would be on field crops, nurseries and post-harvest technologies.
4. The project is planned for an initial period of three years, with a total estimate of US \$ 2 million, including Israeli technical assistance and expertise, equipment & material, long and short-term consultancies, and training both in Israel and India.
5. The Project will be run as a closed Unit from an economical view point, meaning that any surplus income over and above the initial investment would be utilized for the expansion of the demonstration unit.
6. The cooperation will be monitored by a Joint Steering Committee.
7. On the basis of this Memorandum of Intent and earlier discussions, a detailed Agreement will be signed shortly.

Both governments express satisfaction regarding the preparatory work for this project already undertaken.

Signed on 30th day of December, 1996 at New Delhi, India.

Sd/-

DR. R. S. PARODA
Secretary, Department of
Agricultural Research &
Education and
Director General, ICAR

Sd/-

DR. YEHOYADA HAIM
Ambassador of Israel
on behalf of the
Centre for International
Cooperation Mashav

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INDIA ISRAEL USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE IV

Programme for Cultural and Educational Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel for the years 1997 - 1999

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Israel, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties, guided by their desire to strengthen their friendly relations and to promote exchanges in the sphere of culture and in pursuance of Article 11 of the Cultural Agreement signed between the two sides on May 18, 1993 at New Delhi, have agreed upon the following programme of exchanges for the years 1997-1999.

I. EDUCATION

Article 1

The Parties shall assist the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India on the one hand and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Israel on the other hand to promote further contacts in the two countries.

Article 2

Both Parties welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries in January 1996 in the fields of Technology and Vocational Education and agree to take measures for its effective implementation.

Article 3

The Parties shall exchange two-member delegations to familiarise themselves with the secondary education system in each of the two countries. The duration of the visits shall be five days.

The specific fields shall be as follows:

- a. Foreign languages teaching
- b. Agricultural and Technical education
- c. Education for Gifted Children
- d. Computer education.

II. SCHOLARSHIPS

Article 4

The Israeli Party will offer annually four specialisation scholarships of nine months for post-graduate students who wish to undertake studies at an Israeli University.

The Indian Party offers four scholarships for one academic year on an annual basis.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES

Article 5

Both Parties will exchange publications, literature, research materials and information books / journals in the field of higher education.

Article 6

Both Parties will exchange delegations of two-three members for a period of up to one week to discuss the programme for the establishment of linkages between universities of both countries.

Article 7

Both Parties will enable participation of three academics in national and international conferences/seminars and other similar events to be held in both countries for a period of one week. The registration charges/fees in respect of such participants will be borne by the host country.

Article 8

The International Centre for University Teaching of Jewish Civilisation in Israel will co-operate with the Indian Universities and invite Indian academics for partici-

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pation in the annual workshop of the Centre.

Article 9

Both Parties will co-operate in promotion of studies relating to the cultures and languages of each other's country in their respective universities, including the establishment of appropriate chairs and exchange of one Professor/Scholar every year to teach Indian studies in Israel and Hebraic studies in India.

In this context, both Parties would welcome the establishment of the Chair for the Study of the Hebrew Language and Hebraic studies preferably at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Article 10

Both Parties welcome the intention to establish an Intellectual Forum which will bring together 4-5 participants from each Party for a period of up to one week,

under the auspices of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For this purpose, a specific Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the two Institutions.

IV. BOOKS AND BOOK FAIRS

Article 11

Both Parties will encourage direct contacts between book publishers.

Article 12

Both Parties will extend invitation to each other to participate in their respective International Book Fairs on a commercial basis as and when such Fairs take place during the validity of the Programme.

V. ART & CULTURE

Article 13

Both Parties, through Sahitya Akademi in India and the Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature in Israel, will work jointly in the field of translation of literary works of the other country into the languages of their respective countries. Both Parties will also encourage the distribution of the work thus translated in their respective languages.

Article 14

Both Parties may exchange writers and editors and arrange seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at greater understanding between the two literary communities. For this purpose, seven days shall be allotted, annually. In this context, the Israeli Party invites the Indian Party (through Sahitya Akademi) to participate in the International Poets' Conference at Mishkenot Shaananim in 1997.

Article 15

The Parties will encourage direct co-operation between :

- a) National Library, Calcutta (India) and National Library in Israel;
- b) National Archives of India and National Archives of Israel; and
- c) Other reference and research libraries in both the countries.

Article 16

Both parties will encourage co-operation in the field of exploration and excavation with a view to investigating cross-cultural relations between Indian sub-continent, the Middle East and Egypt during the proto, pre-history and historical periods.

Article 17

The Parties will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archaeological content. They will also encourage the organisation of a joint seminar on a subject of mutual interest, to be held during the course of this Programme. Details in this regard will be determined by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Israel Antiquity Authority.

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Article 18

During the course of this Programme, the Parties will exchange one expert from the fields of archaeology, preservation and restoration of antiquities, conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to seven days each, in order to exchange information on matters of their speciality.

Article 19

Both Parties shall encourage exchange of experts and the holding of workshops in the fields of theatre, music, dance, visual arts, museums, film and festival direction. For that purpose, 14 man days shall be allotted annually.

Article 20

Both Parties will encourage the exchange of artists for performances and participation in each other's festivals of music, dance and theatre. Exchange of artists as regards its number and man-days will be based on principles of reciprocity. Both sides will inform each other about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries in good time to facilitate such participation.

Article 21

Expressing satisfaction at the performance of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in India during 1994, both parties welcome and agree to encourage co-operation between Israeli and Indian musicians and Orchestras. In this context, the Indian party takes note of the interest of the East-West Group, the Bustan Avraham, the Israel Chamber Music Orchestra and Rishon Lezion Orchestra in co-operating with Indian musicians and orchestras.

Article 22

Both Parties will appreciate involvement of each other in the celebrations to commemorate 50th Anniversary of India's Independence (1997-1998) and 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the State of Israel (1998) respectively and agree to establish a Steering Committee comprised of both sides.

VI. MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

Article 23

The Parties will encourage direct contacts between museums and institutions of

both countries, including exchange of specialists.

Article 24

Both parties will encourage, during the validity of this Programme, the exchange of exhibitions at appropriate museums or institutes. For this purpose, specific Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the sending and receiving institutions.

VII. CINEMA & TELEVISION

Article 25

The Parties will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals.

Article 26

Both parties will encourage the holding of film weeks of the other party in their own country. Each Party will invite one expert in the field of cinema from the other country, for a visit of five days.

Article 27

The Parties shall encourage co-operation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes of the two countries.

Article 28

The parties will encourage co-operation between the television authorities, in par-

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ticular regarding screening of each other's programmes.

VIII. YOUTH AND SPORTS

Article 29

Both sides will share their experiences in the field of sports and also explore the possibilities of exchange of sports teams / experts in diverse disciplines. Details shall be worked out through mutual consultations.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Article 30

The General and Financial Terms mentioned in the Annex will form an integral part of the Programme.

Article 31

The present Programme comes into force from 1.1.1997 and shall be valid up to

31.12.1999 or until the next Programme is signed.

The next meeting of the representatives of the two countries will take place in Jerusalem during 1999.

Article 32

This Programme does not exclude the realisation of other exchanges in the cultural and educational fields.

Article 33

All additional matters that might arise in the course of this Programme shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed in New Delhi on the Thirtieth Day of December, 1996, corresponding to the ninth day of Pause, Saka 1918 and the Twentieth Day of Tevet, 5757, in two originals of Hindi, Hebrew and English, all the texts being equally authentic. However, in case of doubt, the text of English version will prevail.

For the Government of
Repuublic of India.

Sd/-

(ASHOK VAJPEYI)

Joint Secretary

Department of Culture

For the Government of

the State of Israel

Sd/-

(DR. YEHOYADA HAIM)

Ambassador of Israel in India

INDIA ISRAEL USA EGYPT

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

1995

ANNEXURE V

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Yemen on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

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

PURSUANT to the Agreement on Economic, Technical and Cultural cooperation signed in New Delhi on 3rd May, 1993,

DESIRING to enhance the existing friendly relations between the two countries through development of cooperation in the fields of agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation; and

RECOGNISING the advantages to be derived by their respective peoples from the promotion of such cooperation;

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HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties shall promote development of cooperation in agricultural science and technology, agricultural production and agro-processing and economic cooperation between the two countries through joint activities and exchanges to be determined and implemented through mutually agreed procedures.

ARTICLE II

The joint activities and exchanges may be in the areas of agricultural research, horticulture, dairy development; livestock improvement; food processing; post-harvest technology; soil conservation; rainfed farming, watershed development and management; agricultural extension; artificial insemination techniques/supply of selected breeds of goats, sheep and other bovine animals; promotion of joint ventures in agri-business and trade, integrated rural development, rural women and family development, mechanization for small farmers, rural infrastructure, rural family economics, handicrafts for rural families, and such other fields as may be mutually agreed upon by both parties.

ARTICLE III

The Contracting Parties shall promote cooperation through short and medium-term programme within the framework of the joint activities mentioned in Article II. Biennial Work Plans will be drawn up by mutual agreement between the two parties to give effect to the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

ARTICLE IV

Each Contracting Party shall designate an Executive Secretary who shall be responsible for developing biennial Work Plans envisaged in Article III of this Memorandum. They will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring all activities carried out under auspices of this Memorandum. The Executive Secretaries shall meet once every two years alternately in their respective countries to review the progress of activities and to facilitate further cooperation.

ARTICLE V

To generate broad interest, this Memorandum authorises the involvement of interested Government agencies, the scientific and business communities as well as the private sectors of both countries in such cooperation.

The Contracting Parties shall encourage and facilitate direct contacts between these groups to work towards long-term cooperation in agricultural research, extension and training and joint ventures in agri-business.

ARTICLE VI

The sending party will bear the costs of international air transportation and the receiving party will provide local hospitality for persons deputed under Work Plan / Cooperation Programme pursuant to this Memorandum. Activities pursuant to this Memorandum are subject to the availability of resources and to the respective laws and regulations of the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE VII

Under this Memorandum, the designated coordinating authorities will be the Ministry of Agriculture for the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture for the Government of Yemen.

ARTICLE VIII

This Memorandum shall not in any way affect the commitment of the Contracting Parties under existing bilateral agreements between the two countries.

ARTICLE IX

This MOU shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain valid for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for a subsequent period of five years at a time unless either

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of the contracting parties give to the other a written notice six months in advance of its intention to terminate this MOU prior to its expiry.

The termination of this MOU shall not affect the activities, projects already in progress or executed and shall continue until completion.

This MOU may be modified or amended by mutual consent.

Signed at New Delhi on this day, 7th December of 1996 in two originals each in Hindi, Arabic and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Sd/-

(K. RAJAN)

Secretary (Agriculture
and Cooperation)

Ministry of Agriculture
for the Government
of the Republic of India

Sd/-
(MUTTAHAR AL-SAEEDI)
Vice Minister,
Planning and Development
for the Government
of the Republic of Yemen

INDIA YEMEN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 24, 1996

Volume No

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ANNEXURE VI

Agreement on the Establishment of Joint Business Council (JBC) between India and Yemen

The business communities of India and Yemen feel the need to establish a cooperative body on a private initiative to facilitate continuous interaction between them so as to increase trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The federation of Indian chambers of commerce and industry (FICCI) and the associated chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) from the Indian side and the federation of Yemen Chamber of Commerce & Industry from the Yemen side have agreed to set up a Joint Business council (JBC) in order to carry out more systematically business promotional activities in trade, investment, technology transfer, services and other industrial sectors. The JBC agreement will provide a regular and recognised forum for discussion on promotion of these activities between businessmen and industrialists of the two countries the annexed rules shall form an integral part of this agreement.

This JBC agreement is signed in New Delhi on 7th December, 1996 and is effective from this day.

The validity of this agreement is two calendar years renewable for the same period with the prior consent of the parties.

Sd/-
HUSSAIN AL-SOFARY
Representative of the
Federation of Yemen Chamber
of Commerce & Industry

Sd/-
MR. K. K. MODI
Vice President
Federation of Indian
Chamber of Commerce &
Industry and on behalf
of Associated Chamber
of Commerce & Industry
of India

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INDIA USA YEMEN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 24, 1996